

# NORDIC-BALTIC RECTORS' CONFERENCE: HOW TO STAY GLOBAL – GLOBAL ACADEMIC COLLABORATION IN TIMES OF COUNTERFORCES

Background Statistics for the Conference



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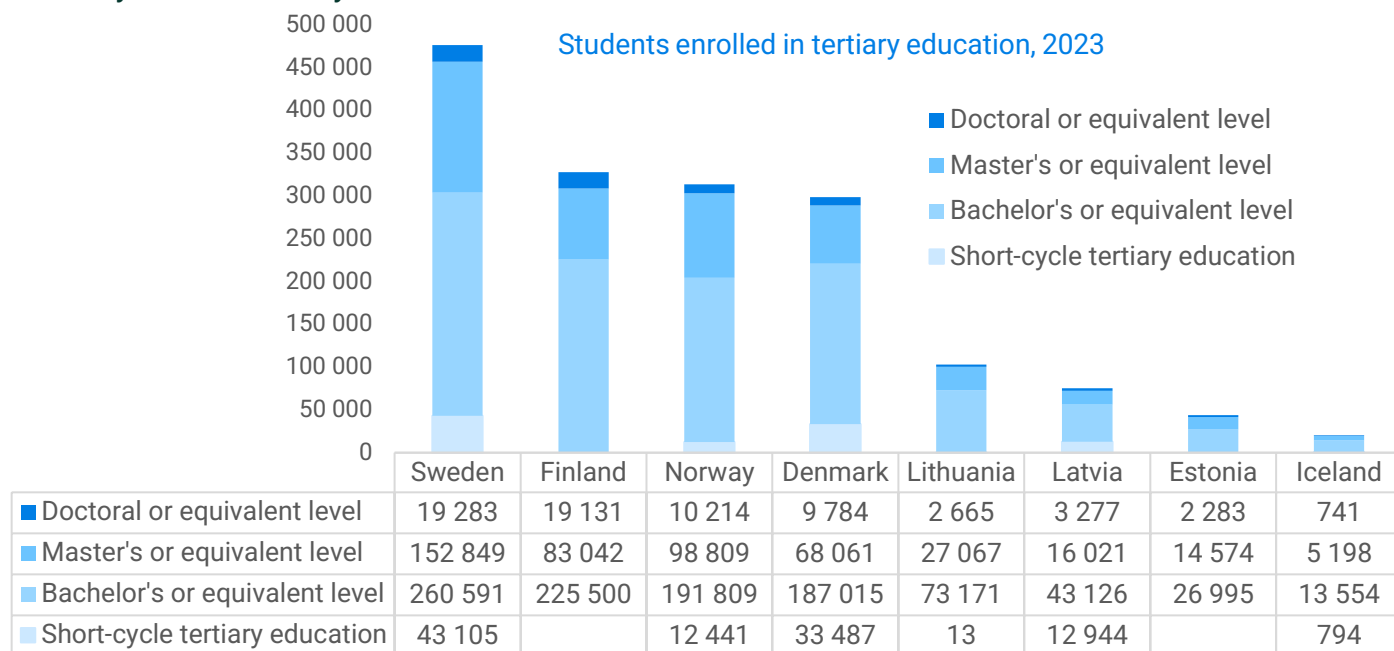
## Explanatory Notes

- The statistics cover the whole higher education and research sector, not only universities.
- Flags and abbreviations

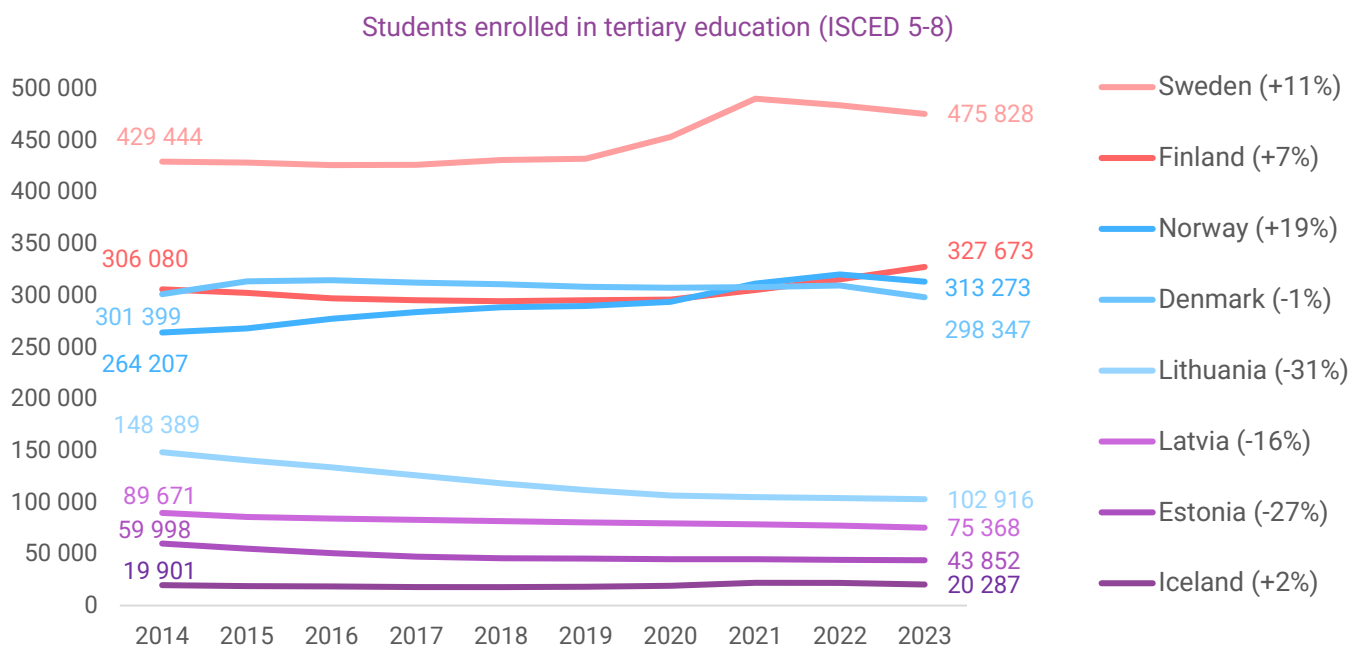
								
Denmark	Estonia	Finland	Iceland	Latvia	Lithuania	Norway	Sweden	Nordic-Baltic countries
DNK	EST	FIN	ISL	LVA	LTU	NOR	SWE	NB countries
DK	EE	FI	IS	LV	LT	NO	SE	NB

