



***- Mobility indicators -
SEA-EU mobility trends***

Report by University of Bretagne Occidentale

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Introduction

Context:

The SEA-EU community counts around 123 000 students and 16 000 staff (in 2021-2022). The alliance plans to have 50% of the community in mobility, either virtual, physical or blended, in 10 years. The 3-year objective of the SEA- EU pilot phase was that at least 5% of the teaching staff and 5% of the non-teaching staff (around 600 persons) should have gone on mobility in the partner universities, in order to facilitate mutual knowledge and support the development of virtual mobility for students.

These initial objectives have obviously been strongly impacted by the Covid pandemic and decreased all types of mobility from march 2020, only 6 months after the beginning of the project. The situation in 2021-2022 seems returned to normal (in the sense that there were no cancellations of mobility for sanitary reasons) and shows a real positive evolution on the intra-alliance mobility since the beginning of SEA-EU.

The Mobility Indicators Report:

This Mobility Report aims to track the evolution of outgoing and incoming mobility among the consortium's universities jointly and distributed by university and by group (students, academic staff, non-academic staff). The considered mobility numbers are the one funded by regular KA103 (*i.e.* the SEA-EU-budget funded mobilities are not considered). By targeting the regular KA103 figures, the goal is to have reliable and comparable data and thus to follow the evolution of regular mobilities, not the actions undertaken under a project-based approach (that are analysed on a separate basis and merged in the final report of SEA-EU 1.0).

A first report has been established at the beginning of the alliance, aiming to identify the main mobility trends within the alliance prior any pro-active activities to develop them, based on the Mobility Tool Extractions of 2018-2019. There have been 2 updates to this document: one including data of two academic years (presenting data of both 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, because of the low numbers due to the pandemic) and the current one integrating the last update with 2021-2022 figures.

Methodology

The report follows the similar methodology used since the first report. The report presents data from 4 academic years: year 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

Each university has provided two types of information to set up these indicators:

(1) Mobility Tool extraction. Due to the difficulties encountered by all partner universities in migrating to the new Beneficiary Module platform and the impossibility of extracting information from the Mobility Tool as had been the case previously, it was agreed that each partner would send the information from its internal monitoring tables. The info collected has been:

-> Regarding students:

- Year of mobility
- University of Origin
- University of Destination
- Level of studies
- Field of studies
- Gender
- Type of activity (training or internship, teaching or non-teaching)
- Duration of mobility

- Names: the extraction has been anonymised before exchanging information between universities to comply with GDPR. The analysis actually considers the number of anonymised lines, and not the names themselves

-> Regarding staff:

- Year of mobility
- University of Origin
- University of Destination
- Gender
- Type of activity
- Duration of mobility
- Names: the extraction has been anonymised before exchanging information between universities to comply with GDPR. The analysis actually considers the number of anonymized lines, and not the names themselves

(2) Comparison with internal figures of the overall mobility, in order to compare SEA-EU mobilities to the overall level of mobility, regardless the destination in Europe. Not all the partner universities have an overview of incoming mobility, which is sometimes managed at the faculty level.

Methodological limits

- **Covid:** Mobility numbers, especially in 2019-2020 were affected by the pandemic, with force majeure cases leading to cancellation or less credits recognition. We have tried to avoid meaningless inter-annual comparisons.
- **Internships (SMP) mobility:** In the three updates only have been considered the Internships done in the cities of partner universities. Names of cities stand for internships realized on the territory, names of universities stand for internships realized within a SEA-EU university. Analysing internship mobility data would make more sense for SEA-EU by referencing this SMP mobility in the surrounding territory; a homogenous and precised definition of the activity basin is still to be set up.
- **PhD mobility:** The current indicators doesn't include PhD mobility due to disparities among SEA-EU partners regarding the status of PhDs - sometimes considered as student, sometimes staff, or also both- and so no PhD students appeared in Mobility Tool.
- **Overall CAU comparisons:** During the first- and second- year data collection, it appeared that at first CAU didn't include the "regular" SEA-EU mobilities (*i.e.* the mobility taking place in the frame of pre-existing agreements, for example in languages or medicine). The correct figures are now included in the last year collection, which makes data more accurate, but introduces a bias in the comparison for the 2 first years of the report.

