



# Statistics in focus

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THEME 9 – 5/2003

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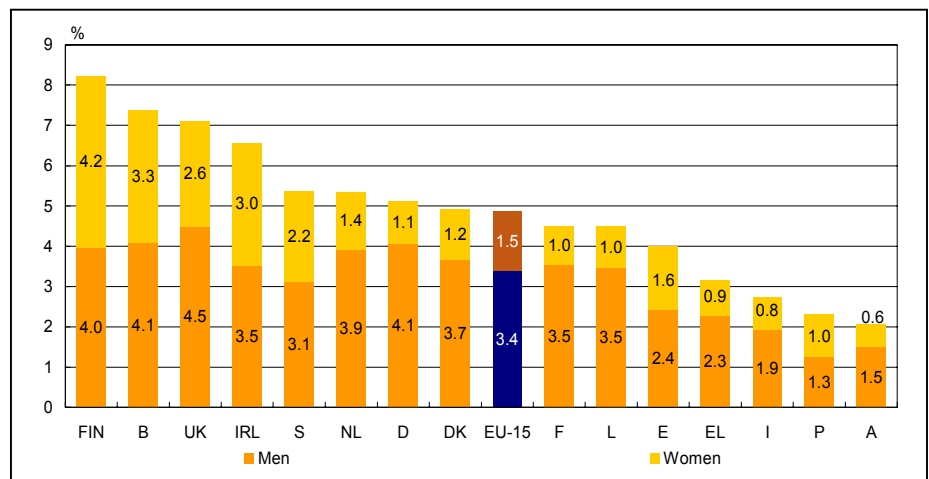
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# Towards a European knowledge-based society: the contributions of men and women

*Guido Strack*

*Figure 1: Distribution of scientists and engineers by sex as a % of the total labour force in 2001*



#### Methodological notes

Exceptions to the 2001 reference year — A: 1997; S: 2000 and UK: 2000.

EU-15 total also includes these data for A, S and UK.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — CLFS data.

- During the course of the 90s, the number of people following a tertiary level education had been broadly increasing. For men in seven Member States and for women in 12. Participation in tertiary education is also higher for women. In 1999/2000, women had higher participation levels in nine of 12 Member States.
- European Member States have been receiving increasing numbers of non-national tertiary education students. Germany and the UK consolidated their positions as the top European destinations.
- In the last available year for each country the number of female graduates is higher than for men in every Member State except Austria.
- The popularity of science and technology fields of study for men and women differs markedly. In the 1999/2000 academic year, in the Netherlands there were five times as many male graduates in S&T disciplines than women.
- In most Member States, being a scientist or engineer is a predominantly male occupation. In 2001, as a male in the labour force, you were most likely to be employed in a S&E occupation if living in the UK. As a woman, the proportion was higher in Finland, Ireland or Belgium.
- Around 39 % of employed people had a third level education in high tech service sectors (communications, computers and related activities, R&D) and in health and social work related occupations, which includes medical, dental and veterinary activities.



## Participation in tertiary education increasing more for women than for men

During the course of the 90s, the number of people following a tertiary level course broadly increased. For men in seven Member States and for women in 12 (excluding Luxembourg).

Putting these data into further perspective, Figure 2 presents the number of male or female tertiary level students as a percentage of the population aged 20 to 29.

If participation levels are increasing more for women than for men, so too is participation higher itself. In 1993/94, of the 12 observed Member States (1994/95 for NL, FIN, S), women had higher participation levels in eight. In 1999/2000, this had increased to nine of the 12.