## Teaching

How many students study in the Nordic and Baltic countries?<sup>1</sup>











How has the number of students changed over the past 10 years?<sup>1</sup>

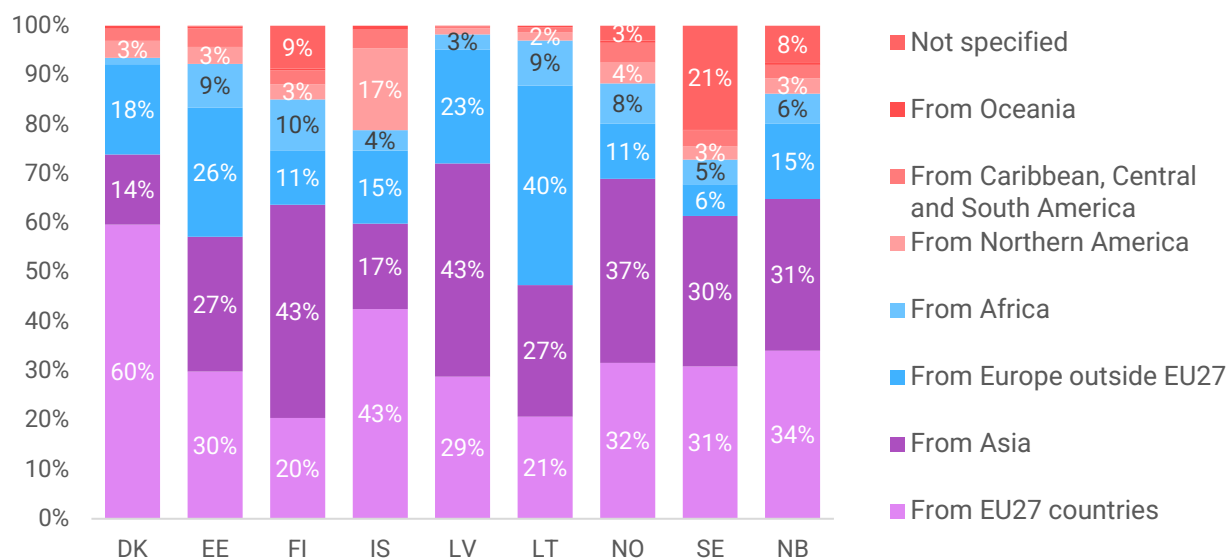


<sup>1</sup> Data source: Eurostat. Students enrolled in tertiary education by education level, programme orientation, sex, type of institution and intensity of participation [educ\_uoe\_enrt01\_\_custom\_18102868] [https://doi.org/10.2908/EDUC\\_UOE\\_ENRT01](https://doi.org/10.2908/EDUC_UOE_ENRT01)

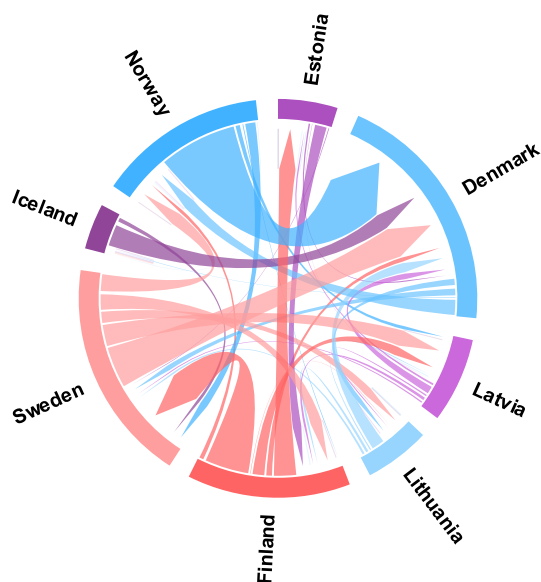
## How many degree-mobile students from abroad are enrolled in the Nordic-Baltic countries?<sup>2</sup>

2023									NB countries
Degree-mobile students	29 674	4 869	30 346	2 089	10 080	11 009	14 141	34 661	136 869
Share of degree-mobile students among all students (%)	10%	11%	9%	10%	13%	11%	5%	7%	8%
Mobile students from other NB countries	6 394	1 044	1 609	273	1 761	1 053	1 673	2 911	16 718
Share of mobile students from NB countries of all mobile students	22%	21%	5%	13%	17%	10%	12%	8%	12%

## From which regions do degree-mobile students in the Nordic-Baltic countries originate?<sup>2</sup>



## Where do students from the Nordic-Baltic region go to study within the region?<sup>2</sup>



The figure shows degree-mobile students studying in another Nordic-Baltic country. The direction of the arrow indicates the country of origin and destination, while the thickness of the arrow reflects the number of degree-mobile students.

<sup>2</sup> Year: 2023. Tertiary education (levels 5-8). Data source: Eurostat. Mobile students from abroad enrolled by education level, sex and country of origin [educ\_uae\_mobs02\_custom\_17163925]

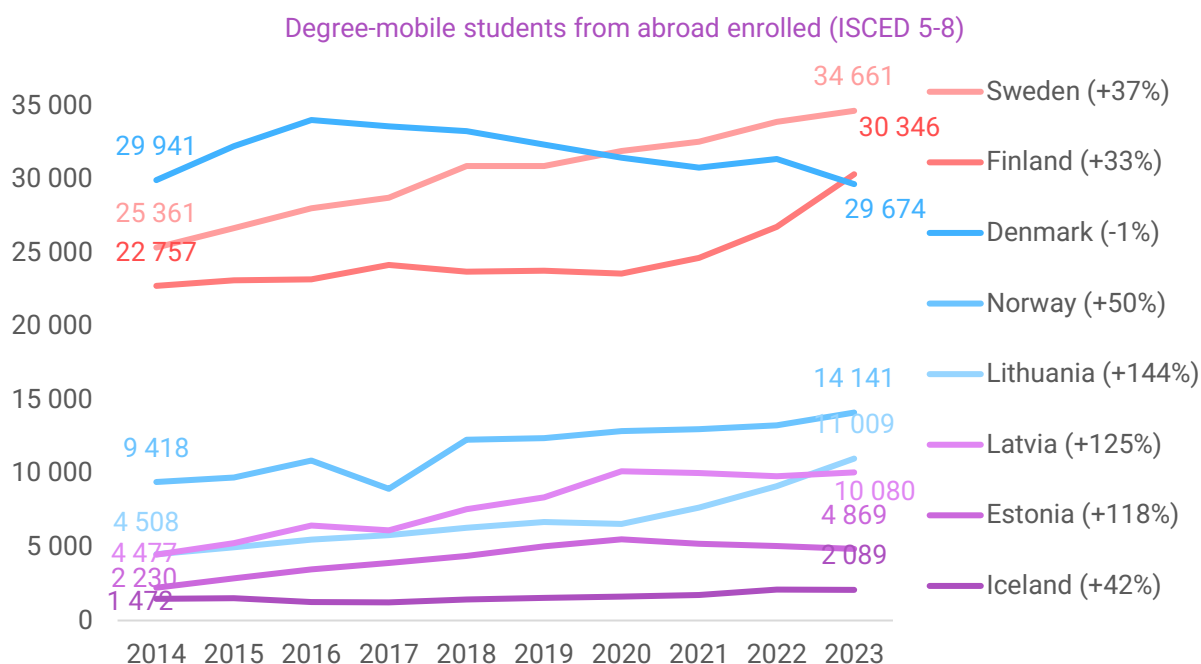
[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/educ\\_uae\\_mobs02\\_custom\\_17163925](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/educ_uae_mobs02_custom_17163925)