Glossary

- **Types of mobility:**

SMS: Students Mobility for Studies (at least three months)

SMP: Students Mobility for Placement (at least two months)

STA: Staff teaching mobility (at least 8 teaching hours for 5 days, and 1.6 hour per extra day)

STT: Staff training mobility (at least 2 days, with a precise planning of activities)

- **Universities:**

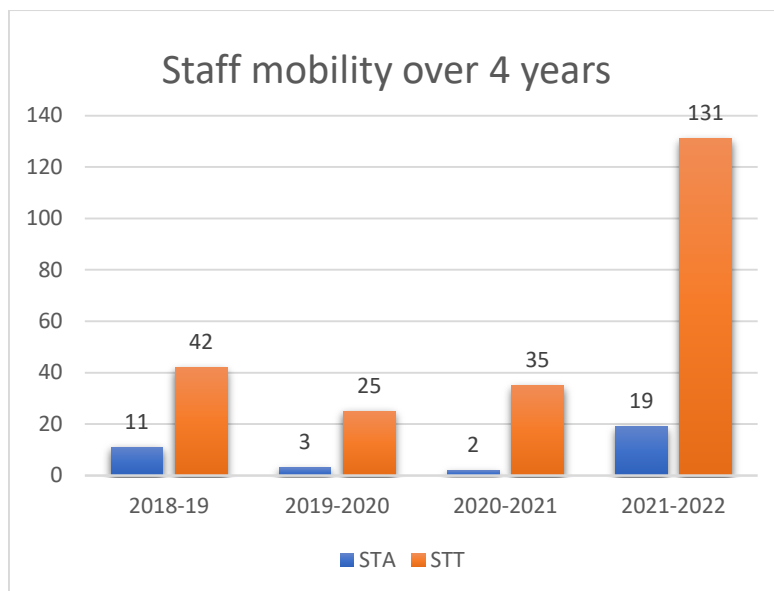
CAU: University of Kiel
 UBO: Université de Bretagne Occidentale
 UCA: University of Cadix
 UG: University of Gdansk
 UM: University of Malta
 UNIST: University of Split

- **Level of studies/ Field of studies:** The [International Standard Classification of Education](#) (ISCED) is the reference international classification for organizing information on education programs and related qualifications by levels and fields maintained by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). ISCED 2011 (levels of education) has been implemented in all EU data collections since 2014. ISCED-F 2013 (fields of education and training) has been implemented since 2016. The ISCED classification is used as a basis in Mobility Tool.

This classification includes ISCED codes (from 0 to 8) to qualify the level of studies (6: Bachelor, 7: Master, 8: PhD) and fields to classify fields of education and training (from 01 to 10, with 29 sublevels and 79 categories of 3rd range).

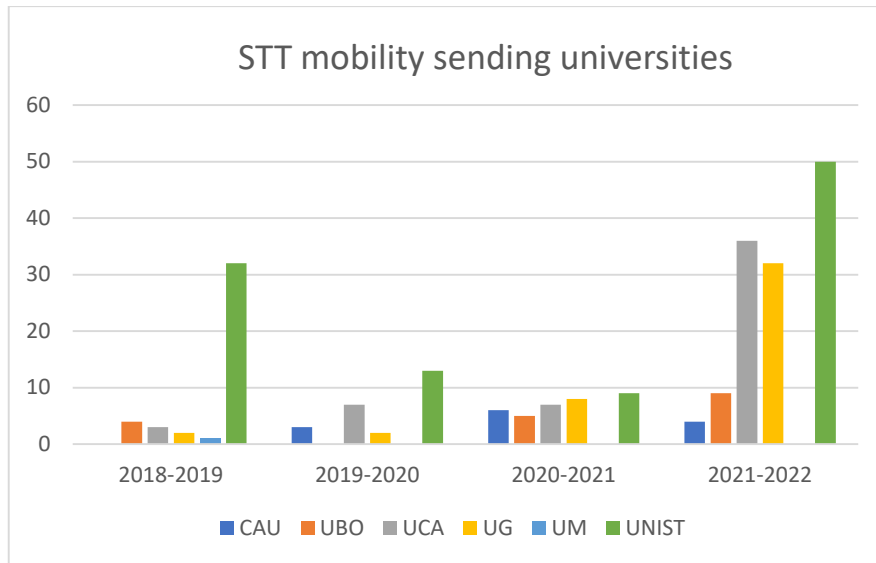
Results on Staff mobility

Over the 4 years of the analysis, there was 268 realised mobilities. There is a clear predominance of administrative staff mobilities (STT; 233 mobilities corresponding to 86.94%) over teaching mobilities (STA; 35 mobilities corresponding to 13.06%). Whereas the teaching mobility has remained quite stable, non-teaching mobility has increased a lot in 2021-2022 (131 against 42 in 2018-2019) due to return to a normal situation and the pro-active actions led by SEA-EU partners (staff weeks and experts groups meetings notably).

