

Students from the Visegrad Group at Austrian, German, and British universities – 2002-2016

In this brief analysis, the trends in the number of Hungarian students studying abroad at higher educational institutions are examined by using international statistical data. Results show that there were about 7500 Hungarian students participating in BA and Ma programmes at foreign colleges and universities both in 2014 and in 2015. Comparing the number of students participating in BA courses in Hungary to the number of students studying abroad it can be seen that not too many of them choose a foreign institution, but at the level of master’s programmes more students decide to quit the Hungarian higher educational system.

This result could be interpreted as a deficiency in the Hungarian higher educational system, but at the same time it can be a sign of the high competitiveness of the Hungarian students internationally.

The data

There are no data about the number of Hungarian students studying abroad in recent years in the Hungarian statistics. Eurostat collects data from member states about the number of foreign students studying in the given country based on nationalities. Eurostat data on student mobility refer to those EU students who finished their secondary education in another country. It is important to note that students participating in short exchange programmes are not covered in the data collection. ¹. On request the Austrian ² and the Danish educational ministry ³ and the German DZHW institute ⁴ provided data on the Hungarian students studying in these countries, i.e. data on the number of Hungarian students enrolled in educational institutions annually. Data on students studying for BA degrees in the UK were gained from the web page of UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)⁵.

¹ See: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Learning_mobility_statistics

² Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft, in English: Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

³ Uddannelses- og Forskningsministeriet, in English: Ministry of Higher Education and Science

⁴ DZHW Deutsches Zentrum für Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsforschung GmbH, in English: German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW)

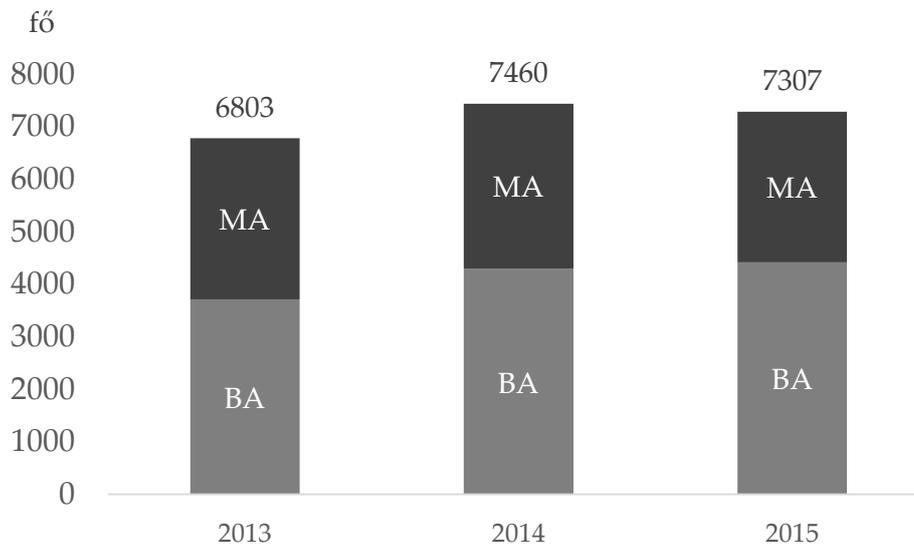
⁵ https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/app_level_report_2015-dr2_002_01.pdf

Eurostat has published data on student mobility for the 2013 – 2015 period. The data are not suitable for comparing different periods because during the three years data were not provided by the same countries. ⁶ The number of Hungarian students in the given countries according to the data was the following: 6803 BA or MA students in 2013 (BA: 4421, MA: 3086); in 2014 7460 (BA: 4297, MA: 3163); in 2015 7307 (BA: 4421, MA: 2886). According to KSH data ⁷ between the 2013-2015 period there were 181,000 BA and 216,000 MA students in Hungary, on the one hand the fact that only 3700-4400 Hungarian students studied abroad between 2013 and 2015 might not seem significant. But on the other hand according to KSH data there were 37,000 – 39,000 students studying for MA degrees in Hungary between 2013 and 2015, the approximately 3000 students who studied abroad during these three years can no longer be ignored. **It can be seen that not many of the students studying for BA degrees choose a foreign tertiary institution, but for MA degrees more students opt for quitting the Hungarian higher education.**

⁶ Data refer to Hungarian students studying in the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia, Turkey, Japan

