

Vocational education

Almost half of upper secondary pupils in the EU enrolled in vocational education

Most of them are men

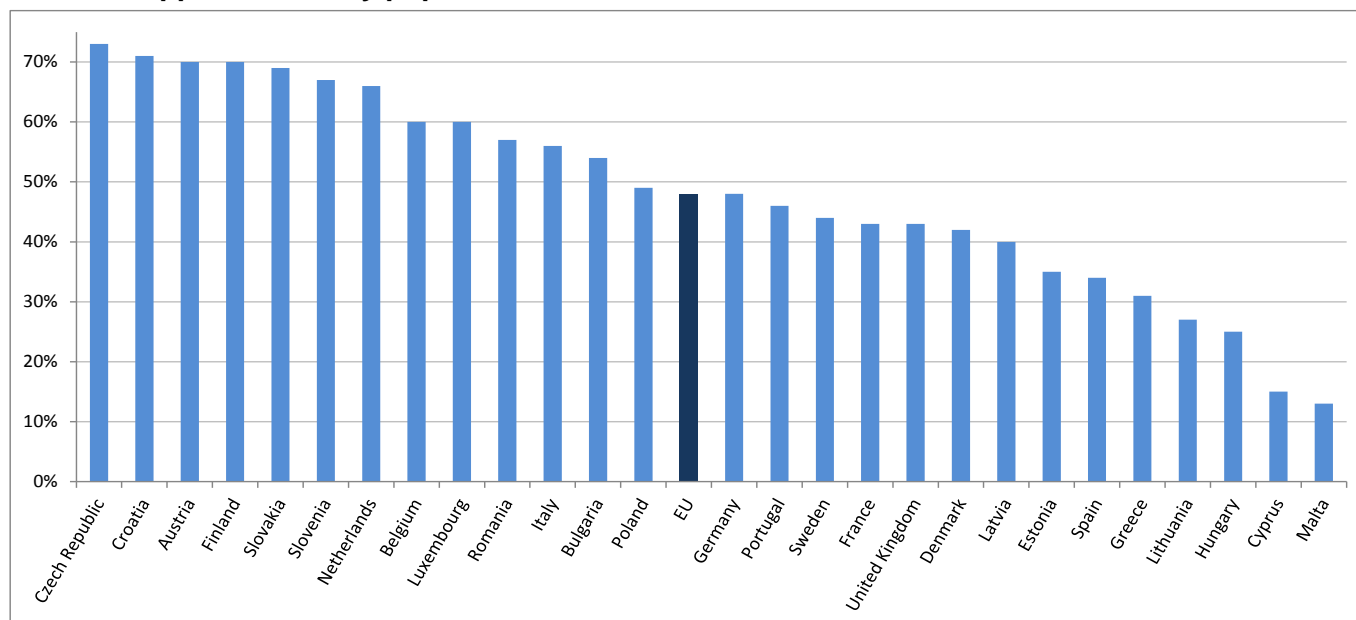
Of the 22 million pupils in the **European Union** (EU) studying at upper secondary level in 2014, almost 11 million (or 48%) were enrolled in vocational education. In twelve EU Member States, more than half of all upper secondary pupils studied vocational programmes.

Vocational education at upper secondary level was somewhat dominated by men, who accounted for 56% of pupils, compared with 44% women. This pattern can be observed in almost all Member States.

Ensuring that young people develop the skills and competences needed by the labour market by promoting vocational education and training is one of the initiatives of the European Commission to tackle youth unemployment.

This information is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, and shows only a small selection of the wide range of data on education available at Eurostat.

Share of upper secondary pupils enrolled in vocational education in the EU Member States, 2014



No data for Ireland (see country note).

Highest share of upper secondary pupils enrolled in vocational education in the Czech Republic

Across Member States in 2014, the highest proportion of pupils at upper secondary level enrolled in vocational education was registered in the **Czech Republic** (73%), ahead of **Croatia** (71%), **Austria** and **Finland** (both 70%), **Slovakia** (69%), **Slovenia** (67%) and the **Netherlands** (66%). At the opposite end of the scale, shares of less than a third were recorded in **Malta** (13%), **Cyprus** (15%), **Hungary** (25%), **Lithuania** (27%) and **Greece** (31%). At **EU** level, almost 1 in every 2 pupils studying at upper secondary level was enrolled in vocational programmes in 2014.

More men than women in upper secondary vocational education in most Member States

The majority of pupils following vocational upper secondary programmes were men in every EU Member State, except **Belgium** (52% were women), **Finland** and the **United Kingdom** (both 51%) as well as **Sweden** (where the gender distribution was balanced). In contrast, fewer than 40% of pupils following vocational programmes at upper secondary level were women in **Cyprus** (20%), **Estonia** and **Greece** (both 35%), **Lithuania** (36%), **Germany**, **Italy** and **Poland** (all 38%). At **EU** level, women accounted for 44% of pupils enrolled in vocational education programmes at upper secondary level.

