



# European Tertiary Education Register

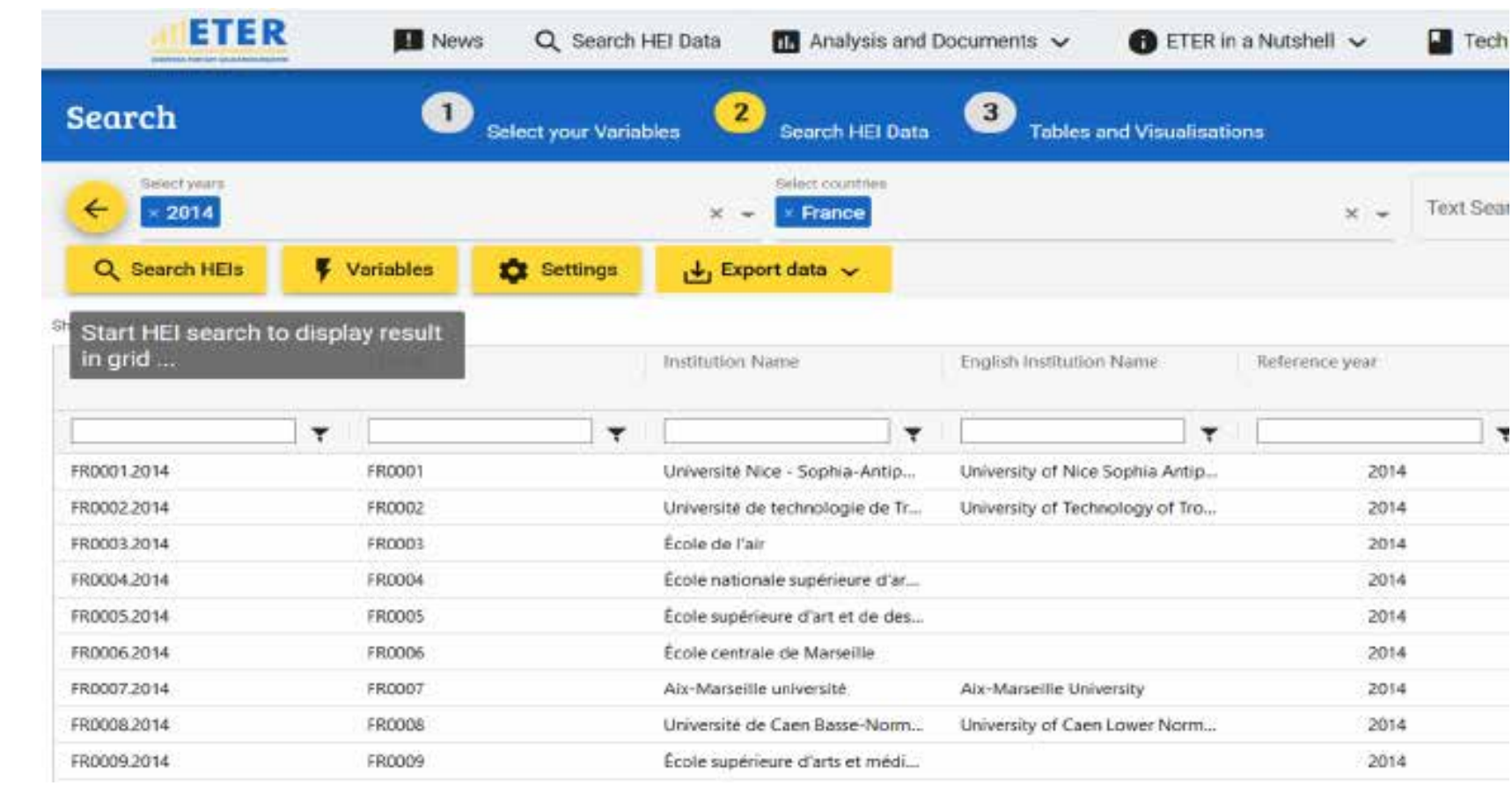
Main ETER database: [www.eter-project.com](http://www.eter-project.com)

RISIS-ETER research database: [orgreg.joanneum.at](http://orgreg.joanneum.at)

## About ETER

ETER (European Tertiary Education Register) is the reference database of European Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) delivering degrees at the tertiary level. It provides a register of such institutions in Europe (including their geographical localization) and statistical data on education and research. The main feature of ETER is to provide data at the level of individual institutions, complementary to country and regional data by EUROSTAT. This allows investigating issues such as international differentiation of higher education.