What are the top 10 countries from which degree-mobile students in the Nordic-Baltic countries come?<sup>3</sup>

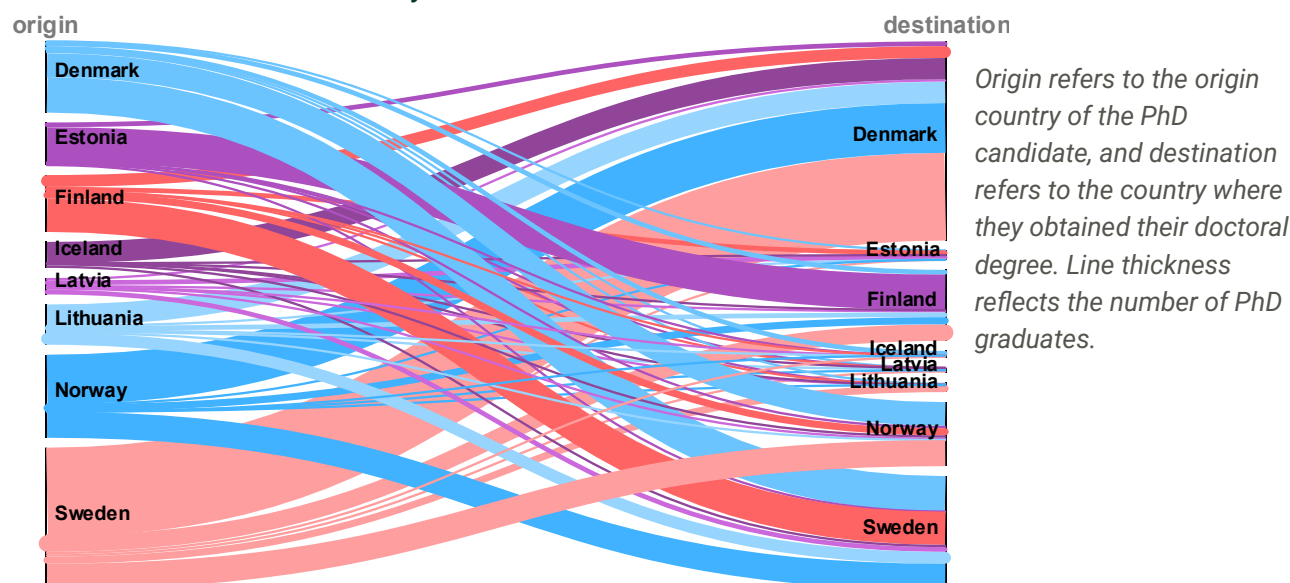
	Country of destination →								
Country of origin ↓	DNK	EST	FIN	ISL	LVA	LTU	NOR	SWE	NB
Germany	3248 (1.)	89 (14.)	918 (9.)	177 (2.)	880 (4.)	560 (4.)	844 (2.)	2483 (3.)	9 199
India	549 (16.)	187 (5.)	1479 (5.)	30 (18.)	1754 (1.)	784 (3.)	544 (7.)	2769 (2.)	8 096
China	1645 (3.)	131 (11.)	2455 (1.)	51 (12.)	58 (24.)	136 (18.)	750 (4.)	2818 (1.)	8 044
Ukraine	125 (40.)	520 (2.)	163 (34.)	25 (20.)	1230 (3.)	2152 (1.)	416 (11.)	115 (40.)	4 746
Sweden	1521 (4.)	15 (43.)	613 (13.)	45 (14.)	822 (5.)	465 (6.)	660 (5.)		4 141
Russia	126 (39.)	451 (3.)	2026 (2.)	44 (15.)	364 (8.)	375 (8.)	251 (17.)	292 (21.)	3 929
Norway	2820 (2.)	6 (63.)	96 (50.)	73 (8.)	220 (10.)	28 (47.)		427 (16.)	3 670
Iran	279 (26.)	113 (12.)	1052 (8.)	51 (12.)	33 (30.)	67 (29.)	891 (1.)	1164 (5.)	3 650
Pakistan	127 (38.)	154 (7.)	1082 (7.)	11 (39.)	194 (11.)	173 (13.)	763 (3.)	1114 (6.)	3 618
Finland	268 (27.)	852 (1.)		27 (19.)	483 (6.)	84 (26.)	216 (22.)	1622 (4.)	3 552
Italy	1229 (7.)	70 (16.)	599 (14.)	55 (11.)	142 (14.)	138 (17.)	321 (14.)	948 (7.)	3 502
USA	837 (11.)	144 (8.)	789 (11.)	287 (1.)	95 (18.)	135 (19.)	451 (9.)	743 (10.)	3 481
Bangladesh	349 (23.)	86 (15.)	1614 (4.)	4 (53.)	15 (39.)	61 (31.)	538 (8.)	538 (13.)	3 205
Spain	1506 (5.)	46 (22.)	504 (17.)	69 (9.)	24 (36.)	39 (42.)	226 (20.)	772 (8.)	3 186
Poland	1434 (6.)	20 (36.)	(22.)	116 (4.)	12 (43.)	80 (27.)	208 (23.)	385 (17.)	2 552
France	606 (15.)	43 (23.)	525 (16.)	89 (6.)	62 (22.)	96 (24.)	358 (12.)	647 (11.)	2 426
Viet Nam	80 (45.)	25 (33.)	1818 (3.)	13 (34.)	11 (46.)	4 (99.)	173 (24.)	148 (33.)	2 272
UK	786 (14.)	60 (17.)	396 (19.)	98 (5.)	142 (14.)	146 (15.)	238 (18.)	361 (19.)	2 227
Nepal	306 (25.)	27 (30.)	1280 (6.)	4 (53.)	27 (33.)	23 (49.)	425 (10.)	95 (51.)	2 187
Greece	812 (13.)	16 (42.)	220 (27.)	10 (41.)	2 (81.)	14 (62.)	127 (27.)	771 (9.)	1 972
Nigeria	29 (69.)	265 (4.)	890 (10.)	12 (37.)	34 (28.)	6 (89.)	262 (16.)	433 (15.)	1 931
Türkiye	162 (34.)	136 (9.)	375 (20.)	15 (29.)	240 (9.)	161 (14.)	318 (15.)	368 (18.)	1 775
Sri Lanka	17 (77.)	21 (35.)	661 (12.)	2 (72.)	422 (7.)	18 (55.)	78 (34.)	484 (14.)	1 703
Belarus	11 (84.)	60 (17.)	35 (78.)	2 (72.)	92 (19.)	1404 (2.)	29 (64.)	38 (82.)	1 671
Hungary	1004 (10.)	20 (36.)	257 (25.)	20 (23.)	4 (65.)	11 (71.)	70 (36.)	220 (25.)	1 606
Romania	1024 (9.)	10 (54.)	203 (32.)	9 (43.)	6 (56.)	11 (71.)	69 (39.)	238 (23.)	1 570
Uzbekistan	5 (101.)	13 (44.)	29 (84.)		1327 (2.)	35 (43.)	20 (79.)	12 (109.)	1 441
Denmark		7 (60.)	58 (61.)	88 (7.)	45 (26.)	288 (9.)	603 (6.)	304 (20.)	1 393
Slovakia	1046 (8.)	6 (63.)	141 (40.)	7 (45.)		3 (104.)	35 (59.)	75 (58.)	1 313
Philippines	49 (58.)	35 (26.)	319 (21.)	123 (3.)	7 (54.)	15 (61.)	333 (13.)	80 (56.)	961
Latvia	330 (24.)	134 (10.)	167 (33.)	13 (34.)		117 (20.)	48 (51.)	115 (40.)	924
Canada	190 (33.)	25 (33.)	139 (41.)	60 (10.)	32 (32.)	40 (41.)	142 (26.)	174 (32.)	802
Azerbaijan	8 (92.)	185 (6.)	40 (73.)		173 (12.)	226 (11.)	38 (55.)	64 (63.)	734
Israel	57 (54.)	6 (63.)	44 (67.)	1 (80.)	61 (23.)	499 (5.)	15 (89.)	19 (100.)	702
Kazakhstan	9 (88.)	54 (20.)	110 (45.)	3 (62.)	118 (16.)	234 (10.)	34 (61.)	35 (85.)	597
Niger			2 (138.)			389 (7.)			391