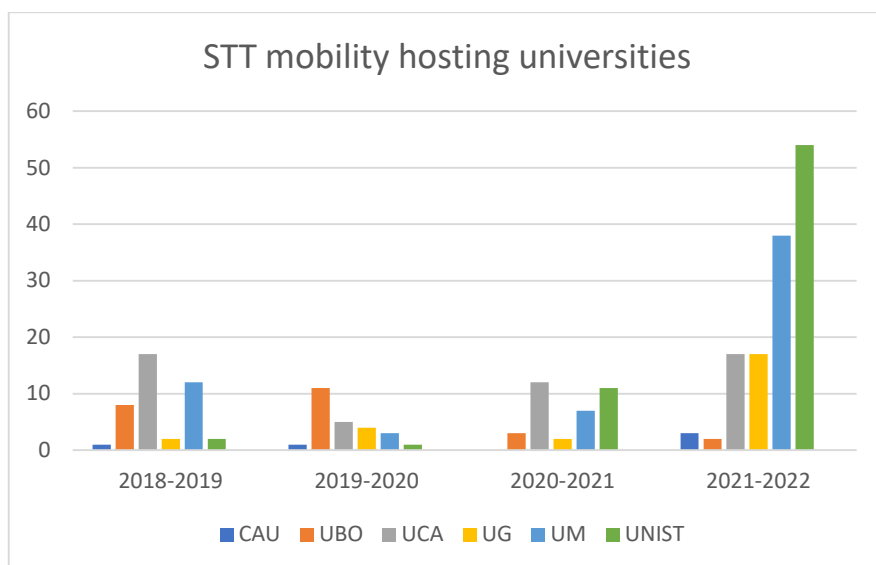


Non-teaching staff mobilities

Regarding universities of origin of these mobilities, UNIST is the most important sending university for STT mobilities. Staff from Split represent almost the half of the total STT mobility in 2021-2022 (50/133). There is also a noticeable evolution for UG (2 mobilities in 2018-2019, 32 in 2020-2021) and UCA (3 in 2018-2019 and 36 in 2021-2022). Figures remain stable and low for UBO, CAU and UM.



From the “hosting” perspective, UNIST and UM are the universities welcoming the highest number of SEA-EU colleagues, with again a significant increase in 2021-2022.

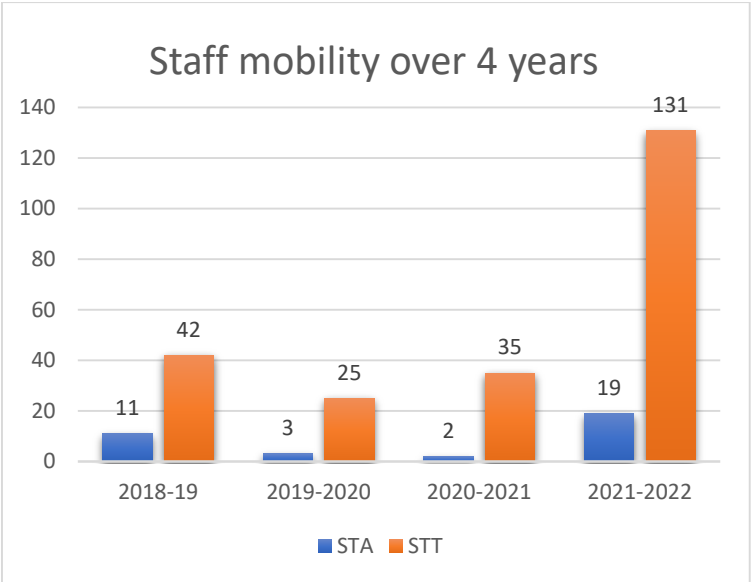


Teaching staff mobilities

Regarding teaching mobility, numbers remain low (35 over 4 years, with a slight evolution from 11 in 2018-2019 to 19 in 2021-2022). UG is the university sending the most important number of teachers in mobility to partner universities (17 over 35).

Mobilities in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 have been impacted by the sanitary situation, with “force majeure cancelled mobilities” (28 mobilities took place against 38 planned in 2019-2020, 37 and 44 in 2020-2021).