ETER is a project funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education Youth, Sport and Culture and the Joint Research Centre. It is a joint undertaking of five partners - USI, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, JOANNEUM RESEARCH, POLICIES, Graz, NIFU - Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, Oslo, University of Rome La Sapienza and University of Pisa - in close collaboration with EUROSTAT, with a network of national experts and with the National Statistical Authorities of the participating countries.

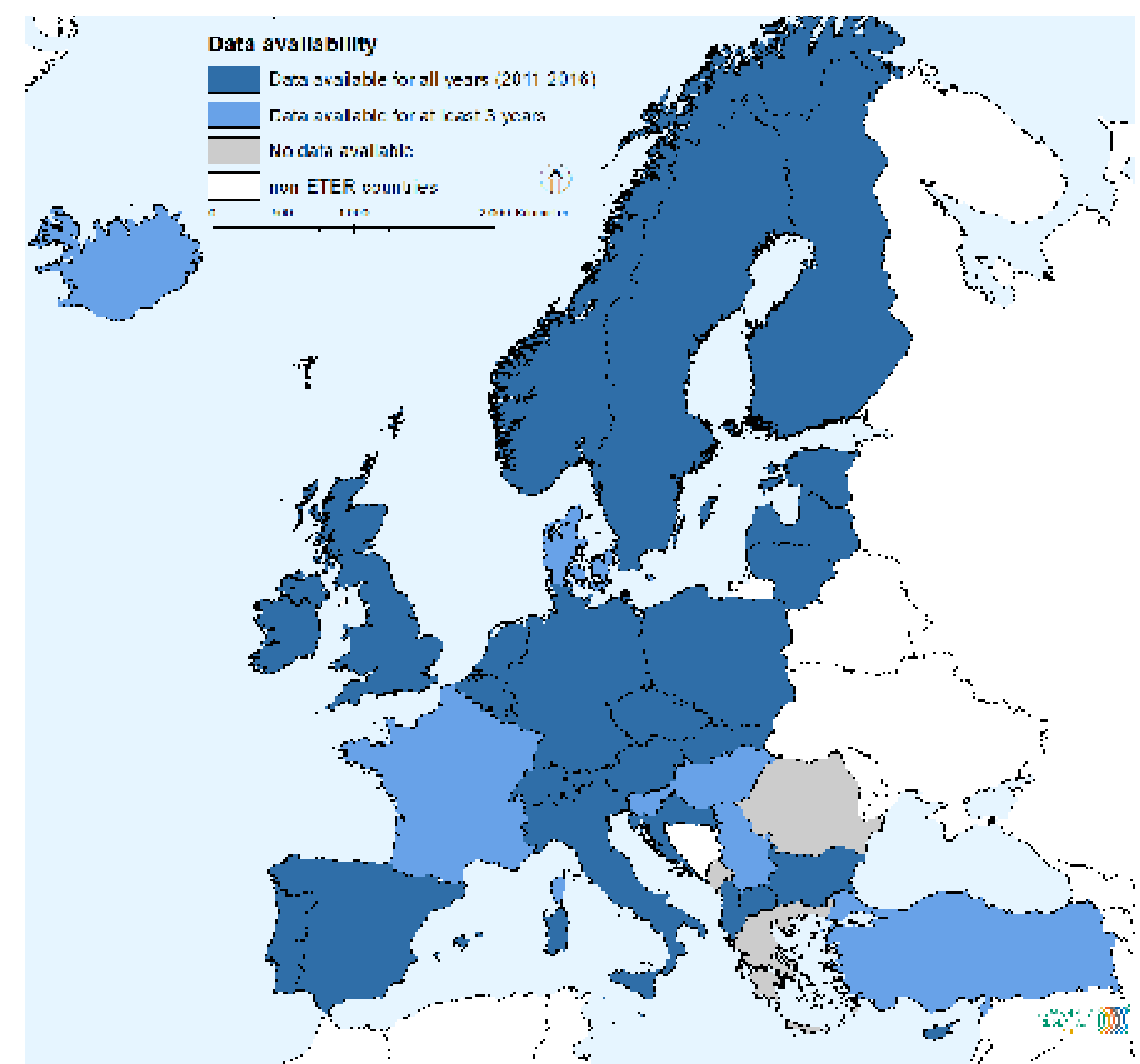


ETER allows searching for HEIs and downloading data from a public website

## ETER

**Country coverage.** ETER covers 28 EU member states, EEA-EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), (potential) candidate countries (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey).  
**HEI coverage.** ETER provides information on nearly 3,000 HEIs. It includes almost all HEIs graduating at ISCED level 6 (bachelor), 7 (master) or 8 (doctorate), such as universities, colleges, schools of education, arts, etc. HEIs delivering only professional diplomas (level ISCED 5) are mostly excluded.

