



# Erasmus+ priorities 2021-2027 for higher education mobility

*What's on in Brussels?*  
*5 May 2022*



**Nadia Manzoni**  
Unit Higher Education  
DG EAC, European Commission

# Empowering European Higher Education



A **European vision** for the **future of universities** and how the **Union can support**



A **call to Member States and higher education institutions** across Europe **to join forces**



**Proposed recommendations** for effective **European Higher Education cooperation**

**Commissioner Mariya Gabriel**



The European strategy for universities and the proposal for a Council recommendation on transnational cooperation “*will benefit the entire higher education sector, first and foremost our **students**. They need modern transnational campuses with easy access to mobility abroad to allow for a truly European study path and experience. We stand ready to join forces with the Member States and higher education institutions across Europe. Together we can **bring closer education, research and innovation in service to society.***”

# EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR UNIVERSITIES

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING  
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS  
ACROSS EUROPE



A European shared vision to support all types of higher education institutions to adapt to changing conditions across all their missions



Priority areas for transformation based and clear objectives



Concrete actions at EU level to enable and support the sector



Synergies with actions and national reforms

**Endorsed by EU Member States**  
**5 April 2022**

# Four key objectives

## 1 Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness

## 2 Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

### Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills

*In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills*

### Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities

### Promote and protect European democratic values

Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research

## 3 Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

### Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition

Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality

## 4 Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Universities are instrumental in building Europe's connections with the world



# Four flagship initiatives



Expand to **60 European Universities with more than 500 universities by mid-2024**, with an Erasmus+ indicative budget totalling EUR 1.1 billion for 2021-2027.



Explore common criteria leading to a potential **European label for joint programmes**, to be piloted as of 2022 under Erasmus+. Later on, the possible design and delivery, on a voluntary basis, at national, regional or institutional level, of joint degrees at all levels, based on these co-created European criteria, could be envisaged



Examining the need for and feasibility of institutionalised cooperation instruments, such as a possible **legal status for alliances of higher education institutions**: pilot as of 2022 under Erasmus+ the implementation of existing European instruments



Widening the implementation of the **European Student Card initiative**.

# BUILDING BRIDGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION

**FACILITATING  
TRANSNATIONAL  
EDUCATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES**

## FIRST STEP TOWARDS:

- Institutionalised cooperation instruments (e.g. legal status for alliances)
- Common criteria for a European label for joint programmes, followed possibly by voluntary joint degrees based on these European criteria

