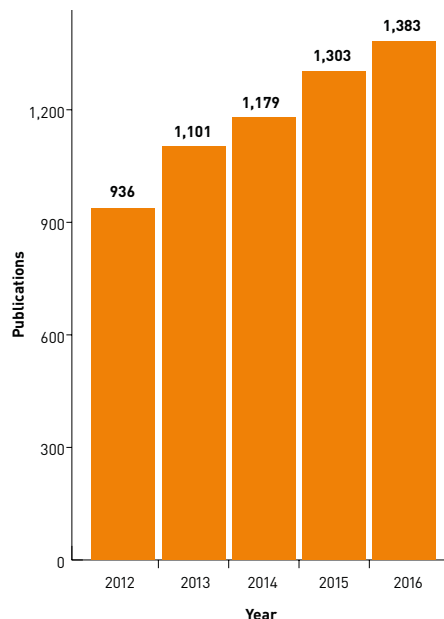


## SDG 4 - Quality Education

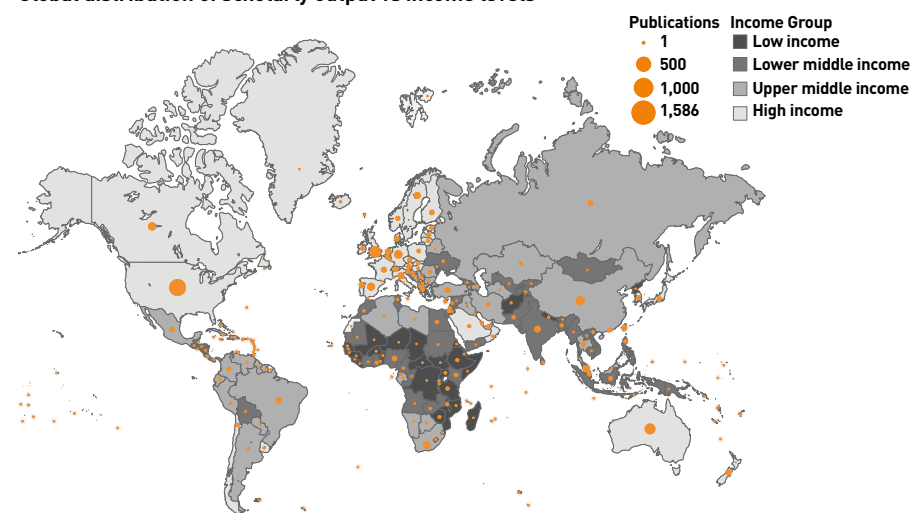
# Research on education and sustainable development: scholarly output, growth, impact and collaboration

According to the United Nations, "Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. ...Basic literacy skills have improved tremendously, yet bolder efforts are needed to make even greater strides for achieving universal education goals." Quality research on the nexus between education and sustainable development will underpin global progress: here are key findings for the period 2012-2016.

Research on education and sustainable development – World Scholarly Output



Global distribution of scholarly output vs income levels

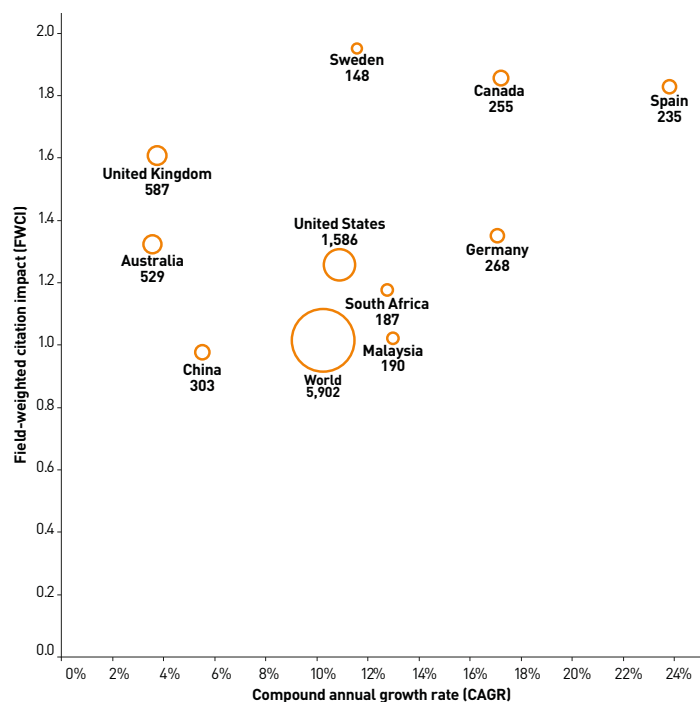


**5,902** scholarly papers on sustainable education were published globally between 2012-2016, with a strong compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.3% over the period. Nations with high income levels tend to have the highest scholarly output in sustainable education, in line with overall patterns of scholarly output.

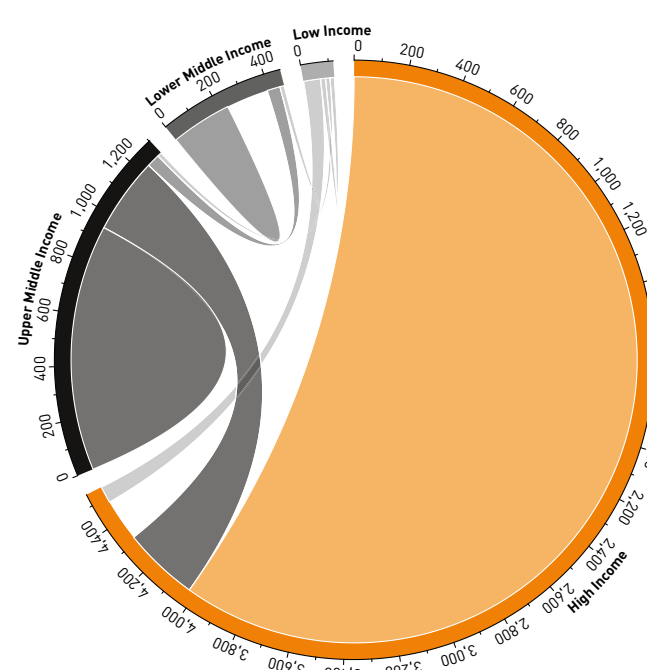
## The US is the most prolific country for education research linked to sustainability.

It accounts for 25% of scholarly output, with slightly higher annual growth than the global average. Several of the top 10 most prolific countries have had strong growth in the field, including Spain, with compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 24%, and Canada and Germany with CAGR of 17%. Nine of the 10 most prolific countries have a field-weighted citation impact (a normalised indicator for scholarly importance) above world average. Sweden's research is cited at nearly twice the global rate, closely followed by Canada and Spain.

Research on education and sustainable development – Top 10 countries by scholarly output, impact and growth



Research on education and sustainable development – Collaboration across countries of various income levels



## 68% vs 0.3%

High income countries produce the greatest share of research on education linked to sustainable development: 4,028 publications accounting for 68% of total output. Low income countries produce just 0.3%. There is limited North-South collaboration (estimated through institutions and countries listed in the author bylines of scholarly papers), yet it accounts for the highest proportion of low or lower middle income country output in sustainable education research – demonstrating how critical North-South collaboration is for lower income countries.