⁷ https://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xstadat/xstadat_eves/i_zoi008.html

Figure 1.: The number (capita) of Hungarian students studying for BA and Ma degrees abroad, 2013-2015



Source: Eurostat

* Data refer to Hungarian students studying in the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia, Turkey, Japan

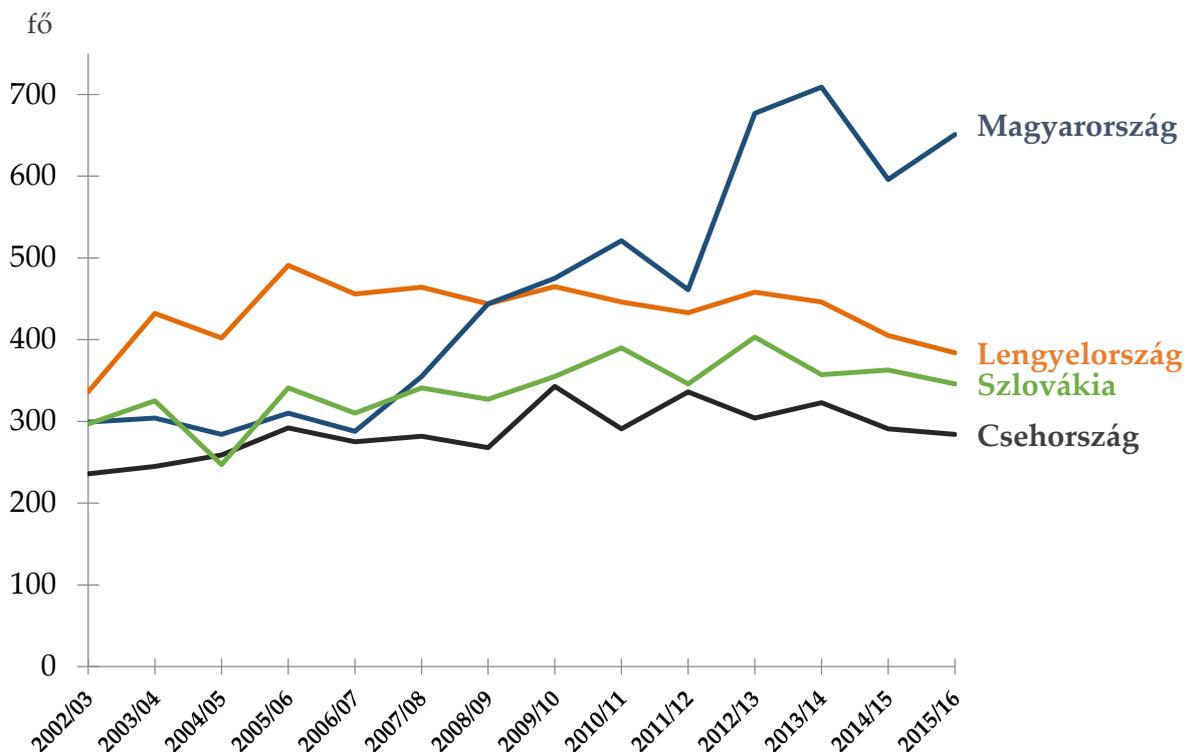
There are more detailed data on students studying in the most favoured target countries among Hungarian migrants, i.e. Austria, Germany, and the UK, and in the next part these data will be demonstrated.

Every year since the academic year of 2009/2010 out of the Visegrad Group the majority of the students enrolled in Austrian universities have come from Hungary. According to the latest data in 2015/2016 there were 651 Hungarian, 384 Polish, 346 Slovakian and only 284 Czech first year students studying for BA, MA or unified, undivided MA degrees at Austrian state universities.

Figure 2. shows how the number of first year students from the four countries studying at Austrian state universities has changed since the academic year 2002/2003. Between academic years 2002/2003 and 2007/2008 the majority of the students were from Poland, Hungary and Slovakia came next, and the Czech Republic was the last. In the academic year 2008/2009 the number of the Hungarian students significantly increased; thus, Polish and Hungarian students were equally represented at Austrian

state universities. From the following year there were more Hungarian students than Polish students in each year. The academic year 2012/2013 is a real turning point: the number of the Hungarian students significantly increased (from 461 to 677) compared to the previous year, and this number was also outstanding compared to the data of other V4 countries. In the academic year 2014/2015 there was a decline, but in the academic year 2015/2016 the number of the Hungarian first year students increased again.