<sup>3</sup> Year: 2023. Tertiary education (levels 5-8). Data source: Eurostat. Mobile students from abroad enrolled by education level, sex and country of origin [educ\_uae\_mobs02\_custom\_17163925]  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/educ\\_uae\\_mobs02\\_custom\\_17163925](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/educ_uae_mobs02_custom_17163925)

## How has the number of degree-mobile students changed?<sup>4</sup>



## How many PhD candidates from the Nordic-Baltic region obtain their doctoral degree in another Nordic-Baltic country?<sup>5</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Year: 2023. Tertiary education (levels 5-8). Data source: Eurostat. Mobile students from abroad enrolled by education level, sex and country of origin [educ\_uae\_mobs02\_custom\_17163925]

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/educ\\_uae\\_mobs02\\_custom\\_17163925](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/educ_uae_mobs02_custom_17163925)

<sup>5</sup> Year: 2023. Data source: OECD. Number of mobile students enrolled and graduated by country of origin (2023); Education level: Doctoral or equivalent level. <https://data-explorer.oecd.org/>

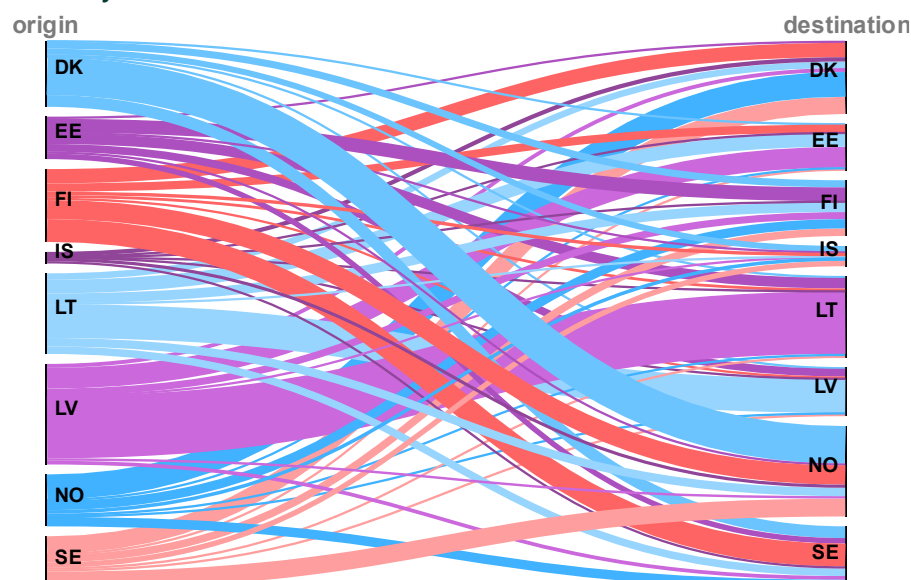


In which countries do PhD students from the Nordic-Baltic region obtain their doctoral degree?<sup>6</sup>

Country of destination ↓	Country of origin →								
	DNK	EST	FIN	ISL	LVA	LTU	NOR	SWE	NB total
UK	41 (1.)	12 (2.)	24 (1.)	7 (2.)	12 (1.)	31 (1.)	40 (1.)	55 (1.)	222
Denmark		2 (6.)	5 (5.)	9 (1.)	1 (7.)	9 (3.)	21 (2.)	37 (2.)	84
Germany	17 (2.)	4 (3.)	11 (3.)	1 (5.)	2 (4.)	11 (2.)	11 (3.)	12 (4.)	69
Switzerland	15 (3.)	4 (3.)	3 (6.)		6 (2.)	8 (5.)	6 (5.)	19 (3.)	61
Sweden	15 (3.)		14 (2.)	1 (5.)	2 (4.)	5 (6.)	11 (3.)		48
France	5 (8.)	1 (8.)	9 (4.)		2 (3.)	8 (4.)	3 (6.)	5 (8.)	34
Austria	8 (7.)	2 (6.)	3 (6.)			3 (8.)	3 (7.)	12 (4.)	31
Finland	2 (10.)	15 (1.)			1 (7.)	2 (9.)	3 (7.)	7 (7.)	30
Norway	10 (6.)	1 (9.)	3 (6.)	1 (5.)	1 (7.)			11 (6.)	27
Australia	12 (5.)							4 (9.)	16
Italy	1 (13.)	3 (5.)	1 (15.)		1 (7.)	4 (7.)	1 (11.)	3 (12.)	14
Belgium	1 (13.)	1 (9.)	2 (11.)	2 (4.)	1 (7.)	1 (11.)	1 (11.)	4 (9.)	13
Canada			3 (6.)	3 (3.)					6
Estonia			2 (11.)		2 (4.)				4

The table presents the most popular destination countries, displaying at least the top five destinations (on a blue background) for each country of origin. The table is limited to countries for which data were available in the OECD dataset; however, it is probable that doctoral degrees have also been awarded in additional countries not captured here.

How many participants undertake Erasmus+ learning mobility in another Nordic-Baltic country?<sup>7</sup>











Origin refers to the country where the student is enrolled on a regular basis, while destination refers to the country where they participate in an Erasmus+ exchange programme. Line thickness reflects the number of participants.

