



SURVEY: DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Executive summary.



About the Survey. 334 students have participated in the survey, mainly from the 25 to 34 age group (57%) and from the 35 to 44 age group (20%), with a slightly higher participation by women (55%). The Universities of Cadiz (46%) and Western Brittany (26%) are those that obtained a greater response from this group.



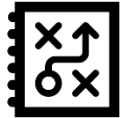
About the language level of students from the Consortium.

The data on the language level of doctoral students indicates that in 49% of cases, the language level expressed comes from self-assessment, while in 30% of cases, it comes from recognized accreditation systems. Taking into account this factor, it can be confirmed that English is the most-used language (72% of the sample falling in a range between B1-C1 level). Far behind comes French with 16% in this range of language qualification and Spanish with 11%. 22% of the participants have a C1 level of English.



About doctoral mobility. Only 23% of the doctoral students who responded to the survey have followed a mobility programme and, of these, 60% of cases have been for research activities, while the remaining 40% have followed mobility programmes for their training.

The programmes they have participated in are Erasmus or those of the university itself, 36% in both cases. There are basically three reasons for deciding to follow a mobility programme and they are, in this order: *To carry out a doctoral research stay* (56%), *To attend specialized/training courses* (35%) and *To expand my curriculum vitae* (29%). As for the most appropriate duration, there is a certain difference between the two types of mobility programmes. Thus, while for research stays a duration of between 1 and 3 months is considered more appropriate by 68% and of +3 months by 23%; for those who carry out mobility for training purposes, the two periods mentioned above are valued at 39% each, and also, a 1 week-to-1-month period is considered appropriate in 19% of cases. As for the chosen destination, it should be noted that the University of Cadiz with 13% and the University of Western Brittany with 5% are the most popular destinations within the Consortium. Outside of it, Italy, with 14% and Canada and the United Kingdom, with 7% each, are the most popular countries. Whichever country is chosen for the stay, respondents clearly show two reasons for their choice: *The host institution is academically prestigious* (51%), *There were relationships/agreements in place with the host institution* (44%) and *My supervisor recommended it* (37%).



Problems with the mobility programme. Problems with the mobility programme are not perceived as excessive by respondents. 21% of those who followed a mobility programme had a problem before their stay and 15% had problems during the stay. Only 5 students indicate problems once the stay is completed (6%). In the case of those who had a problem before their stay, these problems can be summarized in three, in order of importance: *Administrative procedures with my own institution* (47%), *Insufficient information about my stay and accommodation* (41%) and *Insufficient travel resources* (29%). In addition, those who had problems during their stay coincide in two main areas: *Accommodation* (50%) and *Limited financial resources* (42%).



Evaluation and benefits of the mobility programme. Those 23% of respondents who followed a mobility programme were very satisfied (50%) or quite satisfied (31%) with the experience, leaving only 6% very dissatisfied. This magnificent assessment is mostly related to *Research and academic benefits* (55%), although *The possibility of obtaining a European/international doctorate* (19%), *Personal development* (13%) and *Experiencing another country/ Language* (10%) are all also highly valued.



Barriers to participating in a mobility programme during doctorate studies. As for the reasons argued by doctoral students for not participating in mobility programmes, we can find *Financial reasons* (38%), *Family/personal commitments* (36%) and *Deadlines* (30%) as the most frequent. Finally, approximately the 77% of people who have not participated in mobility programmes express an interest in doing so if the above-mentioned obstacles did not exist. About 4% of people are not interested in following mobility programmes at all.