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Global Higher Education and Recognition of Qualifications Landscape

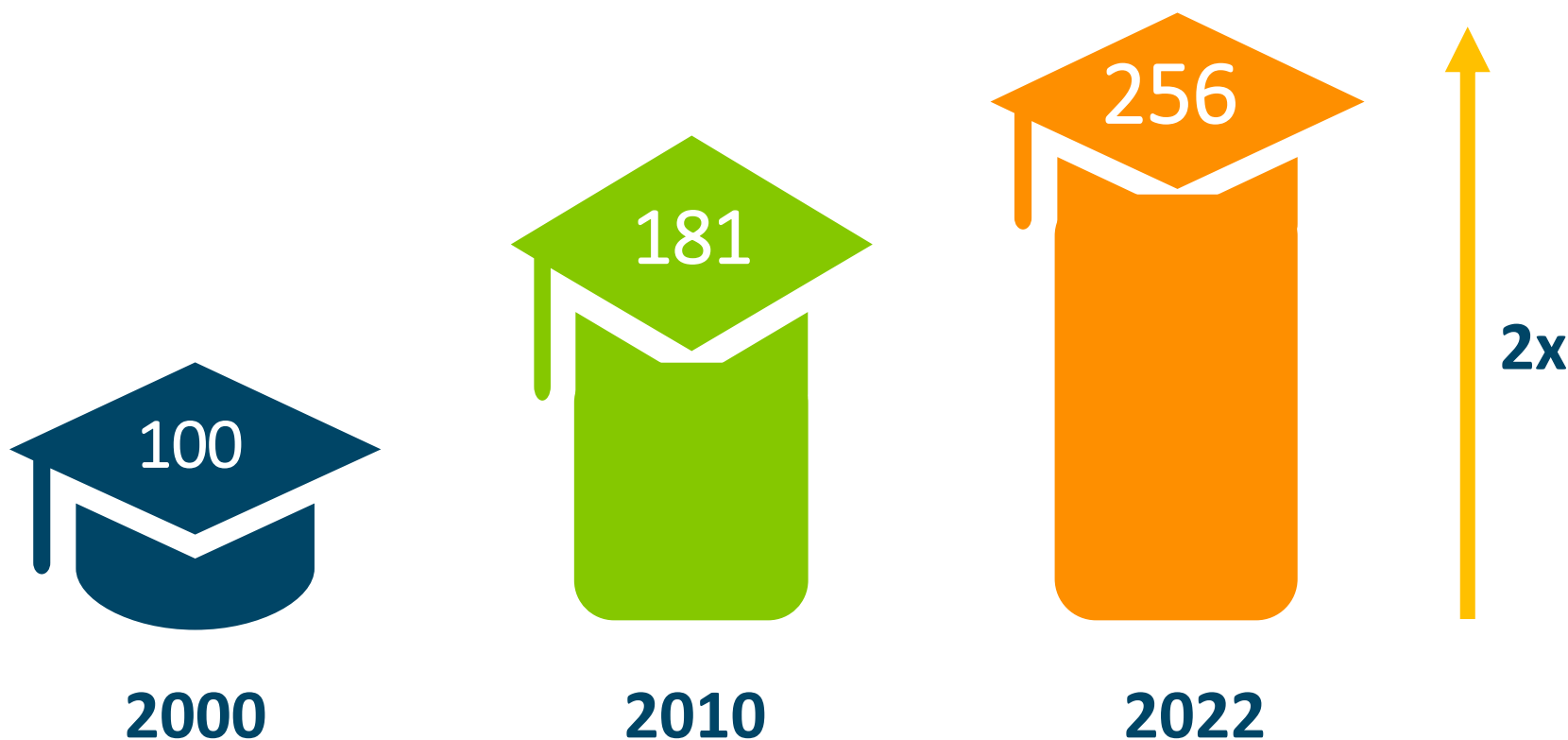