At the alliance scale, and considering the primary objectives of the first SEA-EU phase to have 5% of staff in mobility over 3 years, these figures represent 1.95% of the non-teaching staff, and 0.41% of the teaching staff (as a reference, in 2021-2022, the SEA-EU alliance counts 6684 non-teaching staff and 10235 teaching staff). The current figures only report the mobilities funded by KA 131 fund; if we consider the physical mobilities funded by the SEA-EU budget (490 over three years at the alliance scale) or national complementary budget we are still no at the 5% objectives but getting closer. It is likely that the objective could have been reached in a normal situation.



Results on Students mobility

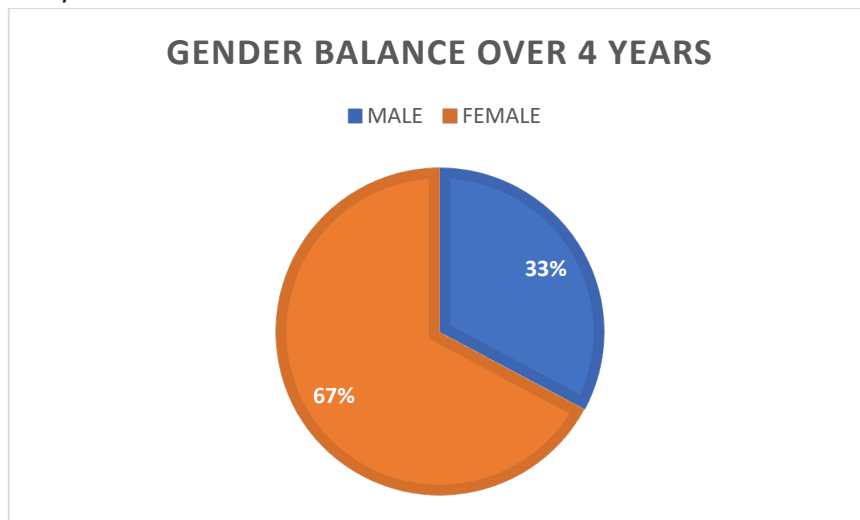
1/Progression over 4 years

The intra alliance mobility is progressing significantly since the beginning of SEA-EU. It has more than doubled between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, with the return to normal of the sanitary situation. This important progression shows the work accomplished during SEA-EU 1.0 and despite the pandemic by the mobility services of the universities of the alliance to promote these privileged destinations to students.

Academic year	Number of mobilities
2018-19	52
2019-20	47
2020-21	85
2021-22	205

2/ Gender balance

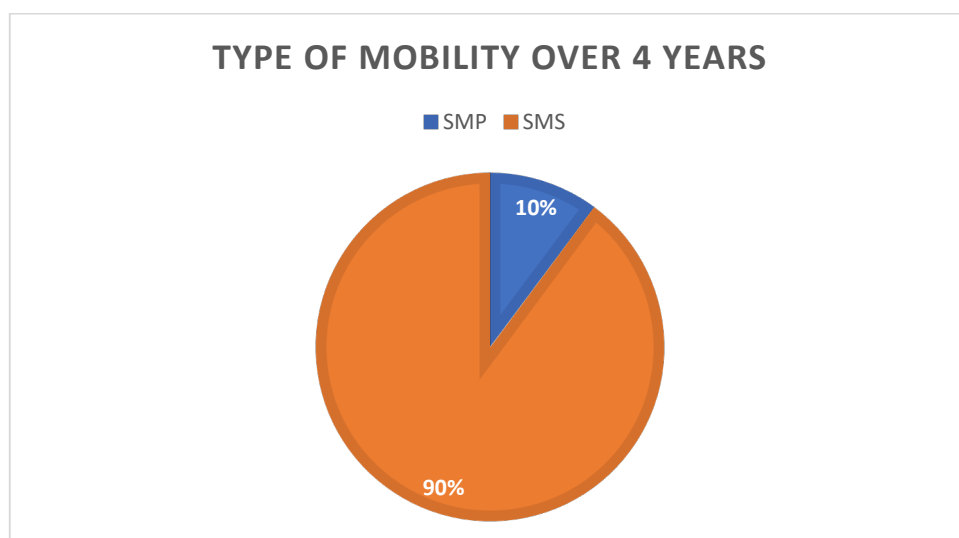
There is a structural gender imbalance in intra-alliance mobility, converging with the general trend at the European Union level¹, with an average over the 4 years of 68% female students and 32% male students in mobility.



Gender balance over 4 years	F	M
2018-2019	74.2%	25.8%
2019-2020	64.0%	36.0%
2020-2021	62.9%	37.1%
2021-2022	67.5%	32.5%

3/ Type of mobility

Over the 4 years, there is a clear predominance of the studies mobility (90%) over the internship mobility (10%).



