



Education and Culture

Fostering student mobility: Next steps?

Christian Tauch
DG Education and Culture

Structure



- Erasmus
- Erasmus Mundus
- Bologna squeeze
- Mobility requires transparency
- New ideas



Mobility

Has been around for a long time but -

has never been higher on the European political agenda:

- one of the priorities of the French presidency
- Commission: High level group of experts, to deliver report in June
- Council has asked Commission to provide report on impact of Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus, September
- European Parliament is preparing report on Bologna



Erasmus: Towards Mobility For All

- 1987: 3,244 students
- 2007: 160,000 students
- From 1,7 million to 3 million (2012)
- 3,4 % of graduates (including non-Erasmus: 10%)



External dimension: Erasmus Mundus



- New EU flagship programme since 2004
- Promotion of European Joint/double master degrees
- Attracting talented students worldwide
- 103 masters courses funded and some 6000 students and scholars supported so far
- New enlarged phase from 2009 to 2013 with a 900m€ budget, including doctoral level
- www.study-in-Europe.org



Points of concern: Bologna squeeze?

- Erasmus mobility is stagnating or declining in some countries
- Problem of curricular design – 5 years packed into 3 years-> no mobility window
- Some HEI may have a preference for fee-paying non-European students
- Stagnating or decreasing Erasmus figures also in countries that are not or not yet affected by Bologna restructuring



Changing mobility patterns, new challenges

- Vertical mobility (degree mobility): lack of transparency for students, lack of funding, by many HEI perceived as a threat rather than an opportunity
- Horizontal mobility (credit mobility): needs more preparation than in the traditional one tier programmes – learning agreements, guaranteed recognition
- All programmes should have a mobility window, also Ba
- Joint programmes, joint degrees: very promising but require even more intensive preparation, QA problems



Existing tools to boost mobility

- Bologna Framework
- ECTS
- European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF)
- European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR)



Mobility needs transparency: European database of HEI

- Make use of existing national registers of HEI and programmes
- Enrich them with performance data in education, research, innovation
- Mid-2008: DG RTD will launch call for tender for integrated European statistical information system



Mobility needs transparency: Ranking

- CHE developed a multidimensional ranking as a student information tool for German HE
- Commission support for the CHE pilot project (Netherlands, Flanders)
- Possibly extension to other European countries



Mobility needs transparency: Typology of HEI

- Ranking requires clarity on types of institutions: CHEPS typology project
- Categories: Teaching, research, international orientation, LLL engagement, institutional characteristics



OECD project on assessing HE learning outcomes

- Commission will contribute expertise gathered in various projects, like the classification project or Tuning.



New ideas



- Flexibility: a rucksack of mobility credits for each student to spend at first, second or third cycle, for study or placement abroad
- European Student loans : Commission and European Investment Bank discuss possible approaches
- Teacher and researcher mobility: long term remains difficult (pensions, social security)-> Communication on « better careers and more mobility », May 2008



New ideas



- Common objective:

by 2015 15% of all graduates should have been mobile

- Two layer approach:

combination of Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus

Consequence: More funding is needed

from governments, but also from regions, communities, enterprises...



THANK YOU !