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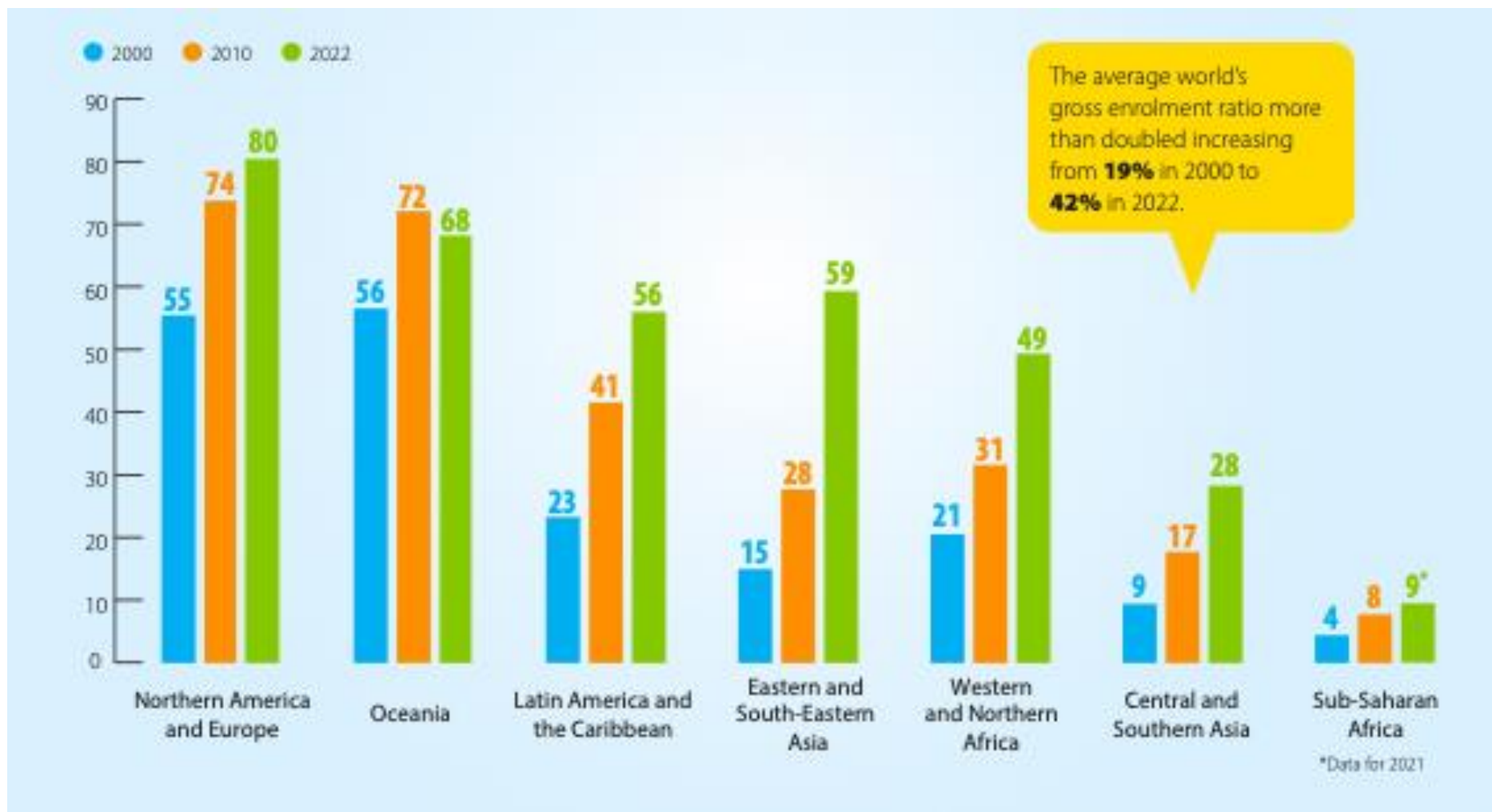
Gross tertiary education enrolment

