



SURVEY: BACHELOR AND MASTER STUDENTS

Executive Summary.



About the Survey. The survey was answered by 3,378 students, mostly from 18 to 24 years old (81%) and women (66%). The distribution among undergraduate and master students is quite close to that reflected in the enrolment (72% of respondents are undergraduate students and 28% are master students). The participation of the six universities is quite balanced (in a range of 18% to 23%) with the exception of the University of Malta with 6% of the total sample because its lower number of students.



Regarding the language level of the Consortium students.

Language level data of our students should be considered as a trend, and not as a closed record since 53% of the sample indicates that the expressed language level comes from a "self-assessment", although 47% comes from recognized accreditation systems. Bearing that in mind, it is confirmed that English is the *lingua franca* of the alliance (78% of the sample is situated in a range between B1 and C1). At a great distance, only 15% of the sample accredited Spanish skills in this range of language qualification, being the percentage for French and German of 11%.



Regarding Erasmus+ mobility.

The degree of knowledge of the Erasmus+ program is still insufficient: 57% of students are aware of it, 23% ignore it and almost 24% are not sure. Among those who are aware of it or those who are not absolutely certain, the main source of knowledge is the university itself (69%), followed by friends or peers (54%) and the Internet (46%). Almost 21% of this collective have made a mobility (over the total number of respondents, the mobility figure drops to 16%). Knowledge of the program and final mobility appear as closely related elements. From those participating in mobility, 74% of them did study mobility, being mobility traineeships rare (18%). The reasons for undertaking an Erasmus mobility are basically two: to experience other cultures and meet new people (88%) and to improve knowledge and skills (83%). Regarding the selected destination, it should be noted that, within the consortium countries, Spain stands out with 12% and both Poland and Germany with 10%. Outside the consortium, Italy (9%), Portugal (7%) and the United Kingdom (6%) represent the preferred destinations. Respondents show two main reasons for choosing their destination, regardless which country they belong: "I liked the country" (64%) and "I wanted to improve my language skills" (55%). The prestige of the university only obtained 22%.



Erasmus+ stay problems. The problems in Erasmus+ stays are not perceived as excessive by the respondents. 35% of those who have participated in an Erasmus programme had some problem before their stay. The problems during the stay obtained the same percentage. The problems decrease after the stay (14%).

In the case of those who had some problem before their stay, these problems can be summarized as follows: insufficient information about the stay and accommodation (39%), insufficient information from the home institution (34%), insufficient information about the host institution (30%), poor communication with the tutor of the home university (25%) and, finally, insufficient funds to travel (22%). In addition, those who detected some problem during their stay accord in three: accommodation (43%), academic difficulties (32%) and language (22%). Finally, among the few students who had some problem after their stay, this mainly focuses on the equivalence of ECTS in relation to their home institution (39%).



Assessment and benefits of Erasmus+ stay. The respondents who made an Erasmus stay were very satisfied (58%) or fairly satisfied (26%) with the experience. Only 6% were very dissatisfied. This great assessment is more related to personal benefits than academic or employment benefits. Thus, in descending order of importance, two great benefits came up: personal development (79%) and the possibility of experiencing another country or language (77%). The academic benefits have been left behind (40%). The degree of satisfaction with the program is very high, in fact, 90% of those who have made an Erasmus stay would repeat it.



Barriers to participate in Erasmus+. 84% of respondents have not made an Erasmus stay, however, 80% of them express a certain desire to participate in the future. When they are questioned about the barriers that have prevented them from doing an Erasmus stay, four stand out: financial challenge (40%), insufficient information about Erasmus+ (28%), inability to complete studies within the established timeframe (24%) and the language proficiency (21%). If these barriers were overcome, 78% are interested in participating, being English the preferred language to do so (80%). Finally, a battery of “internationalization at home” activities is proposed to show their preferences. The preferred option was “Bilingual learning of subjects relevant to my future career” (35%). The second one was “language learning classes” (34%) and the third one carries out “group work with students from other countries” (20%).