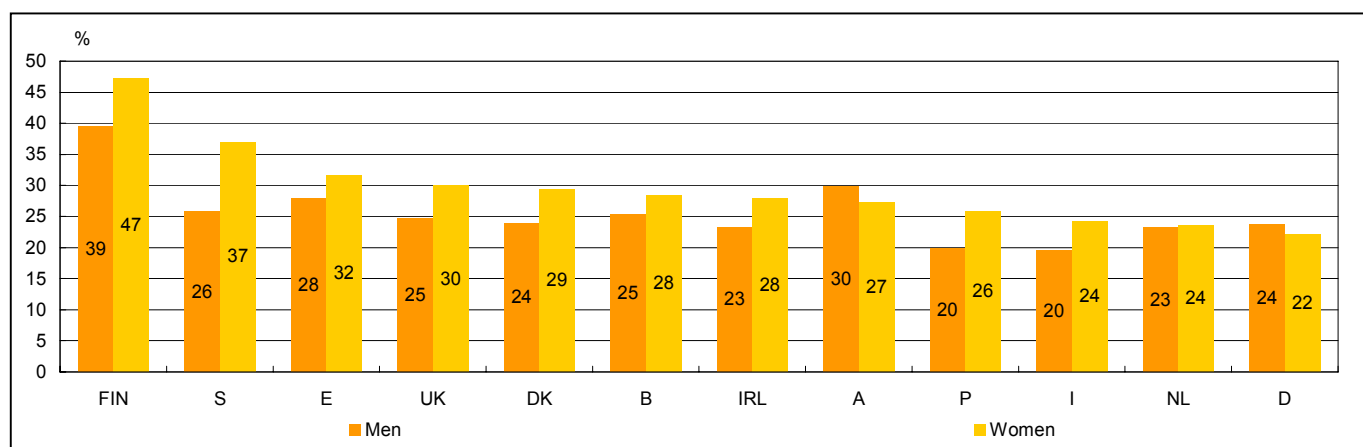
On the whole, participation rates were higher for women (ten of the available twelve Member States in 1999/2000). An extremely high number of women aged 20-29 were in tertiary education in Finland in 1998/99.

*Table 1: Participation in tertiary education in thousands by sex and country  
1993/94-1999/2000*

	Men							Women						
	ISCED 76				ISCED 97			ISCED 76				ISCED 97		
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
B	163.2	:	:	:	:	:	169.9	159.1	:	:	:	:	:	186.0
DK	82.8	81.8	75.0	81.9	81.6	83.0	81.5	86.8	88.0	91.5	98.4	101.7	107.0	107.7
D	1 229.8	1 220.3	1 188.3	1 156.5	1 122.4	1 097.8	1 066.1	902.4	935.4	955.9	975.4	975.2	989.3	988.7
EL	:	:	170.1	:	:	:	:	:	:	159.1	:	:	:	:
E	720.0	725.0	751.3	:	820.2	839.2	860.8	749.5	802.0	840.5	:	926.0	947.6	968.2
F	:	:	944.5	:	:	:	:	:	:	1 147.2	:	:	:	:
IRL	60.8	61.9	63.4	65.1	67.5	70.2	73.7	56.8	59.8	64.9	69.5	75.3	80.9	86.9
I	858.5	852.7	835.4	870.7	846.4	805.8	787.3	911.8	940.0	939.8	1 021.8	1 022.6	991.5	982.7
L	:	:	:	:	0.5	1.3	:	:	:	:	:	0.6	1.4	:
NL	:	264.6	258.3	243.0	237.0	238.3	244.0	:	237.3	233.4	226.0	224.4	231.6	243.6
A	:	122.1	123.3	:	158.4	159.1	149.1	:	111.8	115.7	:	142.3	148.5	140.6
P	119.3	130.4	139.0	:	154.7	:	162.5	157.2	170.2	180.5	:	197.1	:	211.2
FIN	:	96.6	101.2	106.8	116.2	119.5	125.1	:	108.5	112.7	119.7	133.8	138.9	145.1
S	:	111.0	116.8	121.6	122.8	142.2	144.9	:	135.0	144.5	153.6	157.9	193.0	202.0
UK	775.3	889.4	901.7	911.8	917.6	974.0	932.3	779.4	923.9	919.1	979.7	1 020.9	1 107.0	1 091.9

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — UOE questionnaire.

*Figure 2: Participation in tertiary education as a % of people aged 20-29 by sex and country  
1999/2000*



**Methodological note**

No data available for EL, F and L.

