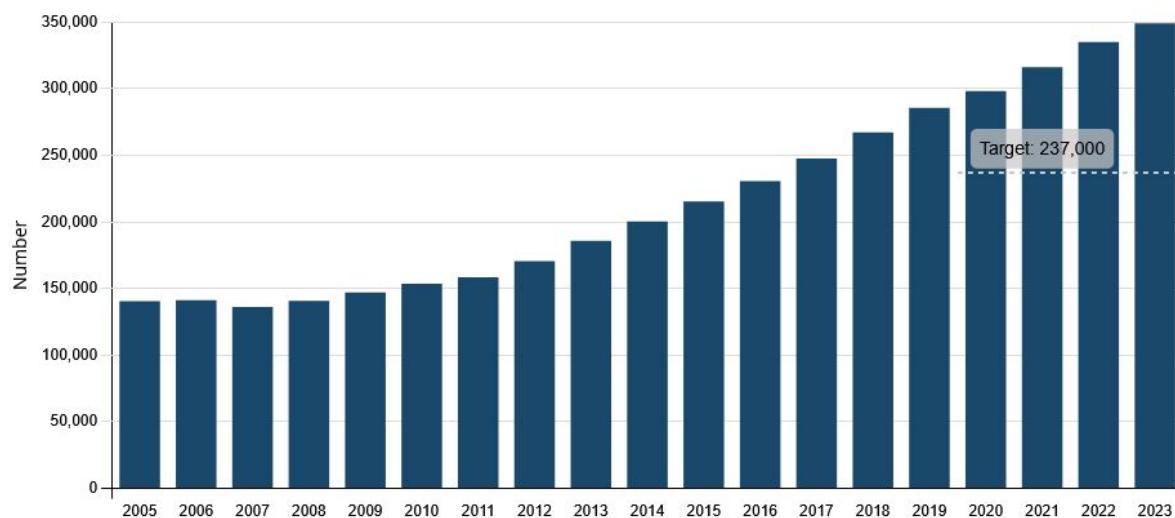




Knowledge transfer, especially in technical areas – *Sharing knowledge on an international scale*

17.2 Number of students and researchers from developing countries and least developed countries

Students and researchers from developing countries and least developed countries



Note(s):

The data is based on a special evaluation and is not publicly available. – The target is to increase the number of students and researchers by 10% in 2020 compared to 2015.

Data source(s):

Federal Statistical Office

Definition

The indicator shows the number of students and researchers from developing and emerging countries per year or semester. The number of students and researchers from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is shown separately.

Intention

Knowledge is a key driver of sustainable development not only at a national level, but also on a global scale. Strengthening the international exchange of knowledge through Germany is an important measure in this regard.

Target

Increase the number by 10% from 2015 to 2020, then stabilisation

Content and progress

The data basis for this indicator are the statistics on students and staff at higher education institutions of the Federal Statistical Office. Both are based on full surveys derived from the administrative data of higher education institutions. The indicator includes



students enrolled in the respective winter term. Data on researchers is collected as of the reference date 1 December. The number of researchers includes academic and creative arts staff at German higher education institutions; student assistants are not included. Doctoral students who are simultaneously employed at higher education institutions may lead to double counting in the indicator.

In 2023, the total number of students and academic staff from developing and emerging countries at German higher education institutions was approximately 349,000. Students accounted for the vast majority of this figure, representing 91.3% of the total. In the winter semester 2023/24, 318,663 students from developing and emerging countries were enrolled at German higher education institutions. This corresponds to a share of 11.1% of all enrolled students. The majority of students from these countries came from India (49,483), China (42,190), and Turkey (35,559).

Since the winter semester 2005/06 (134,462 students), the number of students from developing and emerging countries has risen continuously, with the only exception being a decline in the winter semester 2007/08. Compared to the previous year (approximately 307,000 students in the winter semester 2022/23), the number increased by 3.8% in the winter semester 2023/24. Among these students were 19,505 from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which represents an increase of 6.5% compared to the previous winter semester.

Overall, the proportion of women among students from developing and emerging countries at German higher education institutions was 42.0%. When considering only students from LDCs, the share is significantly lower at 31.2%. The gender ratio among students from European (54.3% female) and American (50.6% female) developing and emerging countries is relatively balanced. In contrast, only 34.5% of students from African developing and emerging countries were women.

In 2023, around 30,000 researchers from developing and emerging countries were employed at German higher education institutions. This corresponds to a share of 7.1% of all academic and creative arts staff, which is considerably lower than the corresponding share among students. Compared to the previous year, the number increased by 7.8%, and it has quadrupled since 2005. In 2023, a total of 1,190 researchers came from LDCs – representing 0.3% of the entire academic and creative arts staff (previous year: 1,070).

It should be noted that all figures and year-on-year comparisons may also be affected by changes in the classification of countries within the groups of LDCs or developing and emerging countries. The politically established goal of increasing the number of students and researchers from developing and emerging countries by 10% compared to 2015 (215,000) was already achieved in 2017. Since then, the targeted stabilisation of these numbers has also been maintained.

Type of target

Constant target for each year

Assessment

The number of students and researchers from developing and least developed countries should reach at least 237,000 annually.



According to the target formulation, an increase of 10% from the 2015 value corresponds to 237,000 students and researchers, a level that has been maintained annually since 2020. The politically defined target was achieved in 2023, and the six-year average development indicates positive progress. Indicator 17.2 is therefore assessed as sun for 2023.