¹ Benedictis L, Leoni S. Gender bias in the Erasmus network of universities. Appl Netw Sci. 2020;5(1):64. doi: 10.1007/s41109-020-00297-9

The proportion of internship mobilities compared to study mobility has been the highest in 2018-2019, *i.e.* before the alliance started, with an important proportion of UBO students. The decrease in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 can easily be explained by the sanitary context which pushed many students to choose internships in their own country of study rather than abroad. In the last year of our analysis, the number of internships is rising again, with a significant number of interns from UBO (20 over 23 in 2021-2022, 15 of them doing internships in Malta).

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	TOTAL
SMP (internship)	14	3	4	23	44
SMS (studies)	52	47	85	205	389
TOTAL	66	50	89	228	433

Internships mobilities

On the table below, names of universities stand for internships done in the universities, whereas name of cities stand for internships done in the local ecosystem. Over the 44 internships, 15 took place in laboratories/services of partner SEA-EU universities, while 29 take place in surrounding companies or NGOs.

	Hosting SEA-EU ecosystem				Hosting SEA-EU universities					
Sending university	Cadiz	Kiel	Malta	Split	UBO	UCA	UG	UM	CAU	TOTAL
CAU								2		1
2021-22								1		1
UBO	1	3	23	3		1		2	2	35
2018-19	1	1	8					1	1	12
2019-20						1		1	1	3
2021-22		2	15	3						20
UG								2		2
2018-19								2		2
UM					1					1
2020-21					1					1
UNIST					2	1	2			5
2020-21					2	1				3
2021-22							2			2
TOTAL	1	3	23	3	3	2	2	5	2	44

A perspective for SEA-EU 2.0, can be a better promotion of internship opportunities, in the universities but also in the local ecosystem (task 3.1). As pointed out since the first report on Mobility indicator, there is still an open question on how to defined a "SEA-EU basin" for the reporting of SEA-EU internships (Should we consider an internship that took place in the city, the department, the region? If so, how to collect accurate data as there is no automatic regional code in Mobility Tool? Should there be any kind of prior links between the university and the surrounding hosting companies?). This definition work will be addressed in the framework of task 2.1 of SEA-EU 2.0 now that internships number are getting more important.

Studies mobility

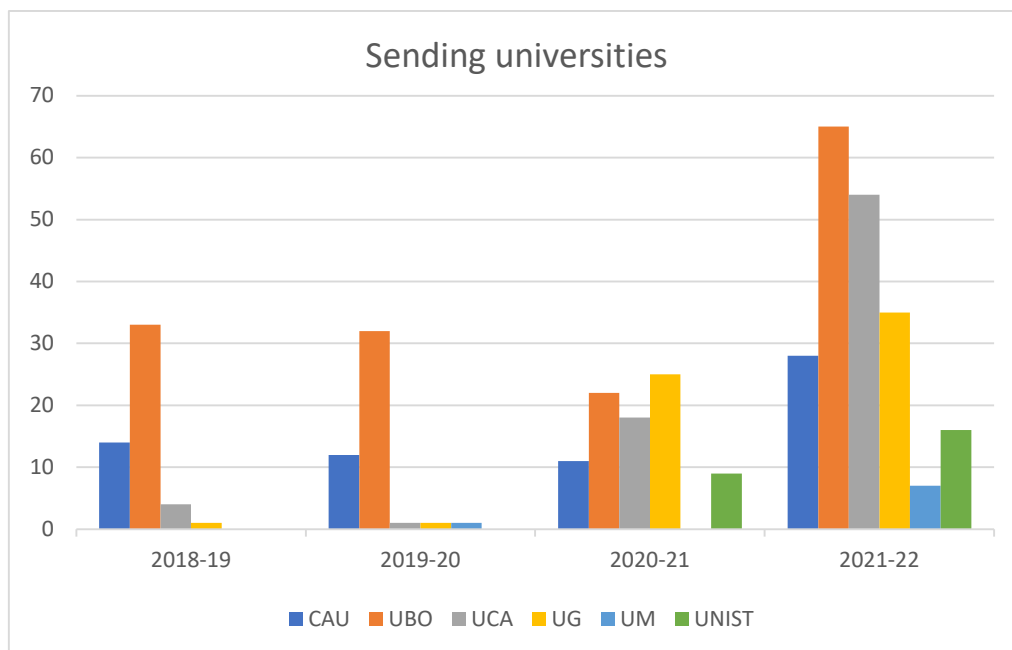
Over the 4 years, 389 students travelled across the 6 universities for study mobilities. There is a very notable positive evolution of the SEA-EU mobilities compared to the first year of the analysis.