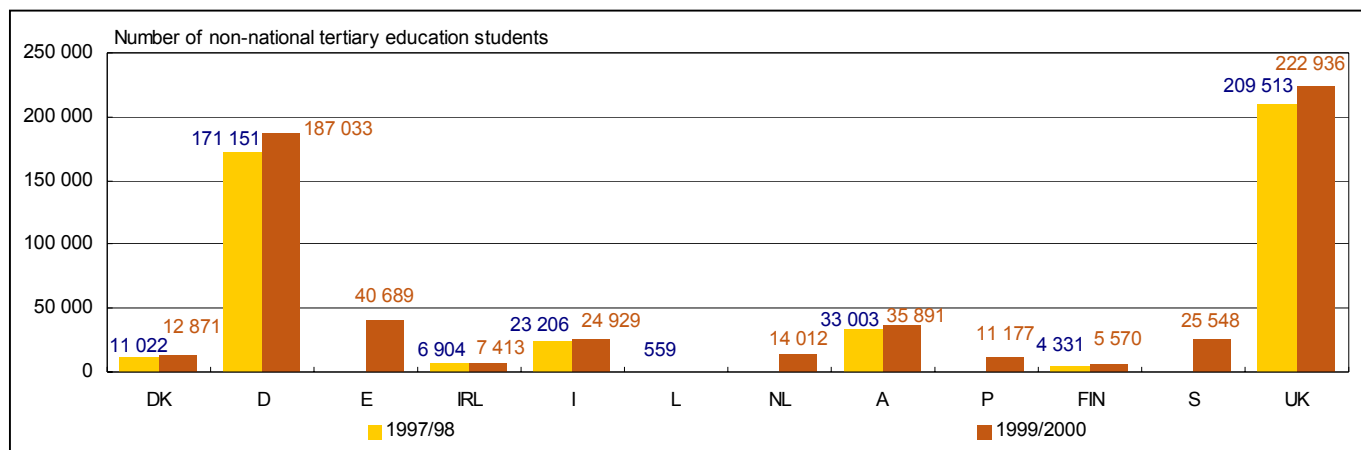
Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — UOE questionnaire.

## UK and German institutions attracting the lion's share of foreign tertiary students

The data collected on the different national systems also include foreign students. The number of students taking their studies abroad has in general been on the increase. Figure 3 shows the number of non-national tertiary education students

by receiving country in 1997 and 2000. Data, where available, show European countries receiving increasing numbers of non-national students. Germany and the UK consolidated their positions as the top European destinations.

Figure 3: Number of non-national tertiary education students by receiving country 1997/98 and 1999/2000



### Methodological note

No data available for B, EL and F.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — UOE questionnaire.

## More female than male graduates in almost every Member State

Graduation from tertiary education provides information on the real inflows into the stocks of highly qualified personnel — Table 2.

For men, between 1995/96 and 1999/2000 (1998/99 for some countries), the number of graduates increased in ten Member States and fell in three. For women, during the same period, the number of graduates increased in nine Member and fell in three (Austria remained the same).

Taking the last available year for each country the number of female graduates is higher than for men in every Member State except Austria.

For women, the highest number of graduates in absolute terms are 'produced' by France (277 thousand women in 1998/99) and for men, the UK (227 thousand in 1999/2000). Germany and Spain are the countries that have the next largest numbers of graduates. Both education systems produced around 150 thousand female graduates in 1999/2000, though for men values are higher in Germany (150 thousand) than they are for Spain (111 thousand).

Relative to the population aged 25-29, graduation rates are also higher for women in every country except Austria. Finland, especially, shows marked differences between the sexes.

Table 2: Graduates from tertiary education in thousands and as a % of 25-29 year olds by sex and country — 1996, 1999 and 2000

	Men						Women					
	Thousands			% 25-29 year olds			Thousands			% 25-29 year olds		
	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000	1996	1999	2000
B	18.6	:	30.1	4.9	:	8.5	21.1	:	38.1	5.8	:	11.1
DK	14.8	13.8	16.5	7.3	7.1	9.1	16.1	19.4	21.7	8.4	9.7	11.3
D	182.8	159.4	150.0	5.7	6.1	6.3	153.7	155.4	152.1	5.1	6.2	6.5
EL	13.3	:	:	3.9	:	:	16.0	:	:	4.4	:	:
E	84.9	112.0	111.0	6.0	7.8	7.6	110.5	155.1	149.2	8.1	10.8	10.2
F	244.2	223.0	:	11.8	10.7	:	329.2	277.1	:	15.9	13.3	:
IRL	17.1	:	:	13.0	:	12.3	18.3	:	23.1	14.6	:	15.5
I	77.5	83.7	:	3.2	3.8	:	98.0	106.6	:	4.1	4.8	:
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	43.2	37.0	36.4	6.7	5.9	6.3	44.0	40.6	43.0	7.1	6.7	7.6
A	:	12.9	13.1	:	4.4	4.7	:	12.0	11.9	:	4.0	4.1
P	14.0	:	20.4	4.6	:	5.0	25.1	:	38.0	8.1	:	9.4
FIN	11.8	15.2	13.8	6.9	9.5	8.8	16.0	22.8	22.3	9.5	15.8	15.3
S	14.3	16.3	17.7	4.5	5.4	5.8	18.5	22.7	24.7	6.1	7.8	8.4
UK	217.2	216.3	227.3	9.5	10.1	11.0	228.6	259.7	276.8	10.4	12.6	13.9

### Methodological note

Data for 1996 use the ISCED 76 classification and data for 1999 and 2000 use ISCED 97.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — UOE questionnaire.