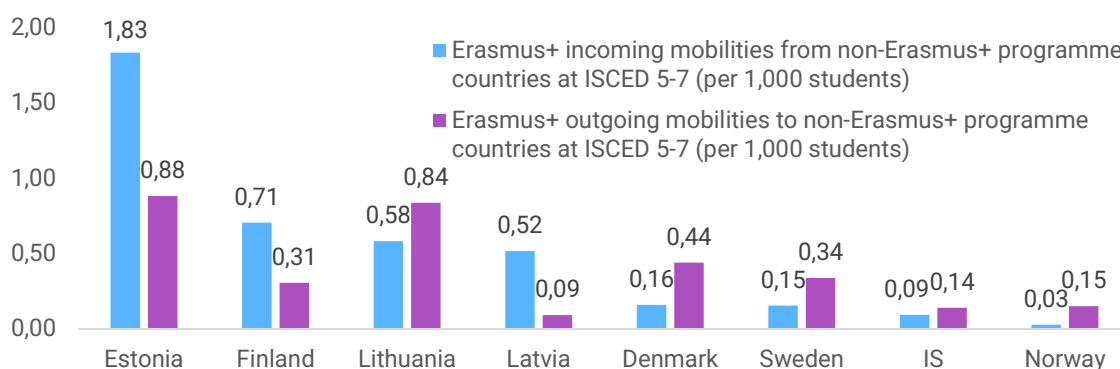
<sup>6</sup> Year: 2023. Data source: OECD. Number of mobile students enrolled and graduated by country of origin (2023); Education level: Doctoral or equivalent level. <https://data-explorer.oecd.org/>

<sup>7</sup> Year: 2024. Data source: Erasmus+ Public Dashboard; Participant Profile: learner;; Field: Higher Education

## What share of Erasmus+ mobility covers the other Nordic-Baltic countries?<sup>8</sup>









								
Share of other Nordic Baltic countries in ERASMUS+ mobility (outbound)	19%	22%	14%	37%	40%	19%	18%	11%
Share of other Nordic Baltic countries in ERASMUS+ mobility (inbound)	15%	24%	8%	26%	22%	22%	12%	7%

## What share of Erasmus+ students come from or go to non-Erasmus+ countries?<sup>9</sup>



Share of incoming/outcoming short cycle, bachelor's and master's students with support from the Erasmus+ programme coming from / going to non-Erasmus+ programme countries, normalised per 1,000 short cycle, bachelor's and master's students. From 2021 onwards, United Kingdom is counted as non-Erasmus+ programme country.

## What is the share of students at ISCED 7 who have obtained a previous degree abroad?<sup>10</sup>

									Indicator source
Share of students with previous degree abroad at ISCED 7	25%	15%	8%	16%	17%	13%	7%	13%	EUROSTUDENT

Share of students with previous degree abroad at ISCED 7 - proportion of master's students with previous degree from outside of the country than the one currently enrolled.

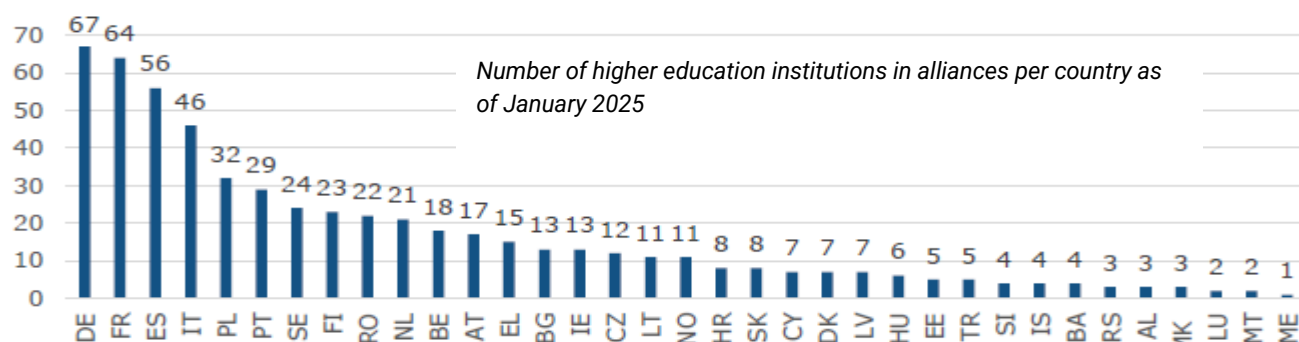
<sup>8</sup> Year: 2024. Data source: Erasmus+ Public Dashboard; Participant Profile: learner;; Field: Higher Education

<sup>9</sup> Year: 2022. Data source: European Commission. European Higher Education Sector Scoreboard; <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/eheso/european-higher-education-sector-scoreboard>;

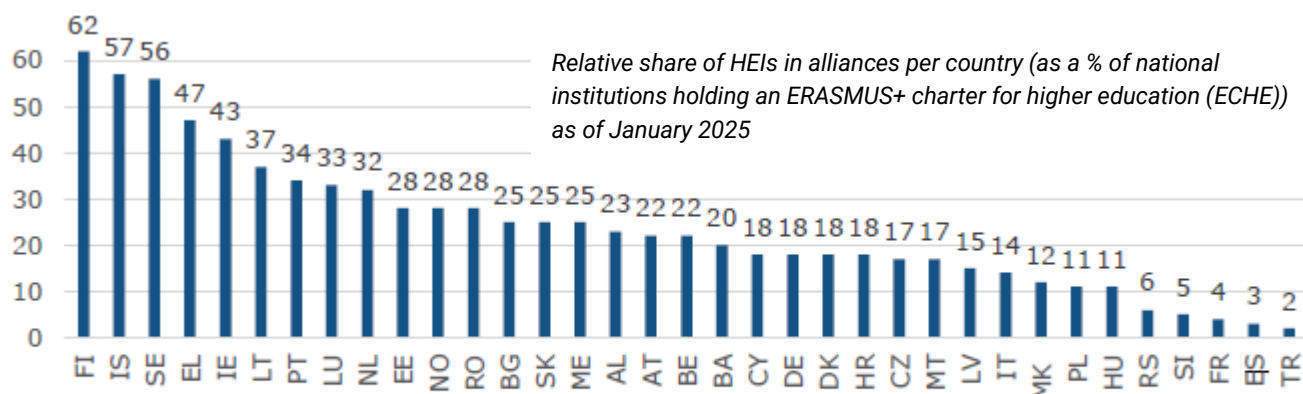
<sup>10</sup> Year: 2022. Data source: European Higher Education Sector Observatory (EHESO), European Higher Education Sector Scoreboard <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/eheso/european-higher-education-sector-scoreboard>



How many higher education institutions participate in European University Alliances, and what proportion of institutions does this represent?<sup>11</sup>