Sending universities:

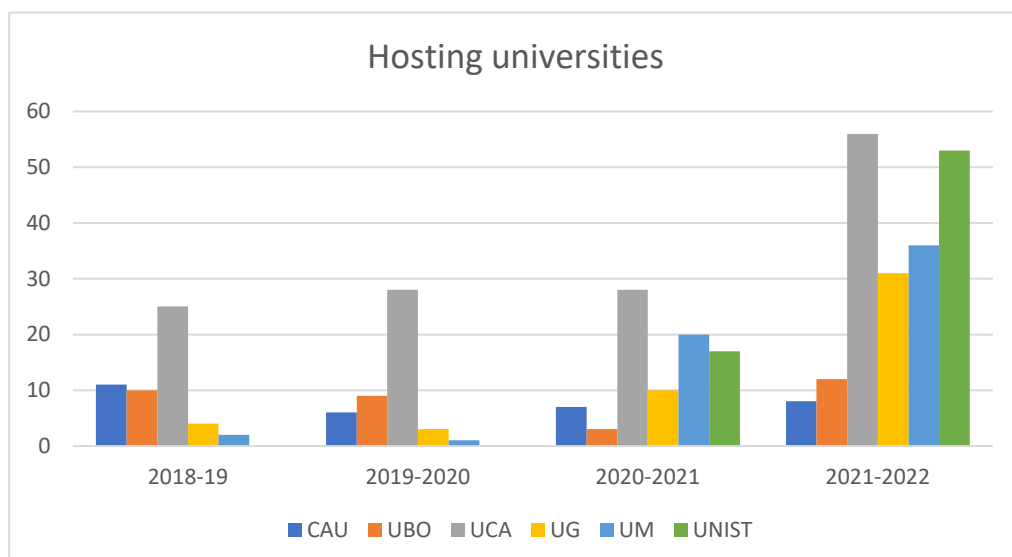
UBO remains the most important provider of students to the alliance. If the main destination from UBO students remains UCA (traditional mobility partner), UM and UNIST (with whom there were no pre-existing agreements) are now very attractive destination to UBO students. UBO has doubled the number of students in mobility to the alliance.

Similarly, CAU doubled the number of students in mobility to the alliance in 2021-2022, catching up the previsions for the previous years (in CAU, in 2020-21, additionally to the 11 mobilities who took place, 28 had been planned towards the SEA-EU alliance but eventually cancelled).

More interestingly, the 4 other universities who started with very low figures among the alliance (and even from scratch for UNIST and UM) are developing significantly outgoing mobility to SEA-EU partners over the 4 years, on a very positive trend.



Hosting universities: UCA remains since 2018, the most attractive university of the alliance, whereas UNIST made an important rise in two years, hosting 53 SEA-EU students in 2021-2022 (compared to 0 in 2019-2020). UM and UG are also welcoming more and more students, whereas UBO and CAU's attractiveness remains very moderate.



SEA-EU destinations versus other Erasmus destination

There is a notable evolution of the proportion of SEA-EU versus non-SEA-EU mobilities compared to the first year of the analysis. The 205 mobilities who took place in 2021-2022 within the alliance represent 11.6% of the overall Erasmus mobilities (3.22% in 2018-2019). As an example, 1 on 4 of the Erasmus mobilities take place in a SEA-EU destination in UBO, almost 1 on 5 for UG. For the universities where exchanges existed before the alliance launched, there is a diversification of the destinations.