Figure 2.: The number (capita) of Czech, Polish, Hungarian and Slovakian first year students in BA, MA and unified, undivided MA degree programmes between 2002/2003 and 2015/2016

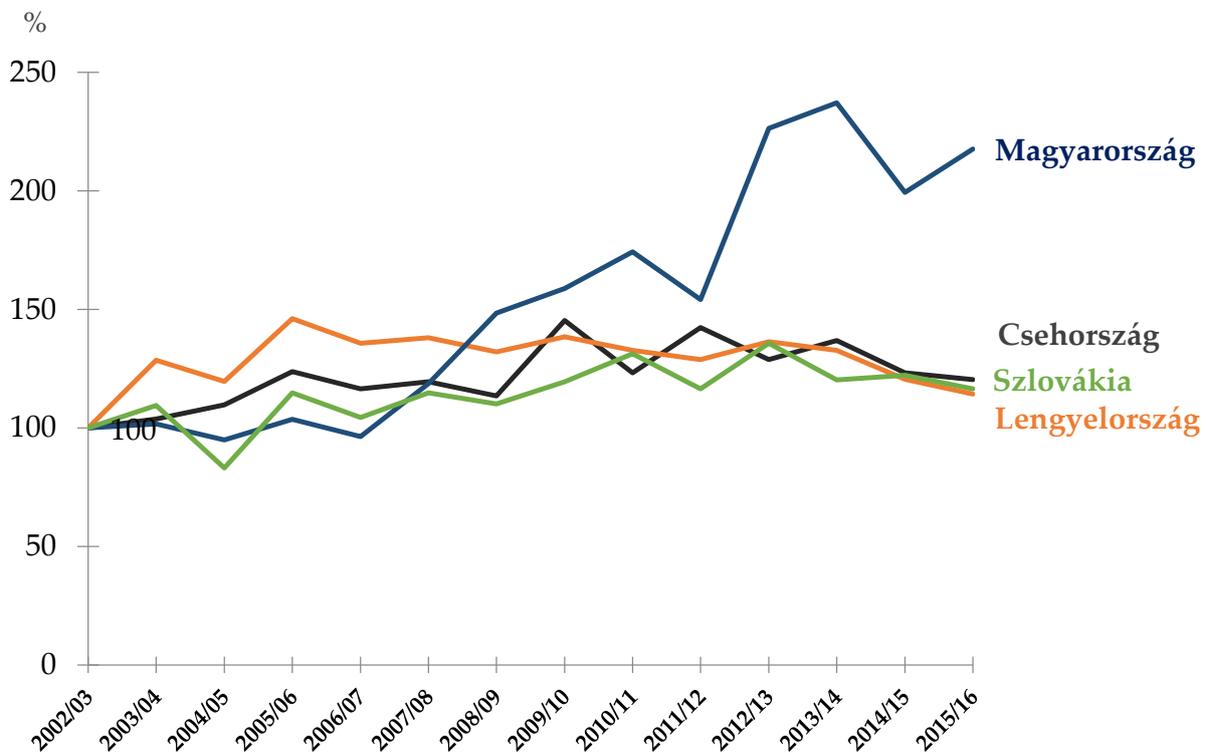


Forrás: Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft, GVI results

Figure 3. shows that while in case of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia the number of students was fairly even between 2022 and 2015, in case of the Hungarian students their number increased sharply several times. Concerning the whole period in case of Slovakia 136% of the starting point was reached in the academic year 2012/2013, the Czech Republic had the highest rate of 145% in 2009/2010, Poland had 146% in the academic year 2005/2006. In the academic year 2013/2014 Hungary had 237% of the starting point. In case of the number of the Hungarian students the growing tendency started in the academic year 2007/2008, it was followed by a decline in 2011/2012, and in 2012/2013 it significantly increased and it continued to

slightly increase in the following year as well, but a new decline appeared in 2014/2015, while 2015/2016 showed an increase again.