Globally, the number of tertiary students (in millions) has more than doubled in the last two decades.



Source: UIS 2000-2022

Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education by region (%), 2000 – 2022



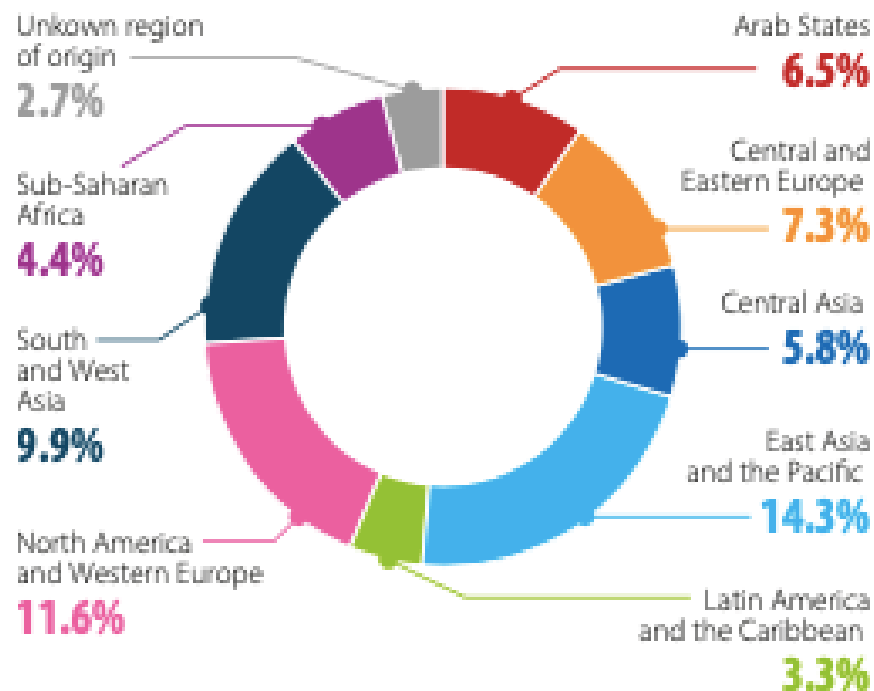
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

International Student Mobility, 2021

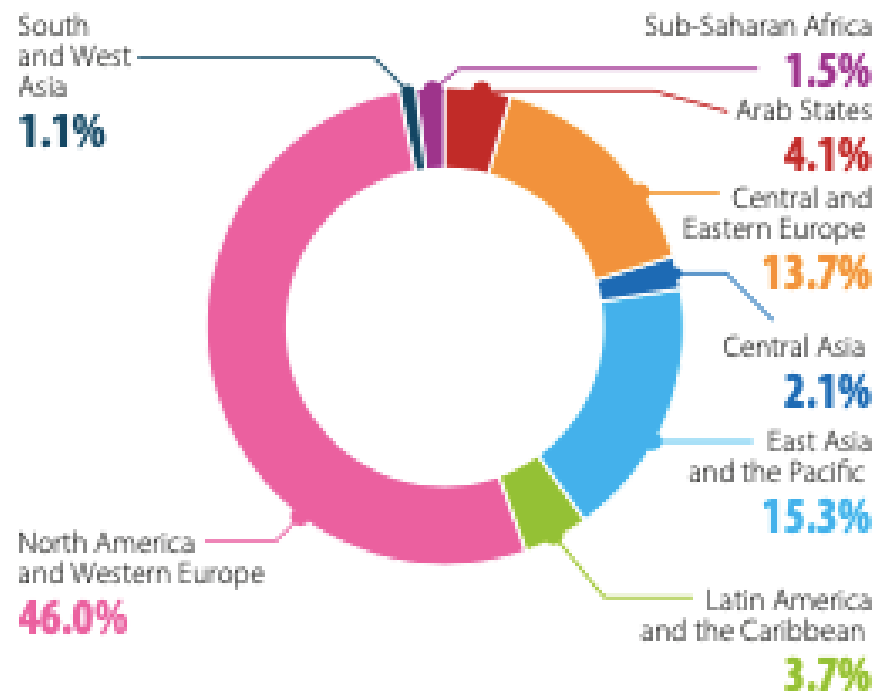
The number of internationally mobile students tripled between 2000 and 2021, from 2.1 to 6.4 million worldwide.

Internationally mobile students' share of total world enrolment rose from 2.1% to 2.6% in 2021.