ETER coverage is around 85% of tertiary education students in EUROSTAT country-level statistics. Time coverage. Data are available for the year 2011 to 2016. Data availability. Availability is excellent for descriptors and geographical information, very good for students and graduates (with a few breakdowns missing), reasonable for staff data and limited for financial data. The following countries provided only the list of HEIs: Montenegro, Romania, Belgium (French speaking region).



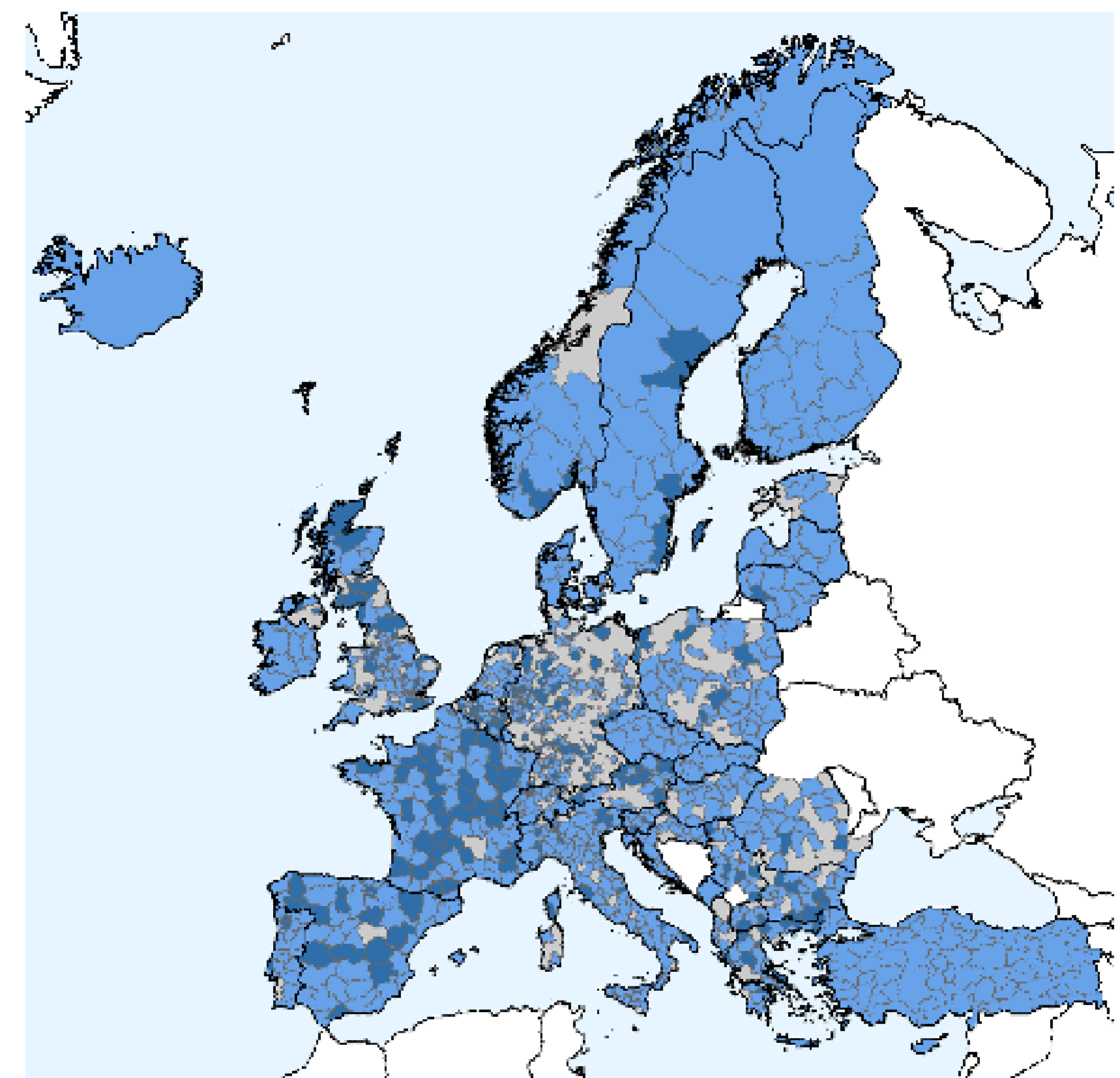
Data availability by country

### Variables and indicators:

- Institutional descriptors: the name of the institution, the foundation year, type of institution.
- Geographical descriptors: NUTS2 and 3 region, the city and postcode of the main seat, geographical coordinates, information on satellite campuses.
- Data on numbers of students and graduates divided by ISCED-2011 level, by gender, fields of education, nationality and mobility, including ERASMUS incoming and outgoing students.
- Data on HEI expenditures (personnel, non personnel, capital) and revenues (core, third-party and fees).