Pupils enrolled in vocational education at upper secondary level, 2014

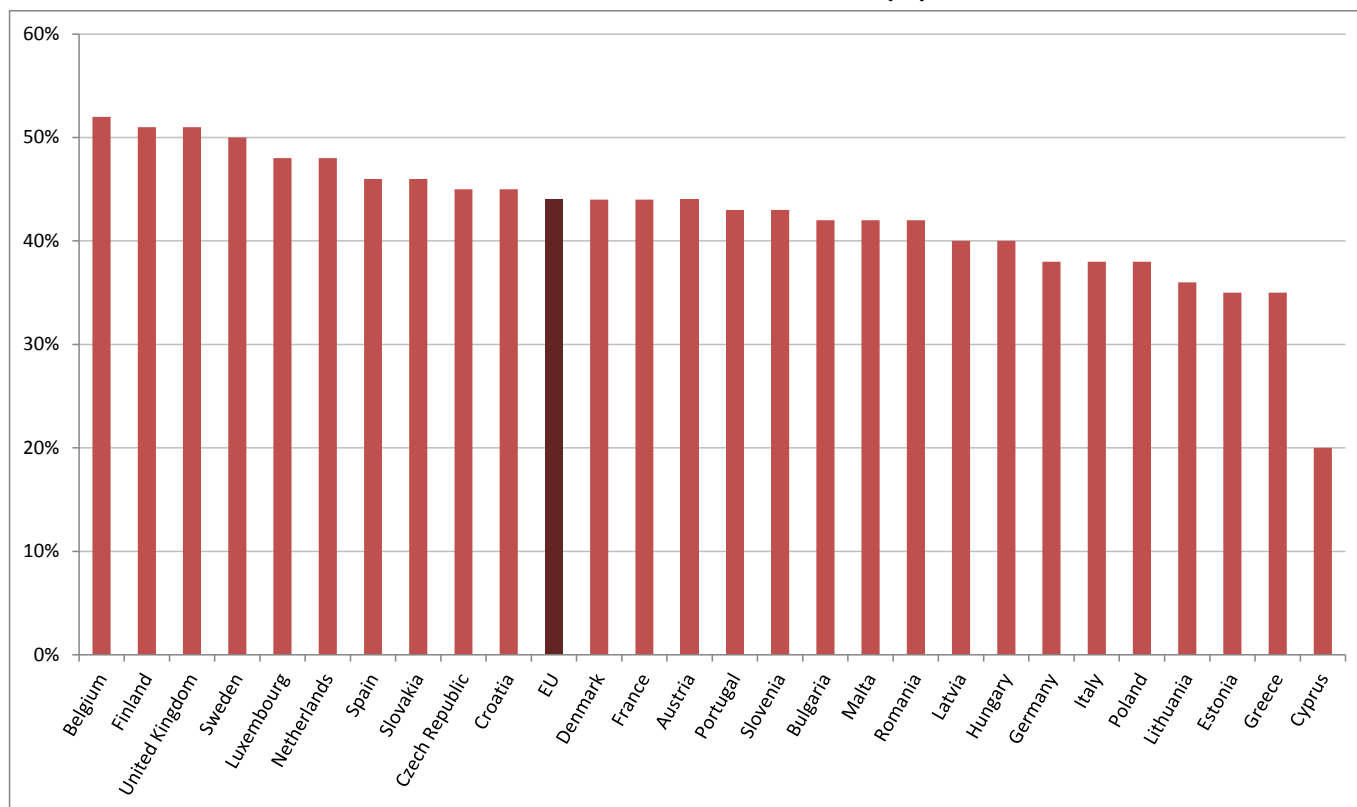
	Upper secondary vocational pupils		Share of pupils at upper secondary level enrolled in vocational education
	Absolute number	Share of women	
EU	10 553 027	44%	48%
Belgium	463 451	52%	60%
Bulgaria	154 073	42%	54%
Czech Republic	304 211	45%	73%
Denmark	131 279	44%	42%
Germany	1 232 771	38%	48%
Estonia	14 250	35%	35%
Ireland*	-	-	-
Greece	111 062	35%	31%
Spain	572 184	46%	34%
France	1 108 625	44%	43%
Croatia	131 830	45%	71%
Italy	1 573 016	38%	56%
Cyprus	4 652	20%	15%
Latvia	26 464	40%	40%
Lithuania	23 042	36%	27%
Luxembourg	14 892	48%	60%
Hungary	118 129	40%	25%
Malta	2 308	42%	13%
Netherlands	478 185	48%	66%
Austria	253 506	44%	70%
Poland	733 588	38%	49%
Portugal	177 169	43%	46%
Romania	459 500	42%	57%
Slovenia	60 254	42%	67%
Slovakia	143 187	46%	69%
Finland	251 652	51%	70%
Sweden	219 512	50%	44%
United Kingdom	1 790 235	51%	43%
Iceland**	8 017	43%	31%
Liechtenstein	1 195	36%	67%
Norway	126 800	39%	51%
Switzerland	230 530	42%	66%
FYR of Macedonia	51 813	43%	60%
Serbia	205 436	47%	75%
Turkey	2 513 887	45%	46%
Japan	836 605	43%	23%

* No data for Ireland (see country note).

** 2013 data.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Share of women among upper secondary pupils studying vocational programmes in the EU Member States, 2014 (%)



No data for Ireland (see country note).

Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Vocational education is the training in skills and teaching of knowledge related to a specific trade, occupation or vocation, generally undertaken at an educational institution.

Country note: Ireland

No vocational programmes according to the ISCED 2011 classification.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to education and training.

Eurostat [database](#) on education and training.

European Commission communication "[A new skills agenda for Europe](#): Working together to strengthen human capital, employability and competitiveness".

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