

GOOD PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES OF MOBILITY PROGRAMMES

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To establish and maintain high quality cooperations under international mobility programmes such as Erasmus, Erasmus Placement, Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus Mundus requires a continuous effort by all actors, including international relations officers, teachers and students/graduates. Some good practices and challenges of mobility programmes are:

Good practices

1. **detailed catalogue** including clear information about courses, programmes, internships, etc.
2. availability of detailed and clear **logistical information** (accommodation, services, language courses, etc.)
3. careful selection of the **partner institutions**
4. **prompt response** to all requests by foreign partners and Students
5. **integration** of mobility projects with other international projects
6. good supervision of the foreign students involving local students in buddy programmes and tutoring

Challenges

1. **delays** in the signature of important documents such as agreements, application forms, learning agreements, transcripts of records, etc.)
2. **poor support services** for the exchange students (welcome office, etc.)
3. **poor supervision** of the exchange students
4. **poor integration** with the local community (students, etc.)
5. **bad attitude** of local administrative or teaching staff towards foreign students.

The Universities of Rome "Sapienza" and "Tor Vergata" are improving year after year the quality of their mobility programmes mainly considering the aspects mentioned above but several others are important and their discussion by the working group will be encouraged. Special attention will be given to the Erasmus Placement and Leonardo da Vinci programmes which can play an important role in establishing collaborations with companies and other non academic institutions, thus increasing the employability of our graduates.

Teaching and international staff mobility can also significantly improve the quality of the cooperations allowing staff members to meet, discuss and establish strong personal relationships. In this regard, Erasmus staff mobility weeks are very useful allowing active exchanges for an entire week. The university of Rome "Tor Vergata and Sapienza university of Rome recently organized staff mobility weeks aimed at exchanging know-how, good experiences and practices through both plenary presentations and workshops on Erasmus mobility management, public relations and information office, support services for international students, services for visiting researchers and opportunities for post-graduate students (placements and internships). Other UNICA members, such as the university of Oslo, the Eötvös Loránd university and Corvinus university of Budapest, the university of Vienna, organized similar events. The UNICA network is encouraging very much these activities by posting the programmes on the website www.unica-network.eu and by sending news about them to all partners.

In the present working group, the aforementioned good practices and challenges of mobility programmes, together with important tools to increase the quality of international cooperations such as staff mobility will be discussed.

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