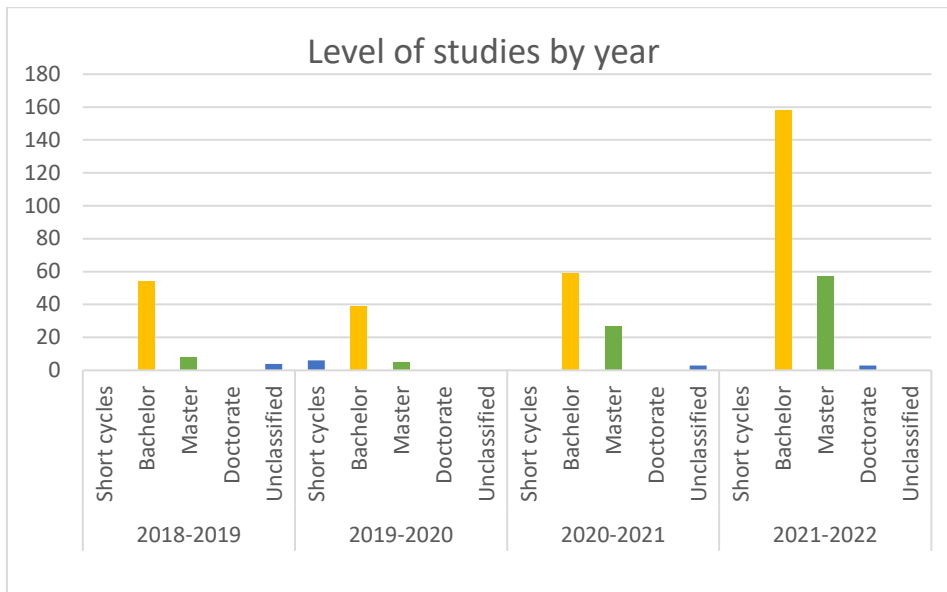
2018-2019	Hosting university						SEA-EU	Overall OUTGOING mobility	% SEA-EU mobility	Total of students	% students in mobility
Sending university	CAU	UBO	UCA	UG	UM	UNIST					
CAU		10	4				14	299	4.68%	27033	1.11%
UBO	11		20		2		33	305	10.82%	21920	1.39%
UCA				4			4	463	0.86%	20759	2.23%
UG			1				1	187	0.53%	24351	0.77%
UM							0	164	0.00%	11532	1.42%
UNIST							0	197	0.00%	20000	0.99%
TOTAL	11	10	25	4	2	0	52	1615	3.22%	125595	1.29%

2021-2022	Hosting university						SEA-EU	Overall OUTGOING mobility	% SEA-EU mobility	Total of students	% students in mobility
Sending university	CAU	UBO	UCA	UG	UM	UNIST					
CAU		7	10	1	5	5	28	258	10.85%	27455	0.94%
UBO	3		24	6	17	15	65	246	26.42%	23163	1.06%
UCA	4	5		15	7	23	54	661	8.17%	21175	3.12%
UG		5	14		5	11	35	183	19.13%	21975	0.83%
UM				7			7	224	3.13%	11326	1.98%
UNIST	1		10	3	2		16	192	8.74%	18571	1.03%
TOTAL	8	17	58	32	36	54	205	1764	11.62%	123665	1.43%

Level of studies

Over the entire period, the proportion of mobility at the Bachelor's level reached 74% of total mobilities.

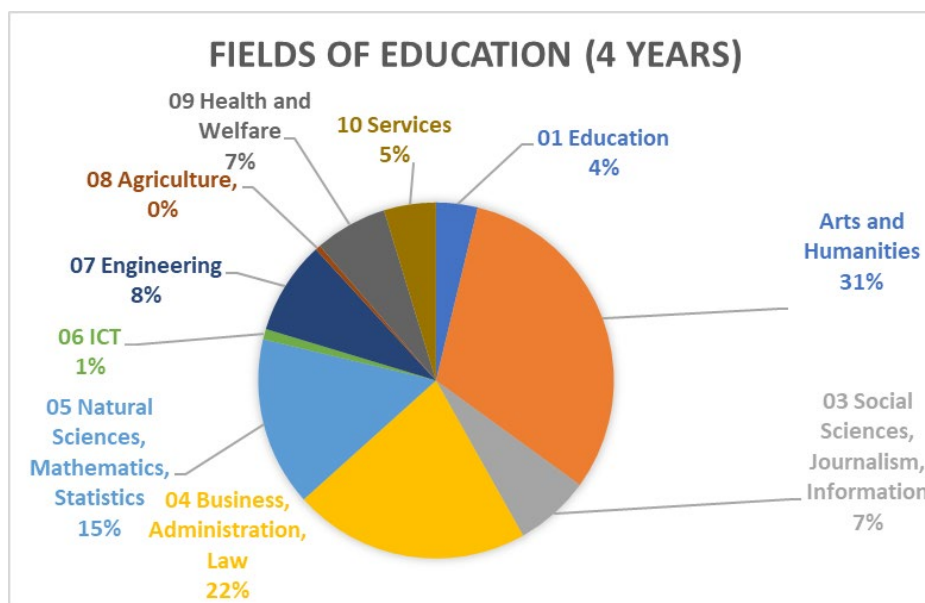
In 2018-2019, 84% of students' mobilities took place at the Bachelor level (ISCED 6). There is a slight evolution towards more Masters level mobilities (30.3 %) in 2020-21. This could again be interpreted in the light of the Covid context, where older students were more comfortable planning mobility abroad than undergraduate students, or having less flexibility for postponing it. In 2021-2022, the number of mobile Master's students increases in absolute terms, but decreases as a proportion of total mobility (24%).