## Science and Technology — male dominated disciplines

Table 3 shows the number of graduates from scientific and technological disciplines, as well as their percentage amongst total graduates for each Member State. For most Member States and for men, S&T does not in general seem to be a field that is suffering from fewer and fewer graduates. The same is true for women. Whether this meets labour market demand is another matter. One should, however, underline the differences that exist between the number of male and female graduates in S&T disciplines.

The popularity of science and technology courses for men and women differs markedly. In the 1999/2000 academic year, in the Netherlands there were five times as many male graduates in S&T disciplines than women. In Germany, there were four times as many. Only in Portugal was there less than double the number of male graduates to female graduates in these disciplines. Although the total number of female graduates has increased relative to 1996.

Table 3: S&T graduates from tertiary education in thousands and as a % of total graduates by sex and country — 1995/96, 1998/99 and 1999/2000

	Men			Men			Women			Women		
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	% of total graduates	% of total graduates	% of total graduates	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	% of total graduates	% of total graduates	% of total graduates
B	4.0	5.6	9.7	21.3	:	32.2	1.5	1.7	3.2	7.3	:	8.5
DK	4.5	4.1	:	30.2	29.6	:	1.6	1.9	:	9.6	9.9	:
D	83.2	68.2	62.7	45.5	42.8	41.8	18.5	18.0	17.3	12.0	11.6	11.4
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
E	26.2	42.5	44.3	30.9	38.0	39.9	12.9	20.2	20.7	11.6	13.0	13.9
F	:	105.6	:	:	47.3	:	:	45.9	:	:	16.6	:
IRL	7.8	:	9.0	45.9	:	47.6	4.2	:	5.5	22.8	:	23.7
I	23.4	28.6	:	30.2	34.2	:	13.2	16.9	:	13.4	15.9	:
L	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NL	13.1	10.6	10.3	30.3	28.7	28.2	2.6	2.1	2.2	5.9	5.1	5.1
A	3.3	6.0	6.0	:	46.6	45.8	1.1	1.4	1.5	:	11.8	12.6
P	4.2	:	6.4	30.1	:	31.3	2.5	:	3.9	9.9	:	10.3
FIN	6.9	8.4	7.3	58.3	55.4	53.1	1.7	2.8	2.8	10.5	12.4	12.4
S	6.4	7.8	8.8	44.4	47.8	49.9	2.2	3.1	4.2	11.7	13.8	16.8
UK	88.0	86.5	85.0	40.5	40.0	37.4	33.4	36.3	40.6	14.6	14.0	14.7

### Methodological note

Data for 1996 use the ISCED 76 classification and data for 1999 and 2000 use ISCED 97.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — UOE questionnaire.

## Finland has the highest tertiary educated population

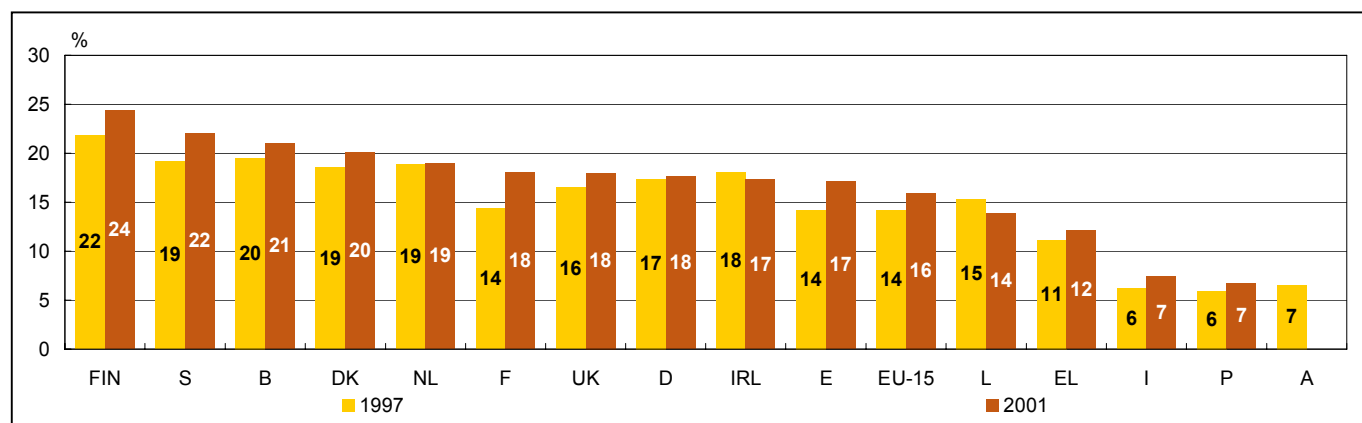
Using the Community Labour Force Survey as a data source, Figure 4 shows HRSTE (population with a tertiary level education) as a percentage of the population aged 15 and over in both 1997 and 2001.

