Introduction into portability of grants and loans

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Bologna Conference: Fostering Student Mobility: next steps?

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Session 2:
Portability of grants and loans

Very dynamic presentations, questions, answers, discussion
Portability of grants and loans

For what?
- Short-term study abroad
- Full study abroad
- Specific / countries / regions / institutions / programs

Of what?
- Indirect support: family allowances / tax benefits
- Direct support: grants, loans, extra subsidies for travel / tuition / health / maintenance / ...
Portability of support for full study abroad: Main issues

Indirect support: generally available

Some countries a long tradition with portable direct support: Experiences?

Some countries just started with portable direct support: Why? Some plan to follow: why?

Would mobility & portability lead to brain drain / gain?

How to stimulate mobility and how to support students not helped by their governments?
Portability of support for full study abroad: Main issues (2)

**ECJ** cases: non-discrimination principle
Meeusen, Bidar,

**What** will be next ECJ case?

**Residency** requirement?

**Generosity of support / Repayment** of loans?

**Future developments:**
Home or Host country perspective?
Tuning national policies?
EU support arrangements beyond Erasmus?
Session 2: Portability of grants and loans

Portability network:
What does the network do?

Country cases:
What are current practices and experiences?
How to tackle problems?
What is the impact on mobility?
How do students perceive mobility & portability?
What does all mean for HEIs?

Recommendations for national and EU policies to stimulate mobility and portability of student support
Session 2: Challenges

Portability of grants and loans

Relevance of portability grants & loans:
- It is regarded highly relevant to stimulate mobility through portable support
- 5%-15% of students mobile: will we get more?
- Mobility is heart of Bologna, portability a recognised key element for mobility
- But still differences in SES
- Use grants or loans?

Feasibility of portability grants & loans:
- It is recommended that all Bologna countries make grants & loans portable (committed by ministers)
- Some countries showed doable
- Some countries still have financial limitations and other priorities
Session 2: Challenges
Portability of grants and loans

Effectiveness
- Unclear to what extent portability helped mobility
- Only tentative ideas about increased mobility
- One reason: no clear statistical data
- The network also wants to bring clarity

Obstacles
- Financial resources limited: other priorities
- Differences between EU-other Bologna countries
- Visa procedures and costs
- Language skills
- Uncertainty due to ECJ cases: cautious policies
- Limited study places
Session 2: Challenges
Portability of grants and loans

Future actions to be taken:
- Recognise the importance of portability
- Include portability in the stocktaking processes
- Recognise portability is only one element to stimulate mobility
- Portability for what programs/institutions: recognition/quality
- Information provision about portability
- European wide support mechanism possible?
  {EIB, Erasmus, Tempus}
- Get commitments of ministers to arrange portability and become active
Session 2: Challenges  
Portability of grants and loans

Expert network is felt to be important
- Information about national systems, support each other
- Advanced countries want to share their expertise
- Help non-EU countries to put their interest on agenda
- Website, where to host?
- There should come clarity on Bologna process after 2010
- Mandate for the BFUG secretary to facilitate the portability network
- Information notg overlap with other data sources