**SUSTAINABLE  
EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITIES  
ALLIANCES**

**WIDENING THE  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
STUDENT CARD  
INITIATIVE**

Reinforce **European transnational cooperation**  
by building bridges

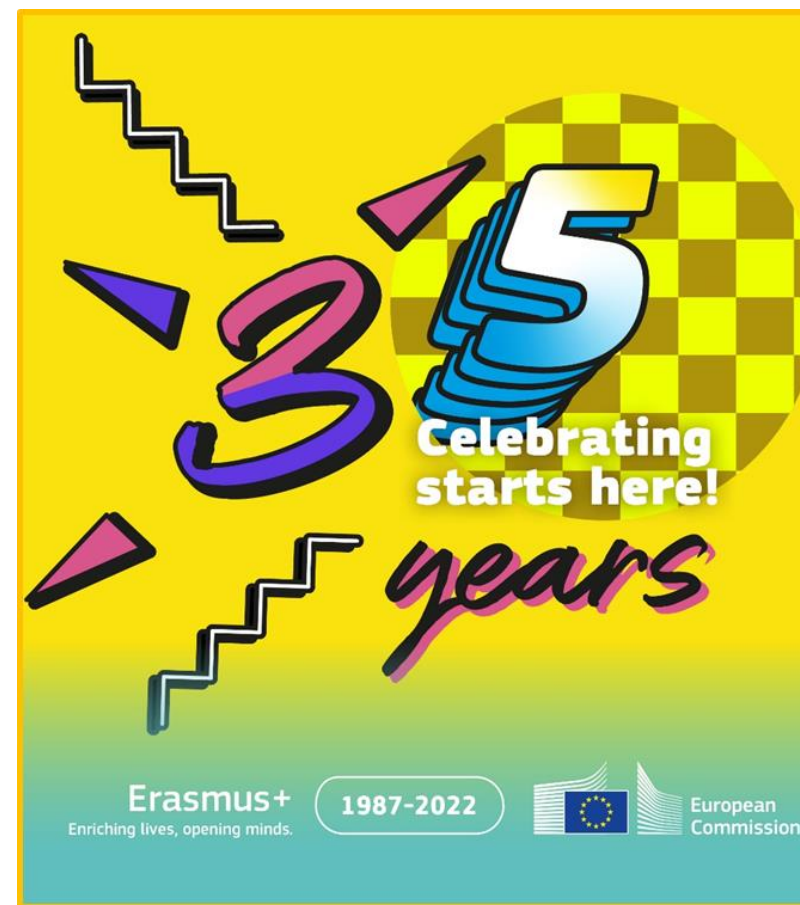
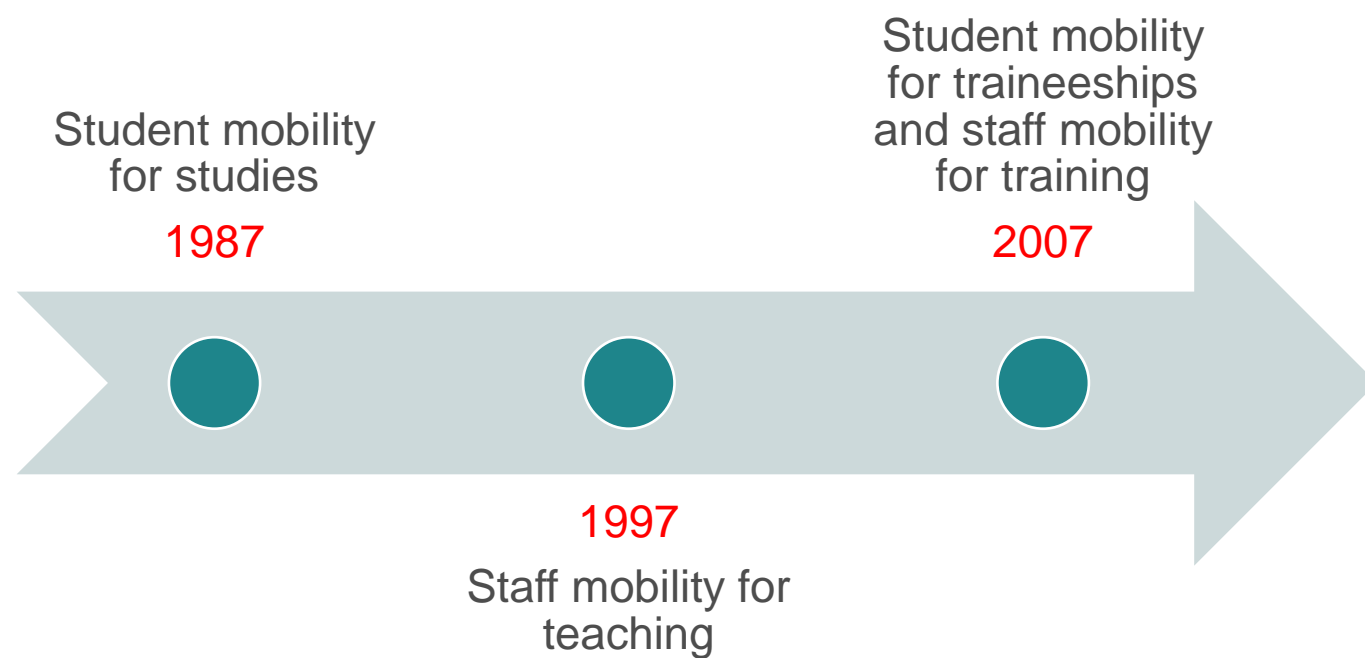
Support **all higher education institutions**  
and enhance the **coherence** of European higher education  
systems