For the first time in 2021-2022, there are PhD mobilities (ISCED-8) registered (4 mobilities).

Field of studies

All the fields of education as classified by Unesco² excepted for the field “08 Agriculture, Forestry Fisheries and Veterinary” are involved in SEA-EU students mobility (see graphic below),



There has been an evolution over time. In 2018-2019, 46% of the intra-alliance mobilities were composed of students in Arts and humanities, and more precisely in Languages. The trend remained quite the same in 2019-2020 (48%) while it proportionally decreased to 24.7% of mobilities in 2020-2021, and 21.6% in 2021-2022. The range of disciplines involved has widened, as shown by the table below accounting for the number of different detailed fields (ISCED codes; fields of studies are separated in 10 main codes and 79 subcategories) used to register mobilities. The number of fields where mobilities take place has been multiplied by 4 over the 4 years period, which shows the

² <https://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/international-standard-classification-of-education-fields-of-education-and-training-2013-detailed-field-descriptions-2015-en.pdf>

diversification of the cooperation fields beyond traditional (Languages) fields of mobility and the growing implication of the universities as a whole.

Academic year	Number of different ISCED sub-fields
2018-2019	12
2019-2020	12
2020-2021	31
2021-2022	39

Main conclusions and avenues for improvement

A/ On the indicators themselves

The proposed methodology has been implemented for the three reports. The results proposed here are based on common data, extracted from official tools, given a reliable and comparable information.

The data collection has been slightly complexified this last year due to the bugs of European Commission tool (transition from Mobility Tool to Beneficiary Module) that all universities faced. However, the same panel of data has been provided by all partners, from their internal monitoring tables. We hope that in the coming years the issue faced by universities with Beneficiary Module will be soon solved by the European Commission.

The 2 main remaining questions are about:

- how to track internships mobilities taking place in the SEA-EU activities basins: a more precised definition of what is the University basin need to be validated, and then the data collection need to take this need in consideration in all SEA-EU mobility office for having reliable comparable data.
- how to track PhD mobilities: PhD mobilities is strongly emphasized in the new Erasmus program while it currently represents very low number. PhD could be considered both as students or either as staff, and not all universities are recording this PhD mobilities in Mobility Tool (or Beneficiary Module). We need to homogenise the PhD mobility tracking methodologies among partner universities.

B/ On the SEA-EU mobility evolution

This data collection enables to have for the first time a reliable analysis of the evolution of mobility since the beginning of the alliance. Indeed, the 2021-2022 indicators represent the 1st year where the sanitary situation almost comes back to normal, and the third year of work of the alliance's universities to set up or tighten links and collaboration between them.

The positive impact of this work is notably shown by (i) the increasing number of both staff and student mobilities among our universities, multiplied by 4, (ii) a more balanced situation between northern/southern eastern/western regions of Europe as hosting/sending institutions, with a growing implication of the 6 universities and the appearance of student mobilities between universities who didn't have any pre-existing agreements, and (iii) the enlargement of the fields of studies involved in mobilities, showing the implication of the universities as a whole in the project.

There is still an important room for improvement regarding internships mobilities. Regarding staff, there is an important work of mutual knowledge done, as shown by the important flows of administrative staff. Teaching mobilities remain an important room for improvement, and a major

aspect to develop in SEA-EU 2.0, in the frame of new activities as the inter-knowledge between the teaching teams is a pre-requisite to facilitate student physical and virtual mobility.

The figures are not as important as expected in the SEA-EU application, especially regarding student's mobility, where too ambitious objectives had been set up. The sanitary situation has of course not helped. It is impossible to know what the number of mobilities would have been if the dynamics under construction had not been interrupted by Covid. One can certainly assume, given the good results of the last year of analysis, that this number would have been higher. However, this report shows a real evolution on the intra-alliance mobility since the beginning of SEA-EU.

This data collection will be updated in 2 years, and will integrate the figures of the 3 new partners (University of Algarve, Nord University, Parthenope University).

For any question or request, please contact at UBO - gwenaelle.goyat@univ-brest.fr



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