

The social dimension of the EHEA and world-wide competition

Report from WS4: the social dimension and
international institutional policies

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- Introduction : Barriers and obstacles to mobility
- Emergence and importance of vertical mobility with different needs and expectations than the « classical » programme exchange students
- 3 a's
- Outstanding questions

Introduction: barriers and obstacles to mobility

- Financial obstacles
- Social obstacles
- Administrative obstacles: visas, procedures, etc.
- Calendar: classes start/finish at very different dates, depending on the country
- HEI's policy should be to reduce them as much as possible

Free mobility

- Erasmus students account for only 20% of the mobile students
- Bologna eases free mobility: recognition, accumulation, etc.
- This phenomenon demands specific, targeted policies from the HEIs
- **But** the HEI should have the responsibility that the mobility is of quality

3 A's

- Accueil (welcome)
 1. Importance of the role played by the student associations... but supported by the HEI
 2. Coordination between the 2 HEI might still be insufficient in the case of programme mobility and have serious consequences: ex.access to housing
 3. Creation of a single reference point for mobile students
- Accompagnement (counselling)
 1. Help in social, professional and cultural integration (for all students but especially the mobile)
 2. Avoid the « ghettoisation » of foreign students

3 A's

- Accès et Départ (coming in and going out)
 1. Financial barrier: can be managed to some extent by the HEI (make choices)
 2. Social background barrier: encourage mobility, explain why it is beneficial by ex-mobile students and professors
 3. Teaching languages

Outstanding questions

- Importance of partners and stakeholders: the institutions cannot solve everything on their own: political, social, economical partners from the region and maybe abroad but also inside the HEI
- Survey on social dimension, lack of statistical data
- Equity, democratisation are central words because big inequities exist between the 40 EHEA countries (and inside them), « right to mobility »