**Full implementation of existing instruments**  
and exploring avenues for new ones

Recommendation for **national reforms**  
and **European support**

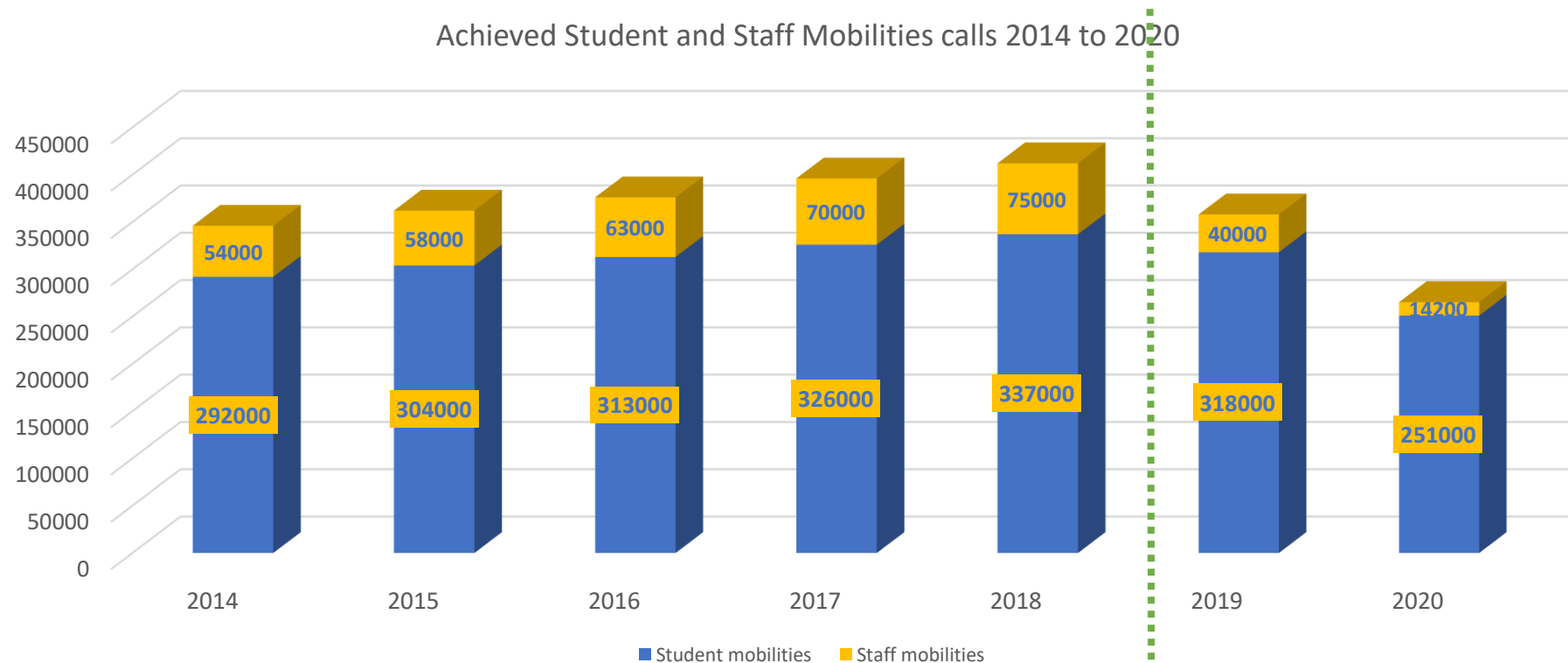
**Recommended by Member States**  
**5 April 2022**