- Data on the number of staff, divided between academic and non-academic, as well as on the number of professors.
- Data on research activities: PhD students and graduates, R&D expenditures, staff mobility in EU-FP programs.

Under the RISIS project ([risis.eu](http://risis.eu)) a research mirror of ETER has been developed including additional data on research output, such as publications, patents and European projects, as well as 2008 data from the ETER pilot. This dataset will be progressively extended with additional data and HEIs outside Europe.



Geographical distribution of HEIs in Europe

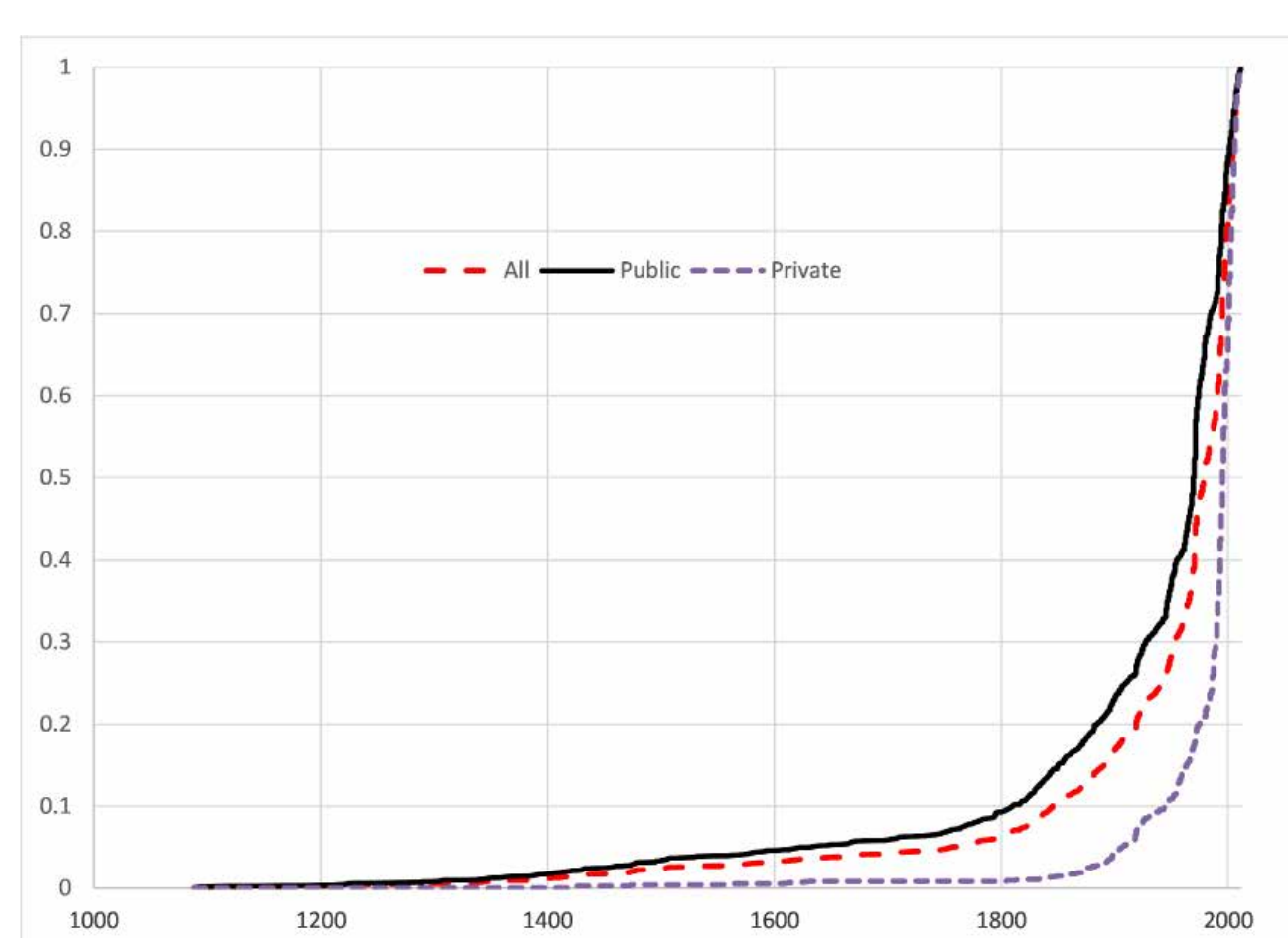
## Data access conditions

The ETER database is accessible on-line at [www.eter-project.com](http://www.eter-project.com). Users can perform searches and download