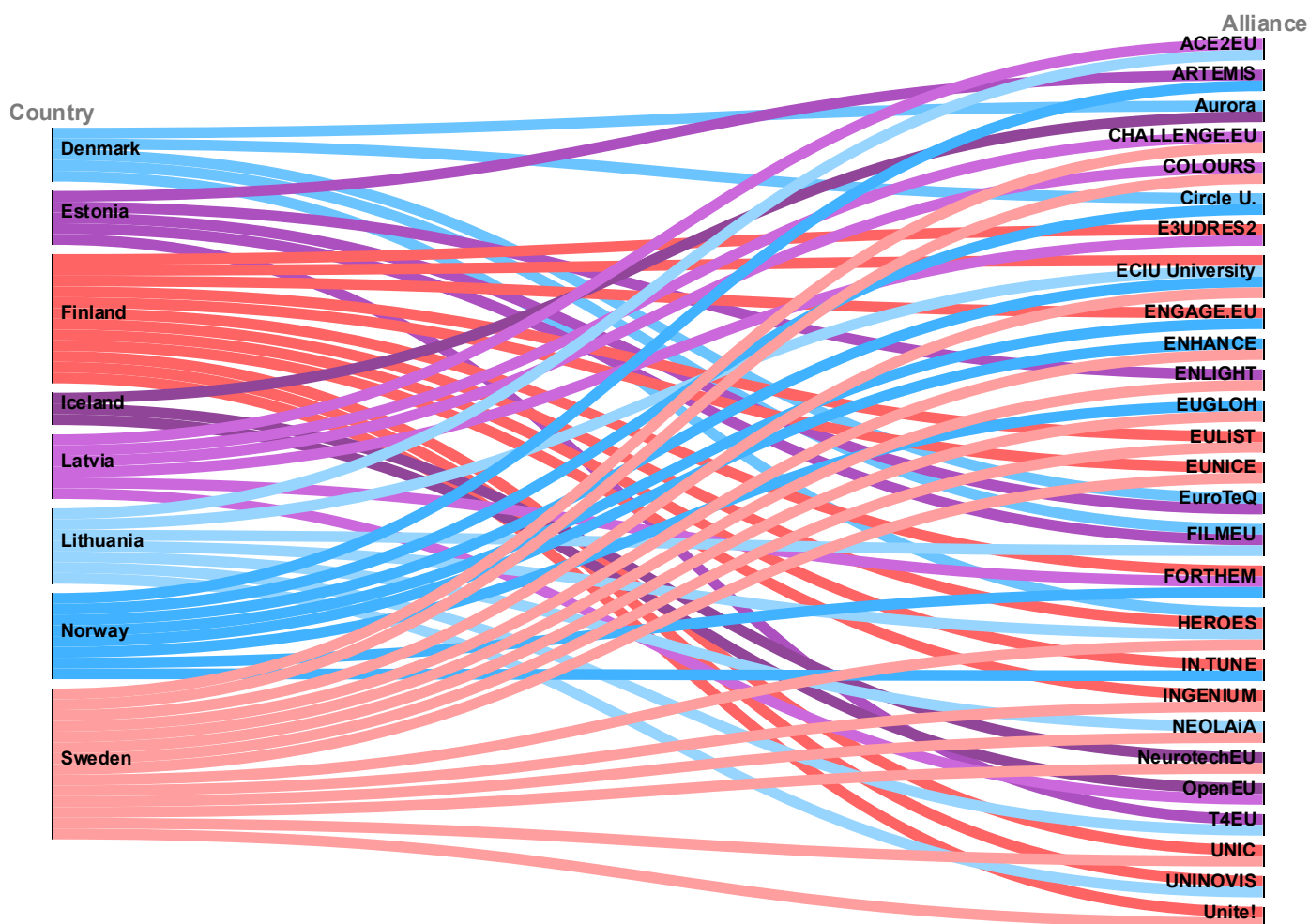
Source: Prepared by PPMI based on <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative/map>. 65 alliances covered.



Source: Prepared by PPMI based on <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative/map> and <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/higher-education-institutions-holding-an-eche-2021-2027> (last updated in October 2024). 65 alliances covered.

<sup>11</sup> Source: European Commission, 2025. Report on the outcomes and transformational potential of the European Universities initiative. Figure 4. Number of higher education institutions in alliances per country as of January 2025 (p.82) and Figure 5. Relative share of HEIs in alliances per country (as a % of national institutions holding an ERASMUS+ charter for higher education (ECHE)) as of January 2025 (p.82) <https://op.europa.eu/publication-detail/-/publication/db43f6ca-da14-11ef-be2a-01aa75ed71a1>

Which European University Alliances include higher education institutions from more than one Nordic or Baltic country?<sup>12</sup>

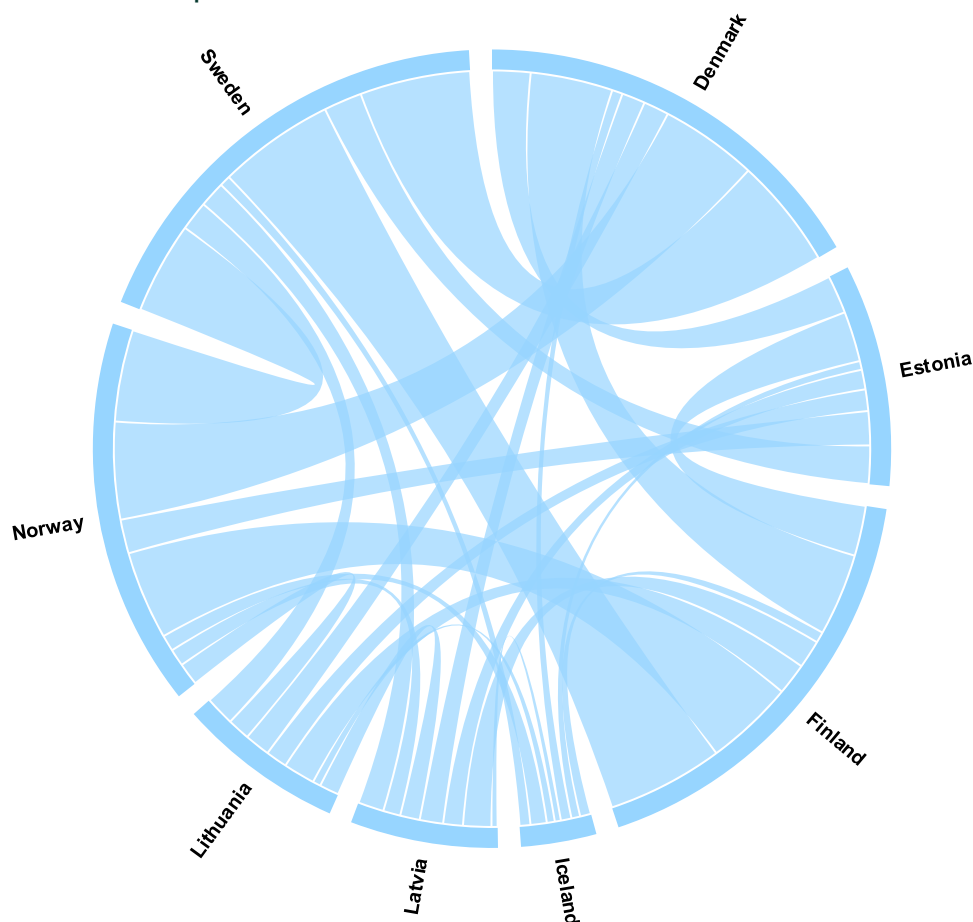


The figure presents only those alliances that include participation from at least two higher education institutions from the Nordic-Baltic countries (meaning there is a Nordic, Baltic or Nordic-Baltic partnership).