At the EU level, 16 % of people over 15 years old have a third level education. Finland has proportionally the most people with a third level education — by 2001, nearly one-quarter of

people aged 15 and over. This is more than 50 % higher than the average for the whole of the European Union.

In fact four Member States lie more than 20 % above the European average: in order, Finland, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark. At the other end of the scale, three countries are more than 20 % below the EU average: Greece, Italy and Portugal.

Figure 4: HRSTE as a % of the population aged 15 and over by country in 1997 and 2001



### Methodological notes

Exceptions to the 1997 reference year — P and FIN: 1998.

Exceptions to the 2001 reference year — A: no data available; S and UK: 2000.

EU-15 total also includes these HRST data in both cases.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — CLFS data.

## Knowledge intensity by sector of activity

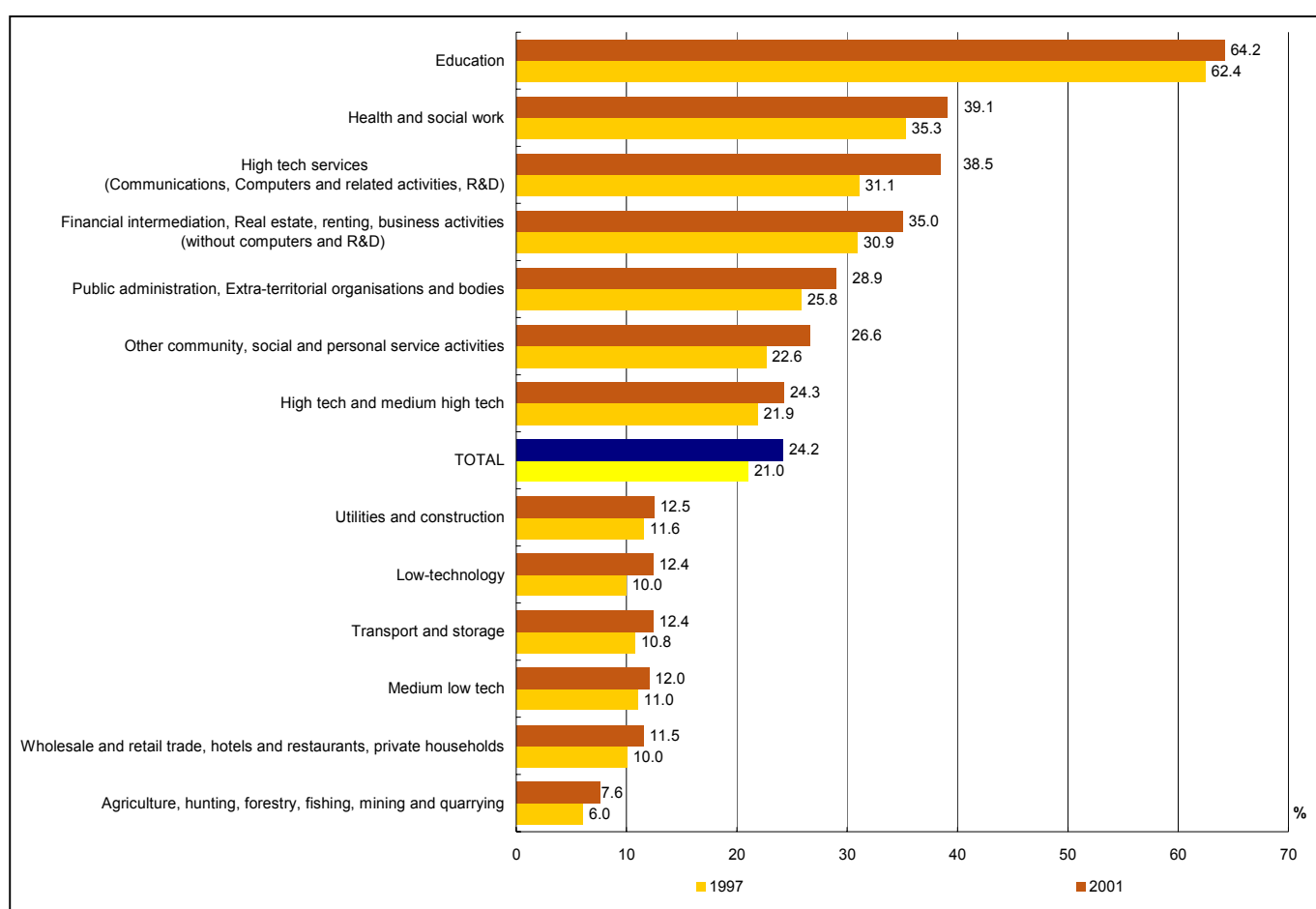
Knowledge intensity is defined here as the number of employed people with a third level education (employed HRSTE) as a ratio of total employment. With total employment in the EU standing at close to 160 million in 2001, a quick calculation shows knowledge intensity for the European economy as a whole to be around 24 %.

