

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY POLICY

Norway



Policy Frameworks

Does equity with regard to supporting students from low-income or marginalized populations to enter or succeed in higher education feature in any government produced policy documents? If so, which government policy document(s) are these and can you provide website link(s) to them?

The State Educational Loan Fund: <https://www.lanekassen.no/Languages/>

What policies and actions are described in these government policy documents in terms of supporting students from low-income or marginalized populations to enter or succeed in higher education?

The State Educational Loan Fund offers financial support to all Norwegian students who live separately from their parents. It is important to notice that there are no tuition fees in higher education in Norway so there is in principle no particular need for extra support for low-income families. Equity in higher education is not a separate policy area for us, it is completely integrated into all our policies.

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education? If so, which document(s) is/are these? Can you provide a link(s)?

No.

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents? (Please choose as many groups as apply in your own country)

- Low-income or lower socio-economic background students
- Gender groups
- Older or mature learners
- Indigenous populations
- People from rural backgrounds
- Students with disability
- Refugees of all kinds (internally and externally displaced; deported)

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups in higher education?

No.

Which agency has responsibility for policies related to equity in student participation/success in higher education?

- State Educational Loan Fund
- Directorate for internationalisation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education
- Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education, Skills Norway)

Which stakeholder groups are consulted during the equity policy formulation? (Please choose all the stakeholders that are invited to the consultation process in your own country)

- Higher Education Institutions' Associations
- Civil society organisations
- Private sector organisations
- International Organisations

→ Student Organisations/Association

Achieving Policy Targets

Are there any non-monetary instruments such as outreach work between schools and universities, reforms to university admission etc. used to promote access/success for students from specific equity groups in higher education? If so, can you describe what they are?

There are some special policies for participation of the indigenous population of Norway; however they were not available as of this report.

Are there any financial instruments such as bursaries, scholarships and loans used to promote access/success for students from specific equity groups in higher education? If so, can you describe what they are?

All Norwegian students are entitled to various loans and scholarships, although the specific ones were not available as of this report.

Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of measures used to promote access/success for students from specific equity groups in higher education?

No information was available.

What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation?

Comprehensive database on all students enrolled in our higher education system and for the national admission system.

What kind of autonomy do higher education institutions enjoy in reaching the policy targets set by government?

Higher Educational Institutions have full academic autonomy.

How do you see the role of inter-governmental/international organisations in supporting higher education equity policies? In which areas would be their contribution the most valuable? (1= most valuable contribution 4=least valuable contribution)

2. Policy setting
2. Facilitating peer learning, exchange of experience among countries
4. Technical assistance and capacity building
4. Financial assistance (grants, loan financing, scholarships)

COVID-19 and Equitable Access and Success in Higher Education

How, if at all, has Covid-19 affected the existence and implementation of policies designed to encourage greater access and success on higher education of those from low-income/marginalized groups?

More attention to the most vulnerable students regarding mental health issues and drop out rates during periods with limited or no physical presence at campus

Sources

This country brief was prepared as part of the [“ASEM National Equity Policies in Higher Education”](#) report, a collaboration between the [Asia-Europe Foundation \(AEF\)](#) and the [National Education Opportunities Network \(NEON\)](#). The report was launched at the [8th AEF Regional Conference on Higher Education \(ARC8\)](#) on *“Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe”* on 10 September 2021.

All information in this country brief was provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, as of 21 September 2020.