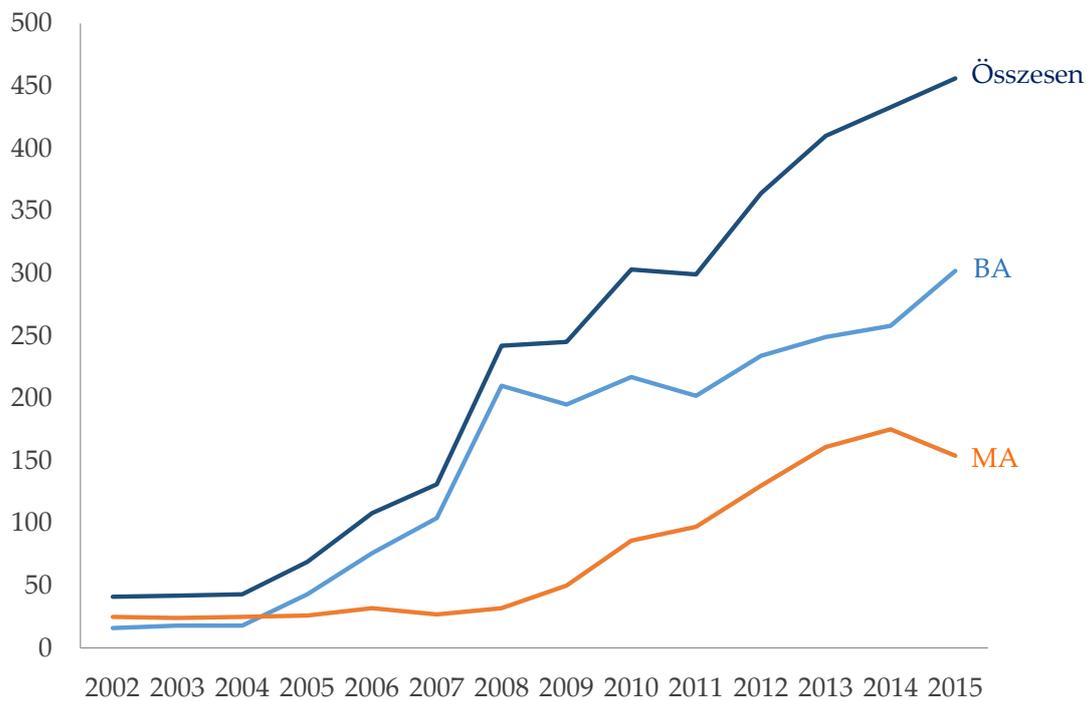
Figure 3.: The rate of Czech, Polish, Hungarian and Slovakian first year students in BA, MA, and undivided programmes at Austrian state universities compared to the academic year 2002/2003 in percentage, 2002/2003 – 2015/2016 (academic year 2002/2003 = 100%)



Forrás: Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Wirtschaft, GVI results

The data between the period of 2002 and 2015 refer to Hungarian students studying for BA or MA degrees in Germany. Figure 4. shows that from 2005 the number of Hungarian students in BA programmes and since 2009 the number of Hungarian students in MA programmes has slowly been increasing. Despite the aforementioned fact their number is not significant: in 2015 302 students were enrolled in BA programmes, and 154 in MA programmes.

Figure 4.: The number (capita) of Hungarian students enrolled in BA or MA programmes in German universities between 2002 and 2015



Concerning the number of students from the Visegrad Group and from Romania studying in the UK there are data only on BA programmes from 2006 to 2016. According to the available data there were fewer than 300 students (between 170 and 255) enrolled in university programmes between 2006 and 2011, and then in 2012 the number got a little higher than 300 (330); since then the number has continuously slightly increased: in 2016, there were 575 Hungarian students enrolled in British BA courses. The number of the Slovakian and the Czech students is also characterized by a slow increase: from 2006 to 2016 the number of the Slovakian students grew from 190 to 555, and the number of the Czech students increased from 230 to 750. Between 2006 and 2008 there were approximately 1500-2000 Polish students, then the number started to decline and in 2012 it reached its trough, when there were only 850 Polish students enrolled in British BA programmes. After that the number started to increase again, and by 2016 there were 2105 Polish students studying in the UK. In 2006 there were only a few Romanian students enrolled in BA programmes, but later it started to increase. As a result of the tendency in 2009 there were almost 1000 Romanian students studying in the UK, and by 2016 this number was more than 2500.

Overall, it can be seen that there is a low number of Hungarian, Slovakian and Czech students enrolled in BA programmes in the UK, while compared to this much more Polish students managed to get accepted, and every year the highest number of students has been from Romania since 2010.

Figure 5.: The number (per capita) of students from the Visegrad Group and Romania enrolled in BA programmes in the UK between the period of 2006 and 2016