third level education (up slightly on 1997). In health and social work related occupations, which includes medical, dental and veterinary activities, around 39 % of employed people had a third level education, as was the case for high tech services (communications, computers and related activities, R&D). Financial intermediation followed with around 35 %.

Figure 5 shows the 'education' sector to have the highest level of knowledge intensity: nearly two-thirds of people working in the education sector in 2001 had successfully completed a

Agriculture and wholesale and retail trade were the least knowledge-intensive sectors in the EU in both 1997 and 2001.

Figure 5: Knowledge intensity in the EU-15 by grouped NACE sector of activity 1997 and 2001



### Methodological notes

Exceptions to the 1997 reference year — P and FIN: 1998.

Exceptions to the 2001 reference year — A: no data available; S and UK: 2000.

EU-15 total also includes these HRST data in both cases.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — CLFS data.

## Increasing proportion of S&T occupations across the EU

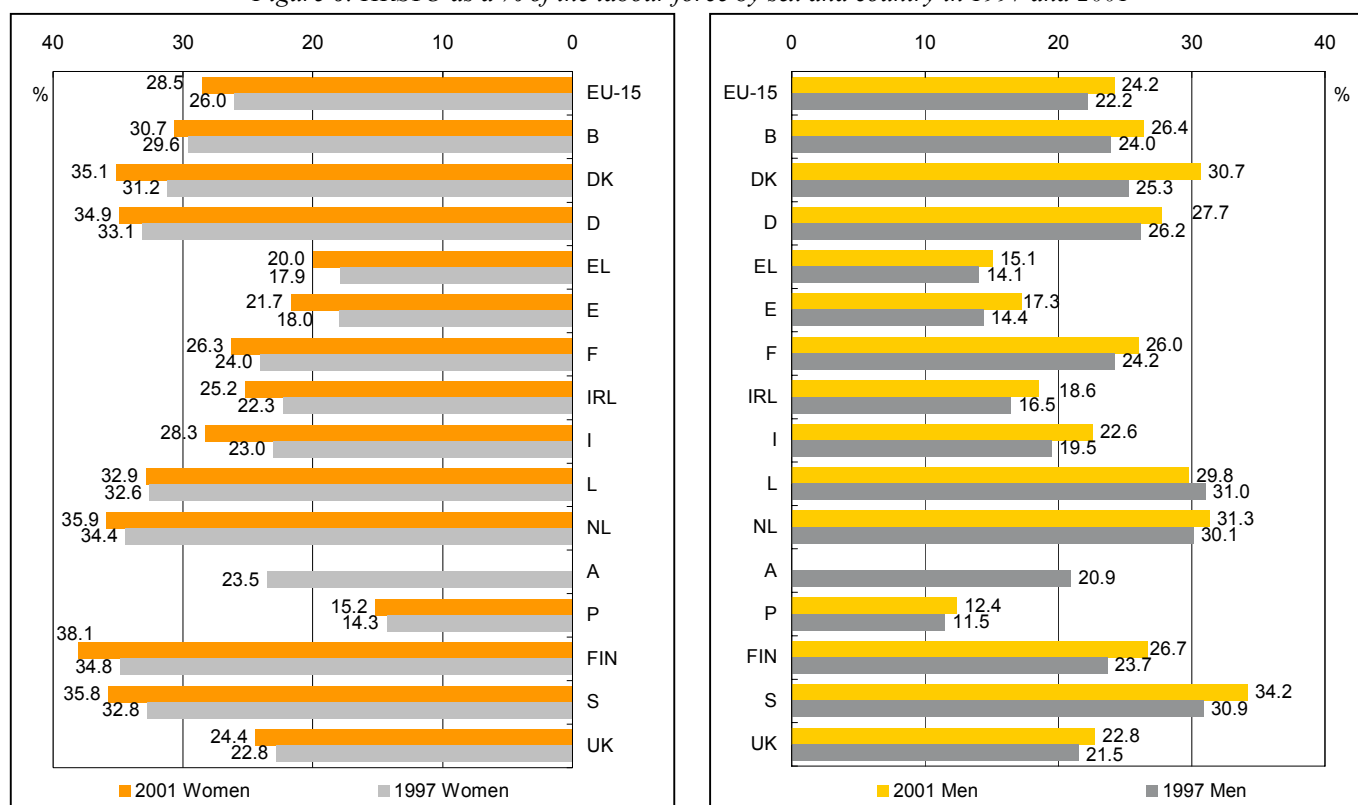
The proportion of people working in S&T occupations has also been on the rise in Europe. At the EU level in 2001, around one in four men in the labour force worked either as a professional or as a technician (HRSTO, Figure 6). Women in the labour force were more likely than men to work in these types of jobs. In fact, this is true for all Member States in both years — except France in 1997, and then the difference is not significant.