<sup>12</sup> Year: 2025. Data source: European Commission. European Universities alliances and their partners. <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative/map>.

## Research

How many collaborative projects are there between the Nordic-Baltic countries under Horizon Europe? <sup>13</sup>

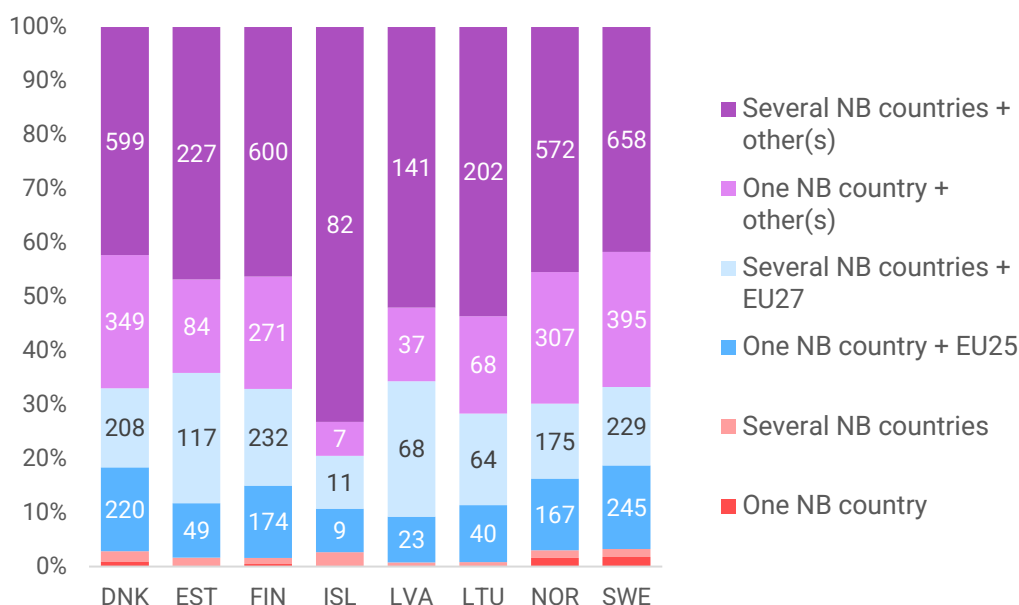


The selected projects involve collaboration projects between institutions from at least two countries among the Nordic-Baltic states. The figure illustrates country pairs that participated in these projects. If a project included more than two countries, it is represented in the figure with as many lines as there are unique country pairs involved in that project.

<sup>13</sup> Data source: European Commission. Horizon Dashboard. (Is collaborative project? Yes; Programme: Horizon Europe; Signed and Closed Grants, Project Signature Years: 2021-2025).  
[https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs\\_digit\\_dashboard\\_mt/public/sense/app/d58f3864-d519-4f9f-855e-c34f9860acdd/sheet/QCdc/state/analysis](https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/d58f3864-d519-4f9f-855e-c34f9860acdd/sheet/QCdc/state/analysis)

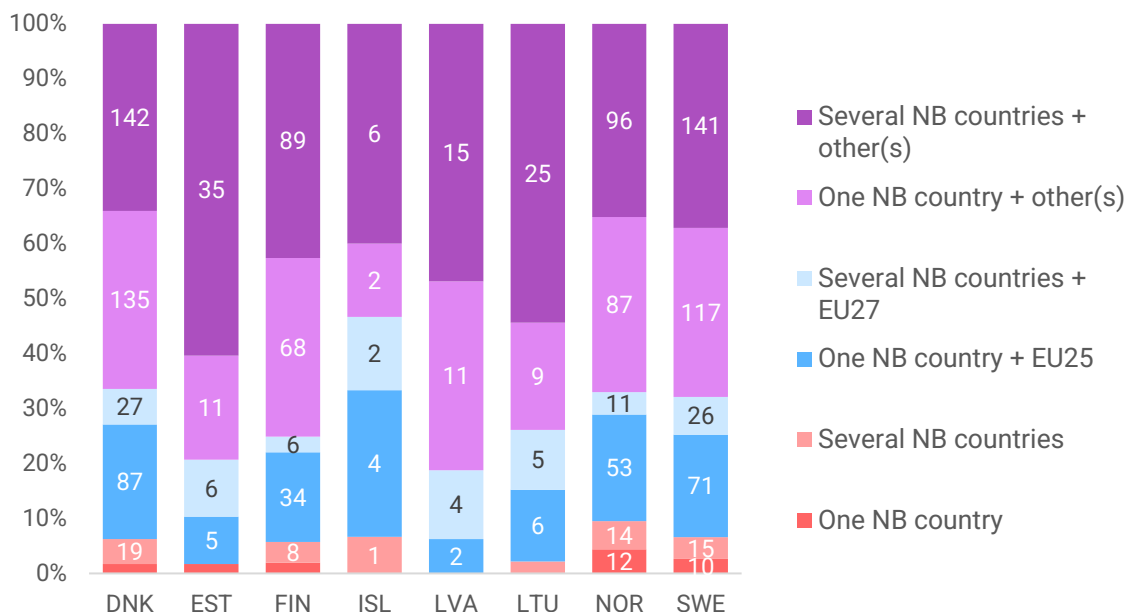
Figure layout source: European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Niakaras, K., Volpe, R., & Kreiman Seguer, G. (2024). Country participation in the EU R&I framework programmes : a retrospective on the first three years of Horizon Europe (2021-2023) : monitoring and evaluation report, (K..Niakaras,editor,R..Volpe,editor, G.Kreiman Seguer,edito) Publications Office of the European Union. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/485995>; Figure 11. Country collaborations in Horizon Europe (topp 30 countries by number of projects)

## Who are the partners of the Nordic and Baltic countries' collaborative projects under Horizon Europe?<sup>14</sup>



If at least one partner is from outside the Nordic and Baltic countries and the EU27, the project is classified under the category "one NB country + other(s)" or "several NB countries+ other(s)".