# Erasmus+ higher education mobility



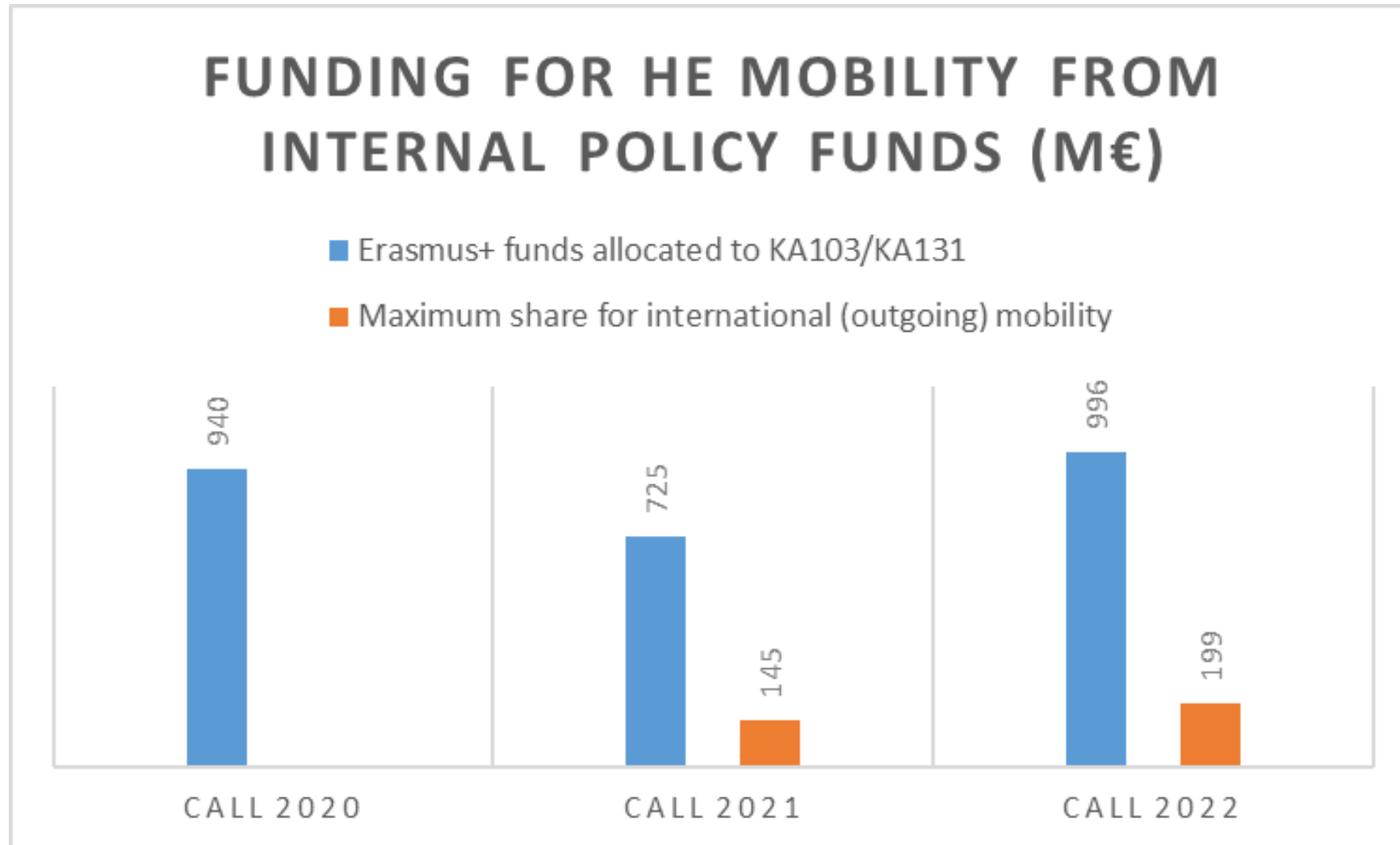
# Past Erasmus+ programme achievements: higher education mobility (KA103)

- Calls 2014-2020: 2 180 000 student mobilities & 380 000 staff mobilities
- Strong average student grant increase over 5 years: +30%



Most call  
2019 and  
2020 projects  
still ongoing

# Funding for higher education mobility (KA131)



# Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 priorities underpinned by ECHE commitments

## Priorities:

- More **digital**
- **Greener**
- More **inclusive**
- More **civically engaged**

## ECHE commitments:

- By undertaking the necessary steps to implement **digital** mobility management in line with European Student Card Initiative.
- By promoting **environmentally** friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.
- By encouraging the participation of individuals with **fewer opportunities** in the Programme.
- By promoting **civic engagement** and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project