Percentage of international mobile students by region of origin, 2021



Percentage international mobile students, by host region, 2021

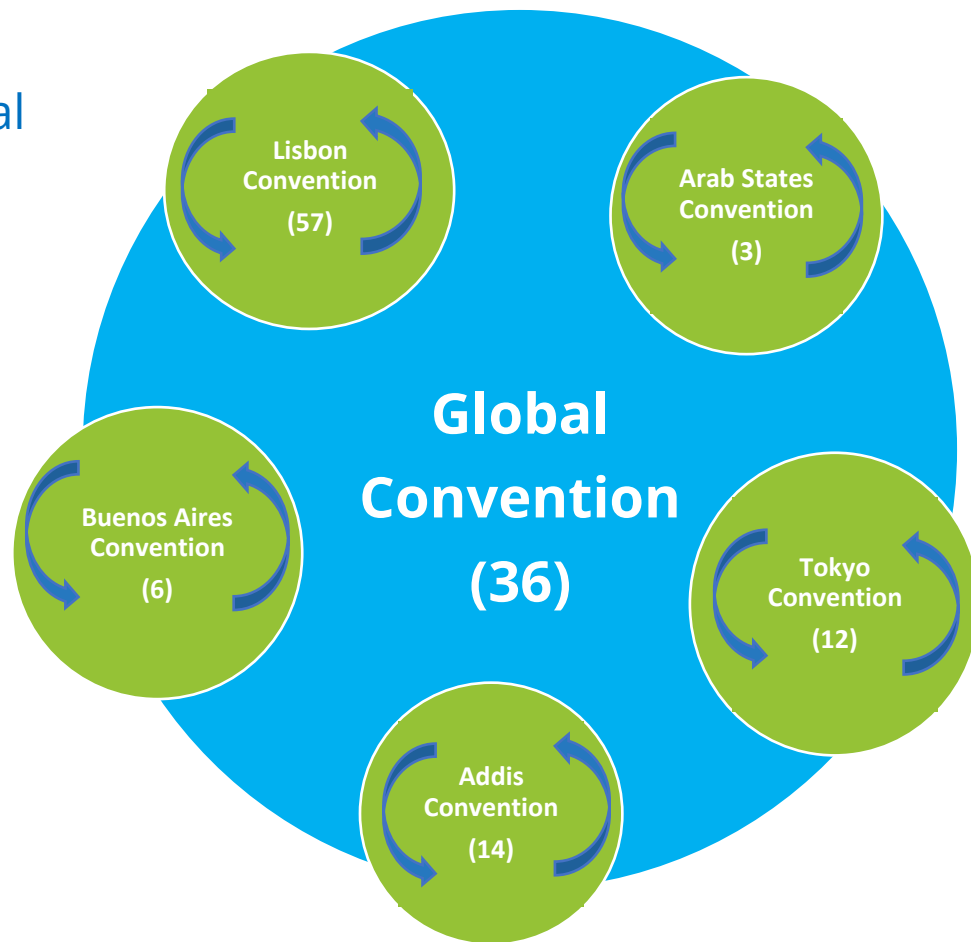


Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Status of ratification of the Global and Regional conventions

