

The opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the credit mobility action (outside Europe) in Erasmus +

The experience of ULB

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Multicultural and international university in teaching...

- More than 24.000 students (almost 32% from abroad), over 100 nationalities represented.
- Mobility:
 - Around 900 incoming students / year
 - Around 800 outgoing students / year (next year around 1000)
 - Main destinations:
 - EU: FR, ES, IT
 - Non-EU: CA (our second destination after France, 72 students in 14-15), CN, BR
- By the time they are awarded a Master's degree one fifth of our students have had a study-abroad experience.

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... and in research

- 33% of foreign researchers
- 46% of foreign PhD students (95 nationalities)
- 63% of foreign post-docs



The opportunities of Erasmus + International Dimension

- Reinforce existing collaborations outside Europe
- Start new partnerships / collaborations
- Attract non-European students and staff
- Provide better scholarships to outgoing staff and students outside Europe (although in limited numbers).

The challenges of the implementation of the programme

- **Application**: very precise projects (4 qualitative questions), many restrictions per geographical area, there are so many rules that it becomes sometimes confusing.
- **Evaluation**: by institution and not by geographical zone, in some cases only one evaluator; a slow process taking into account all the qualitative questions.

The challenges of the implementation of the programme

- Calendar:
 - The results are received very late, mobilities at the first semester are very difficult (almost impossible) to organize.
 - Projects of 24 months finish in May makes it difficult to organize student mobilities on the last semester – Good news, now possibility of extending to 26 months!

The challenges of the implementation of the programme

- Signature of the agreements:

- In some countries the signature of agreements is quite slow – problems with calendar!
- Most agreements are not balanced (more IN than OUT).
- Duration of the agreements: even if we sign until 2020-21, we are never sure that we will receive funding for the same countries in the next call.

The challenges of the implementation of the programme

- Other practical implementation challenges at the level of the university:
 - As these scholarships are linked to very precise projects, there is almost no selection / it's not open to all students / staff.

The challenges of the implementation of the programme

- Other practical implementation challenges at the level of the university:
 - For the first edition there was not much time for the preparation of the applications. Faculties were not as involved as they should have been in the application phase.
 - We will try to organise a call for projects next year.

The challenges of the implementation of the programme

- Other challenge:
 - The European HEI has to take all the responsibility, even for the activities / processes carried by the partner institution.

Conclusions

- A programme with a great potential and many opportunities, although at this stage it is too early to measure the results.
- A better adaptation to the reality on the ground is needed.
- Universities have their own international strategies.