# ECHE monitoring guide – pressure points



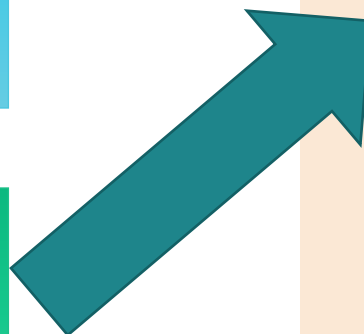
Inclusion



Digitalisation



“Fundamentals”



- Course catalogue, recognition, grading system and credit transfer
- Student support (timeliness of grant payment, how to report complaints, visa/insurance/accommodation assistance)

# What's new in higher education mobility in 2022

- Call 2021: Grants awarded to ~**3500** KA131 projects. Transition year
- Call 2022: + 200 projects - cruising speed: KA131 projects start on 1 June
- One HE mobility action - **two international mobility strands** from call 2022:
  - ❖ Mobility projects supported by (EU) internal policy funds – KA131
  - ❖ Mobility projects supported by (EU) external policy funds – KA171
- For KA131 in call 2022:
  - Stability + KA171 funded incoming international participants in KA131 BIPs + accompanying person funded with staff grant rates

# Erasmus+ higher education mobility – new mobility types

## Mobility activities:

- Student mobility for studies:
  - Short-term > 5-30 days
  - Long-term > 2-12 months
- Student mobility for traineeships:
  - Short-term > 5-30 days
  - Long-term > 2-12 months
- Staff mobility for teaching: 1-60 days
- Staff mobility for training: 2-60 days

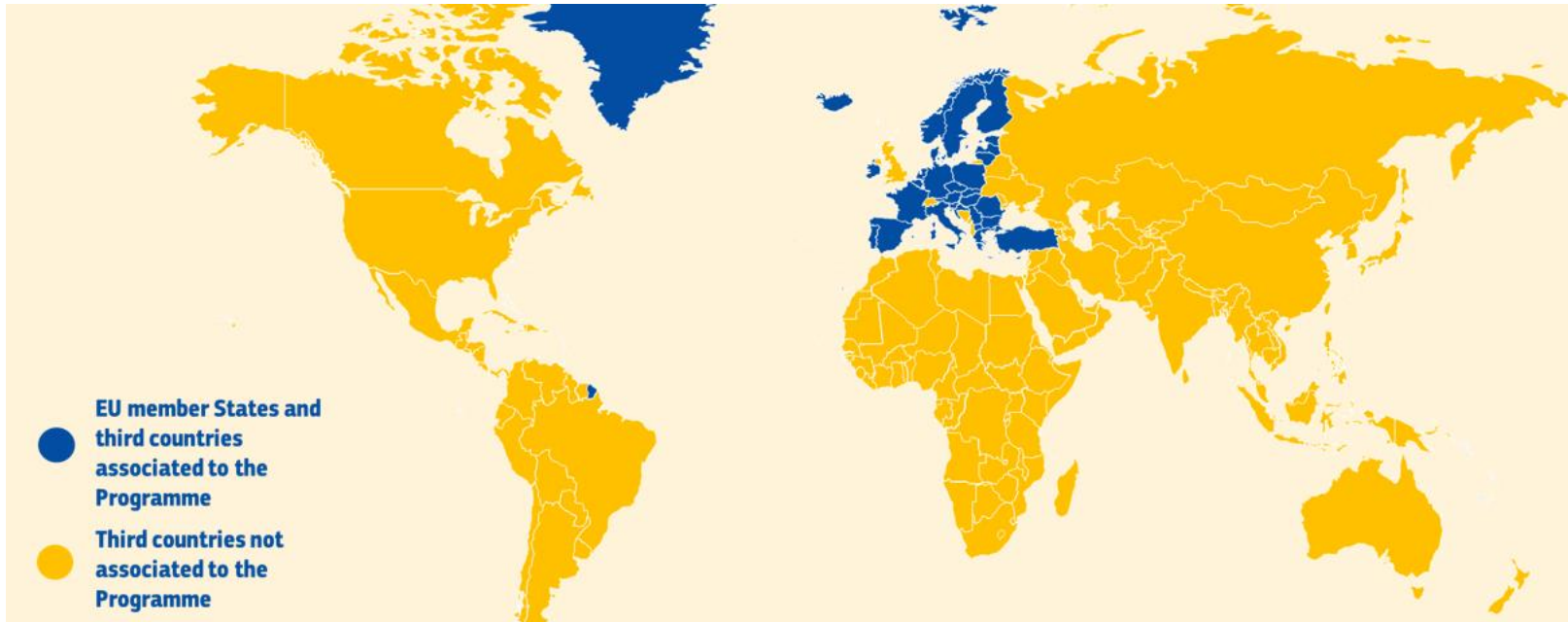
## Other activities:

- Blended intensive programmes

# Erasmus+ higher education mobility – new activities

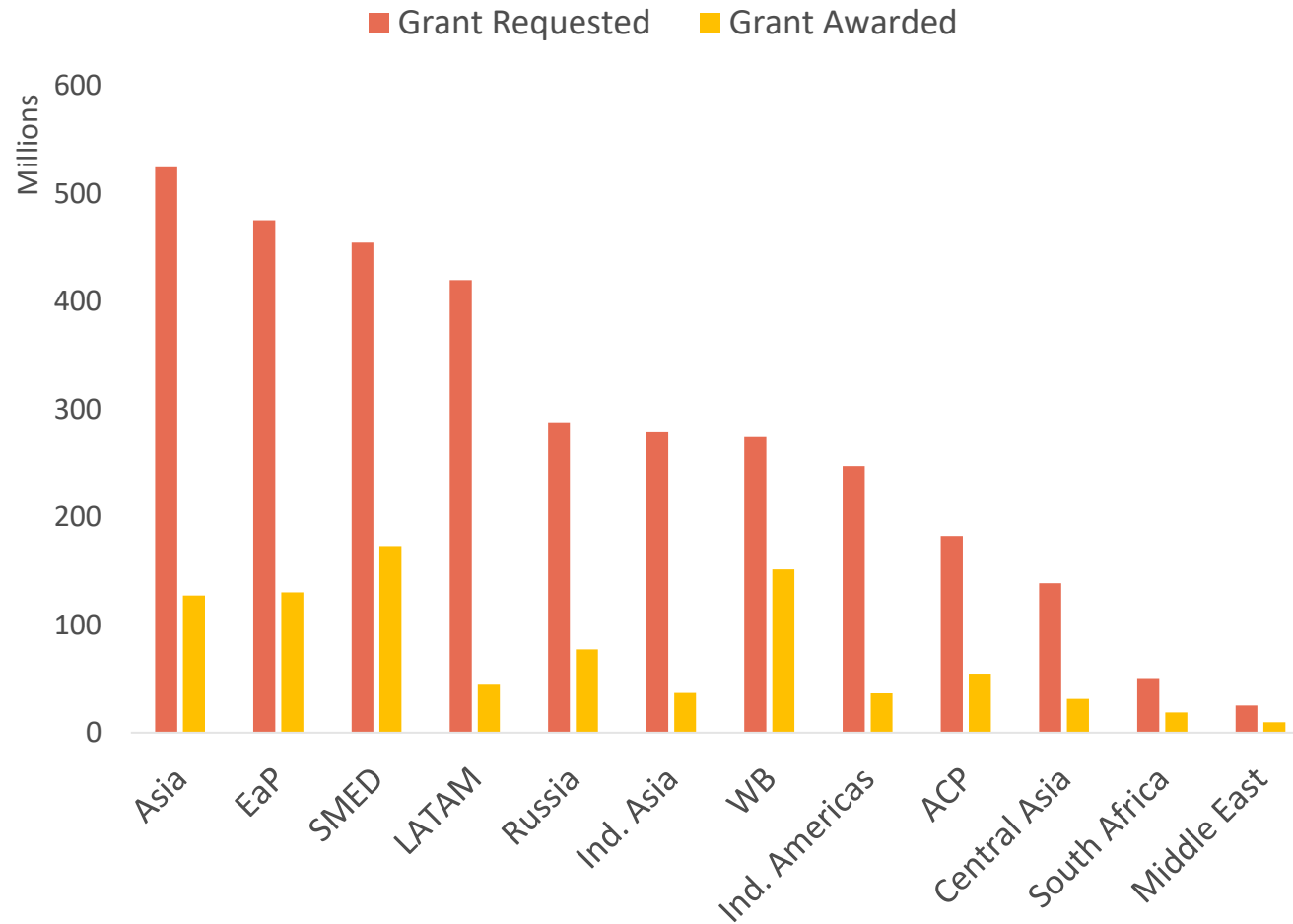
1. **Worldwide** mobility – all students, all countries
2. **Blended** mobility (physical short stays) and blended intensive programmes
3. **Inclusive** mobility for persons from diverse backgrounds
4. **Doctoral** short-term mobility
5. **Greener**, more sustainable mobility