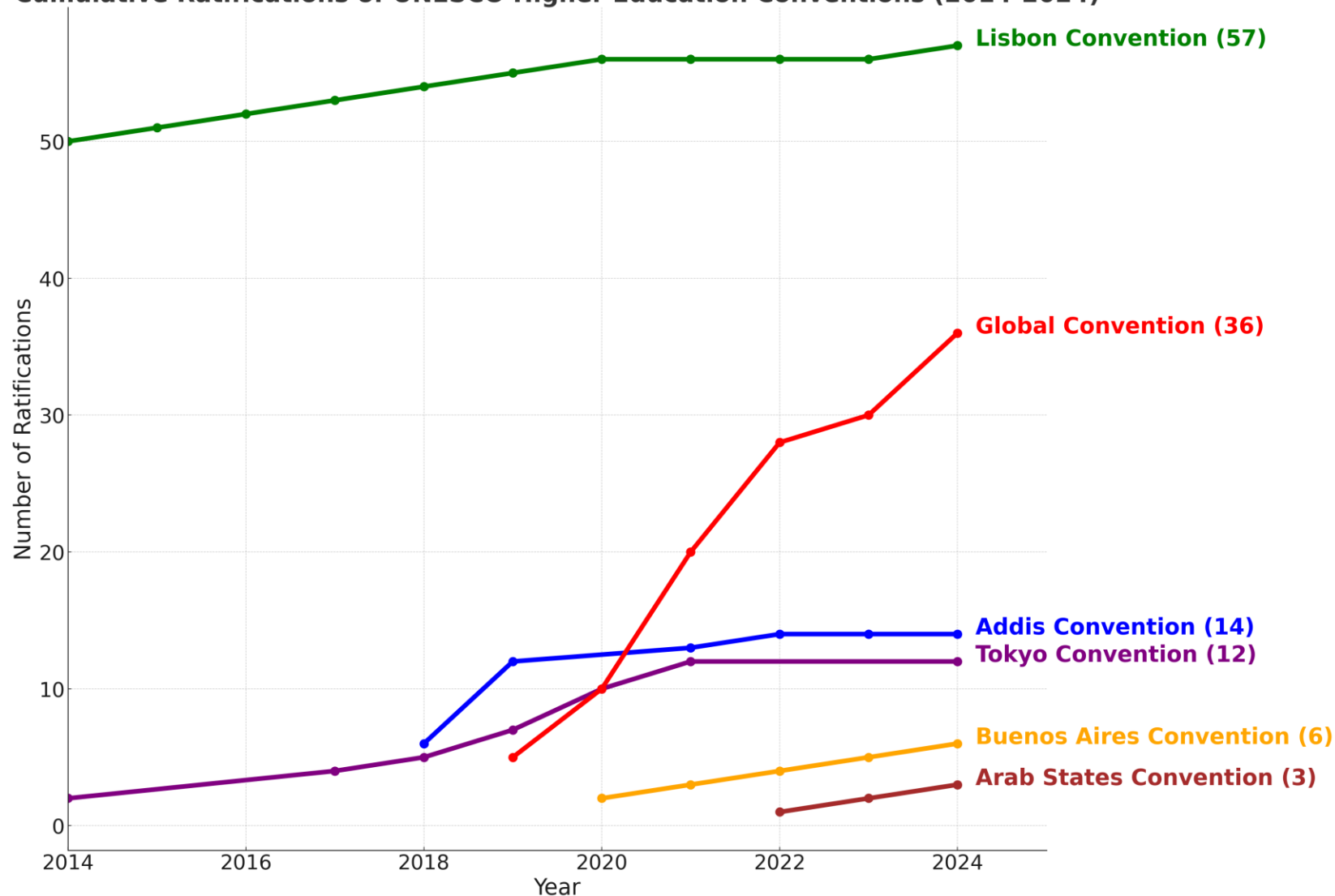
Global ecosystem of the global and regional conventions

*Nearly 100 different countries have ratified **one or more** UNESCO recognition conventions*



Status of ratification of the Global and Regional conventions

Cumulative Ratifications of UNESCO Higher Education Conventions (2014-2024)



Global Convention: 36 States Parties

1.6+ million (30%)

of the world's 6.4 million mobile students are hosted by the States Parties

Major actors

in international education

20+ Member States

Are reported to be well-advanced with ratification procedures, including countries in all UNESCO regions

Regional conventions

33 out of 36 countries that ratified the Global Convention are States Parties to one or more regional conventions



Andorra



Armenia



Australia



Cabo Verde



Côte d'Ivoire



Croatia



Cuba



Djibouti



Ecuador



Estonia



Finland



France



Georgia



Guinea



Holy See



Hungary



Iceland



Japan



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Mongolia



New Zealand



Nicaragua



Norway



Rep. of Moldova



Romania



Palestine



San Marino



Senegal



Slovakia



South Africa



Sweden



Tunisia



UK



Uruguay



Yemen



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Global Convention – Recent developments



- **Intergovernmental Conference** of the States Parties convened in July 2023 and March 2024, mandated with promoting the application of the convention and overseeing its implementation. Next one scheduled for 24-25 June 2025.
- **Bureau** – Norway (Chair), Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia, Nicaragua, Japan, Tunisia, UK (VPs), Holy See (Rapporteur).
- 2nd interim **work programme** (2025-2027) to be adopted in June 2025.
- **Key areas** – operational guidelines, subsidiary text on the relationship between the Global Convention and regional conventions, research, capacity development, advocacy.

