

## Social dimension and student mobility

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Student mobility is one of the clearest and most obvious signs of the internationalization of a university or a higher education institution. Such a mobility which kept increasing since 1987 when the Erasmus programme was launched by the European Commission, also proves to be one of the most efficient means to make a European dimension of institutions and their curricula real, and a valuable tool to develop trust and opportunities for cooperation between persons and institutions.

Indeed, student mobility is directly connected to the fading of simplistic stereotypes, the development of tolerance, of interpersonal skills, the awareness of how close people, areas and countries are, with different languages, different ways of daily life and different ways of cultural expression : the awareness of how close diversity is and how harmonious difference is ...

Institutions must meet needs regarding the quality of this mobility appropriately : understanding between the home university and the host university ; systematic use of the ECTS system : information catalogues with an easy access to Web sites and automatic use of the learning agreement and of the grades' transcript in relation to degrees ; accommodation offer ; solid organization for the welcome, social life and academic support ; schemes for training and/or linguistic preparation ; worthy and sufficient financing ...

There's a long way ahead !