

METADATA FOR OTHER POLICY RELEVANT INDICATORS

Percentage of graduates by field of education (tertiary education)¹

This metadata file serves to calculate the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) indicator for reporting below:

CESA-UIS indicator mapping		
CESA Strategic Objective (SO)	CESA indicator	CESA indicators for reporting as per the agreement between UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the African Union
SO 4	4.4 Percentage distribution of tertiary graduates by field of study	4.4 Distribution of tertiary graduates by field of study
SO 5	5.5 Percentage of girls enrolled in STEM ²	5.5 Percentage of graduates from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programmes in tertiary education, both sexes

Definition

Number of graduates from each ISCED field of education in tertiary education, expressed as a percentage of the total number of graduates in tertiary education.

Purpose

To show the distribution of tertiary graduates over different fields of education. The indicator also reflects the development of tertiary education in terms of the range of fields offered as well as the supply of qualified human resources in different specializations.

Calculation method

Number of graduates in each field of education expressed as percentage of the total number of graduates in tertiary education in a given academic year.

¹ The list of all the indicators that may be calculated under this heading may be consulted at <http://data.uis.unesco.org/> at: Education → Other policy relevant indicators → Percentage of graduates by field of education (tertiary education) → Distribution of tertiary graduates by field of study.

² STEM stands for “Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics”, which are a subset of combined fields of education.

$$PG_f^t = \frac{G_f^t}{\sum_{f=1}^n G_f^t}$$

Where:

PG_f^t = Percentage of students graduating from the field of education f in academic year t

G_f^t = Number of students graduating from the field of education f in academic year t

n = Number of fields of education

Interpretation

Relative concentration of graduates, in particular fields of education, depicts high preference and capacity in these programmes as well as related job opportunities.

Type of data source

Administrative data.

Disaggregation

By sex and ISCED levels of tertiary education.

Data required

Graduates in tertiary education by field of education.

Data sources

Census or records of tertiary educational institutions and programmes.

Quality assurance

This indicator requires complete and reliable data on the number of graduates by field of education in tertiary level and clear distinction between different fields of education. The percentage in all fields of tertiary education must sum up to 100.

The UIS sets standards, develops questionnaires and quality control protocols for country data reporting, and maintains the global database on the structure of education, and data on graduates in tertiary education by field of education.

Limitations and comments

Cross-country comparisons rely heavily on how far countries have used consistent field definitions. Detailed or aggregated information may not be fully comparable at the international level due to exclusions, double counting of students, partial data, etc. Also, differences in duration, intensity and degree of theoretical and applied content can bias comparisons between countries.