Between 1997 and 2001, only Luxembourg has experienced a decrease in the proportion of its labour force employed in these types of jobs, and this only for men. One should add that the proportion of male HRSTO in the Luxembourgish

labour force still lies more than 20 % above the EU average in 2001, along with Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. For women, the proportion of HRSTO occupations in the labour force was more than 20 % above the EU average in Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

As a man in the labour force, one was least likely to be employed in a professional and technician occupation in Ireland, Spain, Greece or Portugal. In the latter, half as likely as in the EU in general. For women in the labour force, it was again in Spain, Greece or Portugal that one was least likely in 2001 to be in an HRSTO job.

Figure 6: HRSTO as a % of the labour force by sex and country in 1997 and 2001



### Methodological notes

Exceptions to the 1997 reference year — P and FIN: 1998.

Exceptions to the 2001 reference year — A: no data available; S and UK: 2000.

Source: Eurostat, S&T statistics — CLFS data.

## Scientists and engineers — male dominated professions

An HRST sub-set of particular interest is that of scientists and engineers.

Figure 1 (see cover page) shows the gender distribution of scientists and engineers — S&E — in the EU in 2001, measured as a percentage of the total labour force. In all Member States except Finland, Ireland and to a lesser extent, Belgium, being a scientist or engineer is a predominantly male occupation. Indeed, differences are high, with two Member States in 2001 showing a factor of nearly 4 men to every woman — Germany and France.

There is also a high degree of disparity between Member States. In 2001, as a British male in the labour force, you were the most likely of all EU countries to be employed in a scientific or engineering occupation. Least likely were men living in Portugal, Austria or Italy. As a woman in the labour force, however, you were most likely to be employed in a S&E job in 2001 if you lived in Finland, Ireland or Belgium, though still more than one and a half times as likely compared to the EU average if you lived in the UK or Sweden. Women living in Austria or Italy were the least likely to be working as scientists or engineers.

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

### Canberra Manual

Prepared jointly by the OECD and the European Commission/Eurostat, this manual is intended to provide guidelines for the measurement of Human Resources devoted to Science and Technology (HRST) and the analysis of such data. The work was carried out in response to policy needs and priority issues identified by these and other organisations.

#### Category

- HRST: Human Resources in Science and Technology
- HRSTO: Human Resources in Science and Technology — Occupation
- HRSTE: Human Resources in Science and Technology — Education
- HRSTC: Human Resources in Science and Technology — Core
- S&E: Scientists and Engineers
- CLFS

#### People that have/are

- successfully completed education at the third level in a S&T field of study (ISCED '97 version levels 5a, 5b or 6);
- not formally qualified as above but are employed in a S&T occupation where the above qualifications are normally required (ISCO '88 COM codes 2 or 3).
- employed in a S&T occupation (ISCO '88 COM codes 2 or 3).
- successfully completed education at the third level in a S&T field of study (ISCED '97 version levels 5a, 5b or 6).
- successfully completed education at the third level in a S&T field of study (ISCED '97 version levels 5a, 5b or 6) and are:
  - employed in a S&T occupation (ISCO '88 COM codes 2 or 3).
  - physical, mathematical and engineering occupations (ISCO '88 COM code 21);
  - life science and health occupations (ISCO '88 COM code 22).
- Community Labour Force Survey