either the whole dataset or parts of it in Excel format. It is also possible to download metadata, demographic information on the included HEIs and methodological information on the project.

Public access is available for most of the data. Some data are for research purposes only by registering to the website. Data available on the RISIS-ETER mirror ([orgreg.joanneum.at](http://orgreg.joanneum.at)) are for research purposes only.

## Age of HEIs in Europe

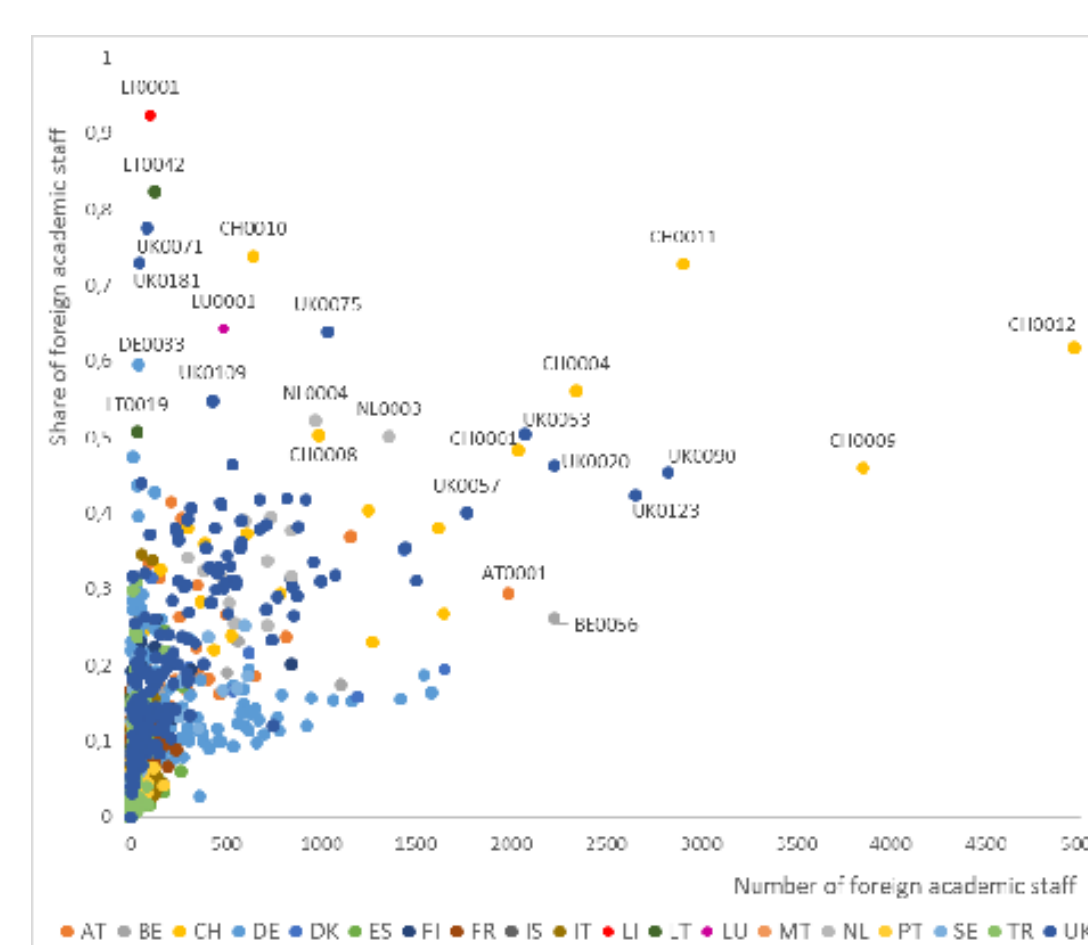
Europe has a number of very old HEIs (for example, Bologna founded in 1088), but 75% of HEIs were founded after 1945. This reflects the enormous growth of the HE system after 1945 and growing differentiation, with new types of institution emerging (universities of applied sciences, private HEIs).