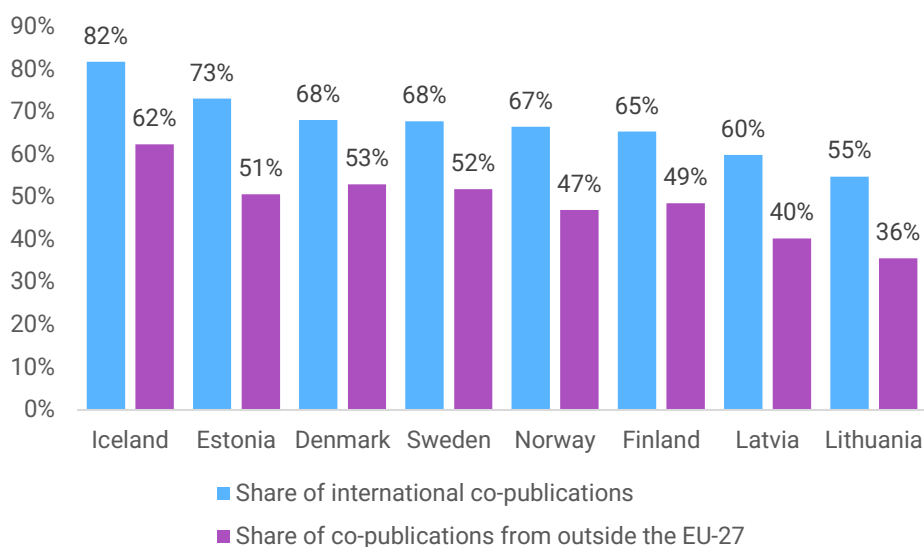
## Who are the partners of the Nordic and Baltic countries' collaborative projects under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)?<sup>14</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Data source: European Commission. Horizon Dashboard.

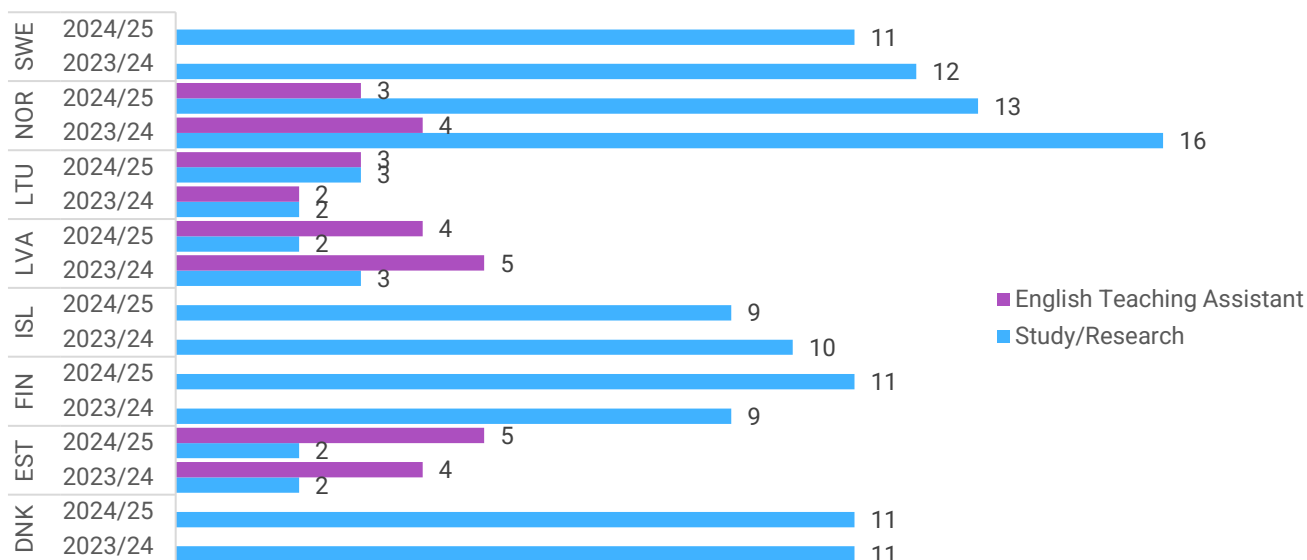
[https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs\\_digit\\_dashboard\\_mt/public/sense/app/d58f3864-d519-4f9f-855e-c34f9860acdd/sheet/QCdc/state/analysis](https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/d58f3864-d519-4f9f-855e-c34f9860acdd/sheet/QCdc/state/analysis) (Is collaborative project? Yes; Programme: Horizon Europe; Signed and Closed Grants, Project Signature Years: 2021-2025; 2022-2025 for MSCA; dimension "simplified ToA" encompasses „HORIZON-TMA-MSCA")

## What share of publications are international co-publications, and what share are co-publications with partners outside the EU27?<sup>15</sup>



*Share of international co-publications - share of scientific publications with at least one author from the considered country, which also includes at least one co-author from another country. Share of co-publications from outside the EU-27 - share of scientific publications with at least one author in the focal country and at least one author outside the EU-27 and outside the focal country. Publications are weighted by the number of authors in the country. Publication time window is four years (i.e. 2022 data refer to publications in 2019-2022).*

## How many Fulbright awards have been granted to the Nordic-Baltic countries?<sup>16</sup>



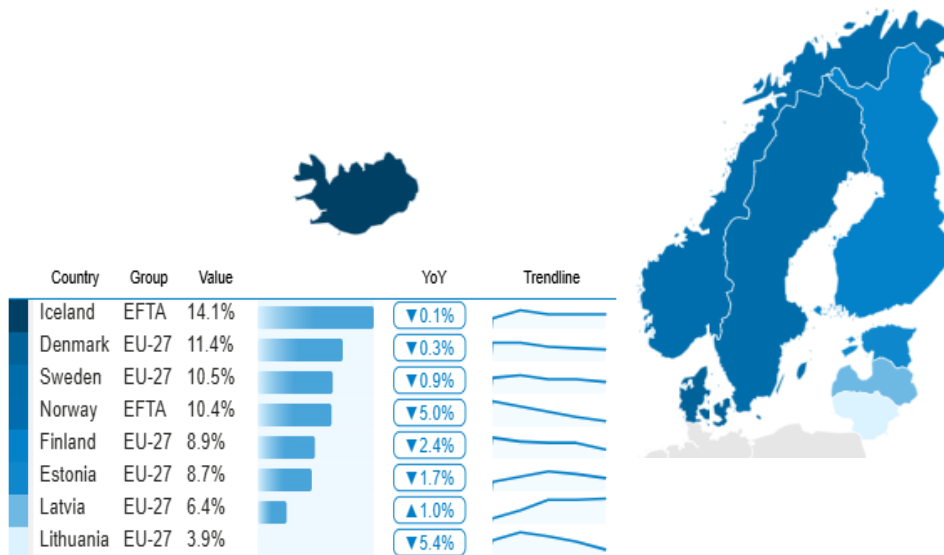
<sup>15</sup> Year: 2022. Source: European Commission. European Higher Education Sector Scoreboard; <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/eheso/european-higher-education-sector-scoreboard>

<sup>16</sup> Source: Fulbright U.S Student Program; <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/study-research-eta-statistics>

## Innovation

What share of the scientific publications by the country's higher education institutions are co-authored with industry partners?<sup>17</sup>

*Share of the scientific publications by the country's higher education institutions co-authored with industry partners. Publications are weighted by the number of authors in the country. Publication time window is four years (i.e. 2021 data refer to publications in 2018-2021), citation window is five years (i.e. 2021 data refers to citations in 2017-2021).*



<sup>17</sup> Year: 2022. Source: European Commission. European Higher Education Sector Scoreboard; <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/eheso/european-higher-education-sector-scoreboard>;