Diversity in Economies

High income (20 countries):

Andorra, Australia, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, New Zealand, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

Lower-middle income (8 countries):

Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Nicaragua, Senegal, State of Palestine, Tunisia

Upper middle-income (7 countries):

Armenia, Cuba, Ecuador, Georgia, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, South Africa

Low income (1 country): Yemen

Source: World Bank 2023

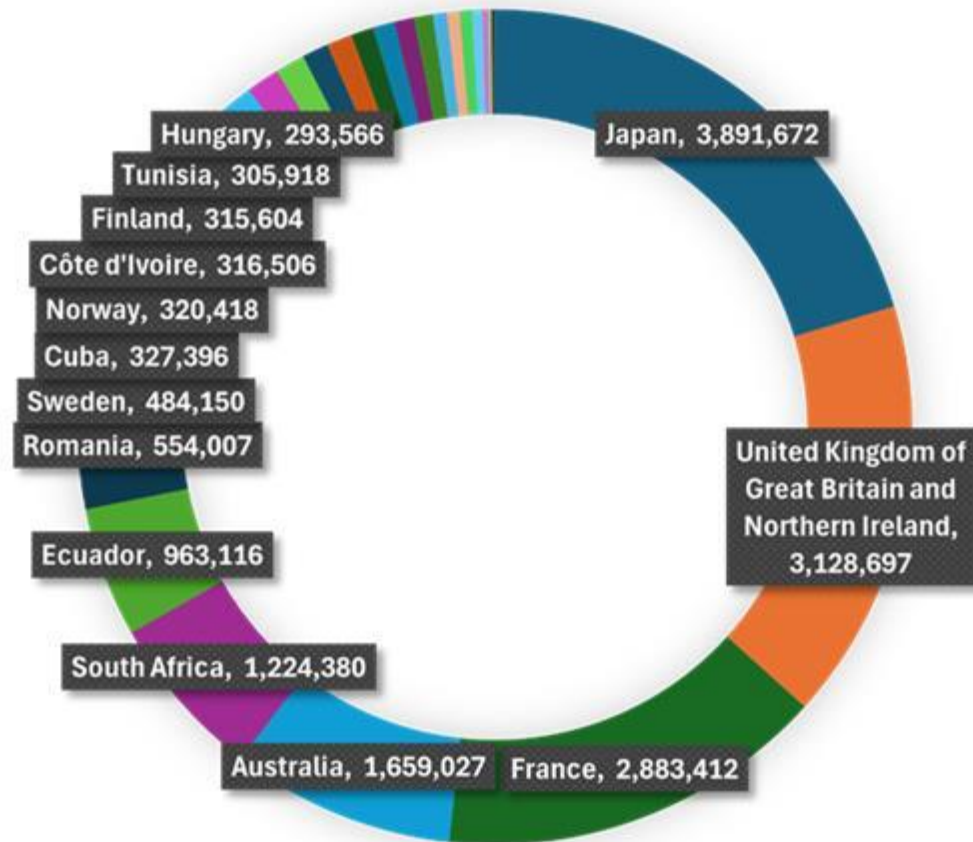


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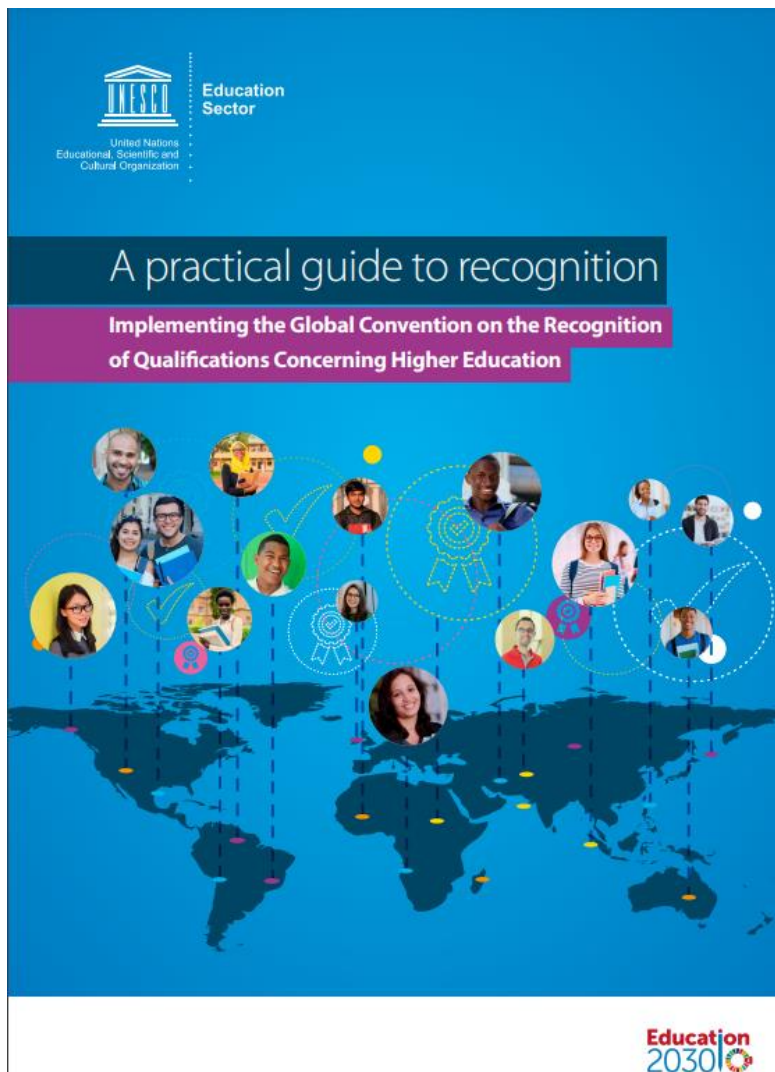
Diversity in the size of Higher Education Systems

Enrolment in tertiary education, all programmes, both sexes (number)



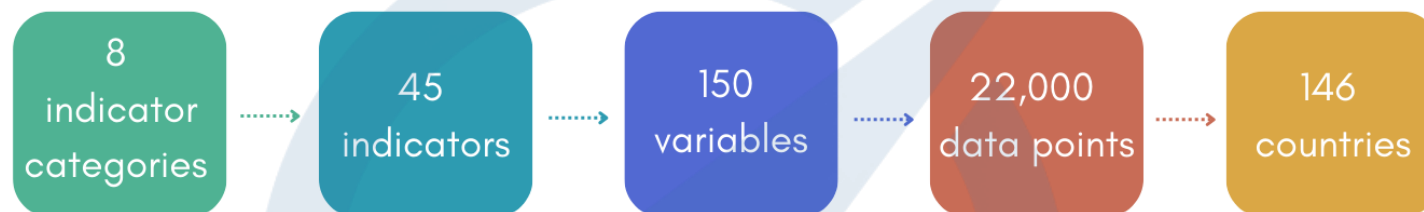
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Useful Resources on Recognition



- **What is the Global Convention on Higher Education?** (benefits, how to ratify it, how to implement it)
www.unesco.org/en/education/higher-education/global-convention/about
- **A Practical Guide to Recognition**
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374905>
- **Resolutions** Intergovernmental Conference of the States Parties to the Global Convention
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386727>
and
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000389637>
- **Regional recognition conventions**
www.unesco.org/en/higher-education/conventions
- **Model instrument of ratification** for all UNESCO conventions www.unesco.org/en/node/66846

Online tool displaying information and data on HE policy and systems globally



Users have access to:



**COUNTRY
PROFILES**



**GLOBAL
OVERVIEWS**



**COUNTRY
COMPARISONS**

Next steps:

Integration of HE statistics from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

<https://hepo.iesalc.unesco.org/>

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