Share of HEIs by their year of foundation

## Internationalization of higher education

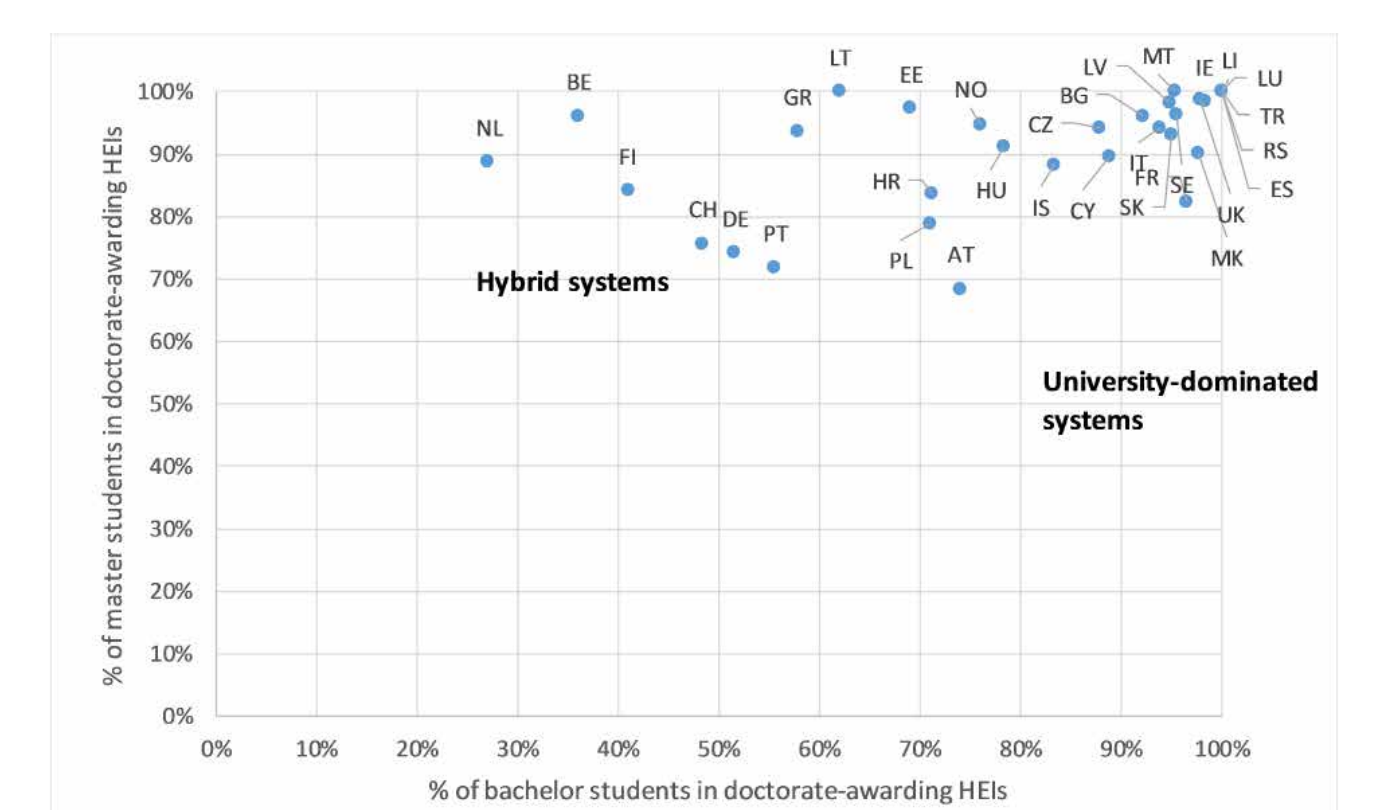
Hiring foreign academic staff is an important dimension of HEI internationalization. ETER identifies a small number of international universities, such as Cambridge, Oxford and ETH Zurich, as well as a gradual process of internationalization in other universities, in the Northern and Western European countries.



Number and share of foreign academic staff

## Country differences in system's structure

ETER shows that European higher education systems can be divided in two groups. In unitary systems, e.g. France, and Italy, students at all educational levels are enrolled in universities; in binary systems, e.g. Finland and Portugal, most students at bachelor level are in colleges, while universities specialize in master and doctoral education.



Students enrolled in doctorate-awarding institutions