

## Ratio of students to teaching staff

***The ratio of students to teaching staff in tertiary education in Slovenia is improving but is still very unfavourable.*** On the international level, the ratio of students<sup>1</sup> to teaching staff<sup>2</sup> is frequently used as an indicator of the quality of tertiary education.<sup>3</sup> A lower ratio (i.e. fewer students per teacher) presumably facilitates the use of active teaching techniques and enhances communication between students and teachers. All of this contributes to the quality of the teaching process, which, in turn, influences the quality of the acquired knowledge and skills. In terms of the ratio of students to teaching staff in tertiary education, in 2009 (2008/2009 academic year), for which the latest data are available at the international level, Slovenia lagged significantly (with 20.0 students per teacher) behind the average of the 21 EU countries that are also OECD members (15.5). Although in the period of the implementation of SDS the ratio improved from 22.7 in 2005 to 20.0, Slovenia has the least favourable ratio among EU Member States. The high ratio of students-to-teaching staff in tertiary education in Slovenia is also attributable to the benefits of student status. The students to teaching staff ratio in tertiary education was also improving in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, as a result of a lower number of students enrolled and more teaching staff. In the period of SDS implementation, the ratio improved somewhat in Slovenia, but insufficiently in terms of increasing the quality of studies.

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<sup>1</sup> All students participating in tertiary education are covered in the equivalent of full-time study = full-time students + 1/3 (i.e. part-time students + candidates for graduation + post-graduate students (SORS, Teaching staff at higher-education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia, 2006).

<sup>2</sup> Teaching staff includes instructional and professional support staff at vocational colleges (vocational college lecturers, exercise instructors and lab assistants) and teaching faculty (assistant professors, associate and full professors, lectors, lecturers and senior lecturers), while it excludes researchers and higher education assistants (teaching assistants, librarians, specialist advisors, research advisors, senior researchers, researchers and skills teachers).

<sup>3</sup> Tertiary education includes full-time and part-time post-secondary vocational studies, higher undergraduate studies and post-graduate studies.

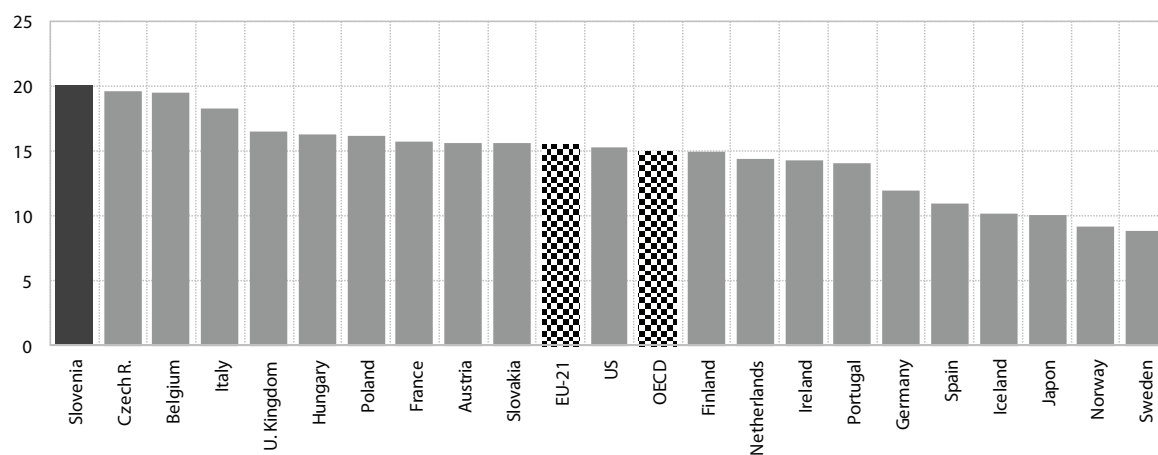
Table: Ratio of students to teaching staff in tertiary education, Slovenia and OECD countries, 1998–2009

	1998	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>OECD</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>14.9</b>
<b>EU-21</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>
Austria	N/A	N/A	15.3	13.0	13.7	14.6	15.6
Belgium	N/A	19.9	19.6	18.7	18.1	19.0	19.5
Czech Rep.	13.5	13.5	19.0	18.5	18.6	19.1	19.6
Estonia	N/A	N/A	14.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finland	N/A	N/A	12.5	15.8	16.6	15.8	14.9
France	N/A	18.3	17.3	17.0	16.6	16.2	15.7
Greece	26.3	26.8	30.2	27.8	26.3	N/A	N/A
Ireland	16.6	17.4	17.4	17.9	16.5	15.9	14.3
Italy	N/A	22.8	21.4	20.4	19.5	19.5	18.3
Hungary	11.8	13.1	15.9	16.5	17.1	17.1	16.3
Germany	12.4	12.1	12.2	12.4	12.1	11.5	11.9
Netherlands	N/A	12.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.9	14.4
Poland	N/A	14.7	18.2	17.3	17.2	16.7	16.1
Portugal	N/A	N/A	13.2	12.7	13.2	13.8	14.1
Slovakia	N/A	10.2	11.7	12.4	13.2	15.4	15.6
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.0</b>
Spain	17.2	15.9	10.6	10.8	10.4	11.1	10.9
Sweden	9.0	9.3	8.9	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.8
United Kingdom	17.7	17.6	18.2	16.4	17.6	16.9	16.5
Iceland	9.3	7.9	11.0	10.7	10.2	10.1	10.2
Japan	11.8	11.4	11.0	10.8	10.6	10.4	10.1
Norway	13.0	12.7	N/A	10.5	10.0	9.3	9.2
US	14.6	13.5	15.7	N/A	15.1	15.0	15.3

Source: Education at a Glance, (OECD), issues 2002–2011; Teaching staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia, (SORS, First release), 2010; Teaching staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia, (SORS, First release), 2009; Teaching staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia, (SORS, First release), 2008; Teaching staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia, (SORS, First release), 2007; Teaching staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia, (SORS, First release), 2006; Rapid reports No. 5; Teaching and professional staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, (SORS), 2001; SI-STAT Data Portal – Demography and social statistics – Education, 2011.

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Data are available only for the EU countries that are members of the OECD. Since 2009 only data for the EU-21 have been available; up to 2009 for EU-19; N/A – data not available.

Figure: Ratio of students to teaching staff in tertiary education, Slovenia and OECD countries, 2009 (2008/2009 academic year)



Source: Education at a Glance (2011); Teaching staff at higher education institutions and vocational colleges, Slovenia (First release), 2010; SORS; SI-STAT Data Portal – Demography and social statistics – Education, 2011; calculations by IMAD.