### The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

#### ISCED 76

- ISCED level 5 • education at the third level, first stage, of the type that leads to an award not equivalent to a first university degree
- ISCED level 6 • education at the third level, first stage, of the type that leads to a first university degree or equivalent
- ISCED level 7 • education at the third level, first stage, of the type that leads to a postgraduate university degree or equivalent

#### ISCED 97

- ISCED level 5A • programmes that are largely theoretically based and are intended to provide sufficient qualifications for gaining entry into advanced research programmes and professions with high skill requirements
- ISCED level 5B • programmes that are generally more practical/technical/occupationally specific than ISCED 5A programmes
- ISCED level 6 • this level is reserved for tertiary programmes that lead to the award of an advanced research qualification. The programmes are devoted to advanced study and original research

Title	Short name	Description	ISCED subject codes
<b>ISCED 76</b>			
Science and Technology	S&T	• Natural science, Mathematics and Computer Science, Engineering, Architecture and town planning.	• 42, 46, 54, 58
<b>ISCED 97</b>			
Science and Technology	S&T	• Life sciences, Physical sciences, Mathematics and statistics, Computing, Engineering and engineering trades, Manufacturing and processing, Architecture and building.	• 42, 44, 46, 48, 52, 54, 58

### Non-national students

Overestimation of non-national students may exist in some countries where permanently resident second generation migrants with foreign nationalities constitute an important group of students.

### The International Standard Classification of Occupations — ISCO

- ISCO 1 (legislators, senior officials and managers) • occupations whose main tasks consist of ... planning, directing and co-ordinating the policies and activities of enterprises and organisations, or departments.
- ISCO 2 (professionals) • occupations whose main tasks require a high level of professional knowledge and experience in the fields of physical and life sciences, or social sciences and humanities.
- ISCO 3 (technicians and associate professionals) • occupations whose main tasks require technical knowledge and experience in one or more fields of physical and life sciences, or social sciences and humanities.

# Further information:

## ➤ Reference publications

Title Science and Technology in Europe - Statistical pocketbook,  
Data 1990-2000  
Catalogue No KS-44-02-343-EN-C Price EUR 10

## ➤ Databases

NewCronos, Domain HRST

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

BELGIQUE/BELGIË	DANMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESPAÑA	FRANCE	ITALIA – Roma
<b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Bruxelles/Brussel Planistat Belgique Rue du Commerce 124 Handelsstraat 124 B-1000 BRUXELLES / BRUSSEL Tel. (32-2) 234 67 50 Fax (32-2) 234 67 51 E-mail: datashop@planistat.be URL: http://www.datashop.org	<b>DANMARKS STATISTIK</b> Bibliotek og Information Eurostat Data Shop Sejrogade 11 DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø Tlf. (45) 39 17 30 30 Fax (45) 39 17 30 03 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bb@dst.dk">bb@dst.dk</a> URL: http://www.dst.dk/bibliotek	<b>STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT</b> Eurostat Data Shop Berlin Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72 (Eingang: Karl-Marx-Allee) D-10178 BERLIN Tel. (49) 1888-644 94 27/28 (49) 611 75 94 27 Fax (49) 1888-644 94 30 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@destatis.de">datashop@destatis.de</a> URL: http://www.eu-datashop.de/	<b>INE Eurostat Data Shop</b> Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Despacho 011B Entrada por Estébanez Calderón E-28046 MADRID Tel. (34) 915 839 167/ 915 839 500 Fax (34) 915 830 357 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop.eurostat@ine.es">datashop.eurostat@ine.es</a> URL: http://www.ine.es/prodysen/datashop/index.html	<b>INSEE Info Service</b> Eurostat Data Shop 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12 Tél. (33) 1 53 17 88 44 Fax (33) 1 53 17 88 22 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@insee.fr">datashop@insee.fr</a>	<b>ISTAT</b> Centro di Informazione Statistica Sede di Roma, Eurostat Data Shop Via Cesare Balbo, 11a I-00184 ROMA Tel. (39) 06 46 73 32 28 Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/07 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@istat.it">datashop@istat.it</a> URL: http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html
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## For information on methodology

Guido Strack, Eurostat/A4, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 38226, Fax (352) 4301 34149, E-mail: [guido.strack@cec.eu.int](mailto:guido.strack@cec.eu.int)  
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