# 1. International/worldwide mobility



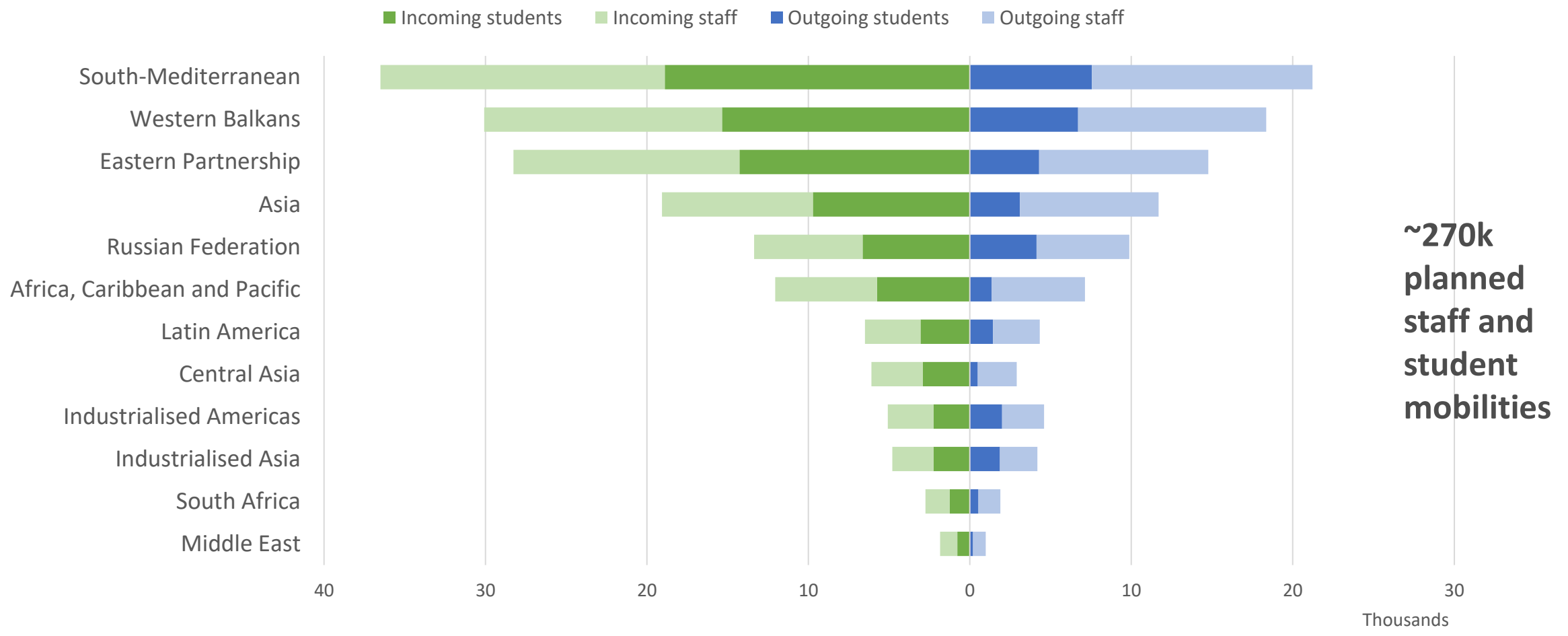
# From demand for international mobility...

Demand for Funding in ICM 2014-2020



# ... to reality: ICM mobility figures 2014-2020

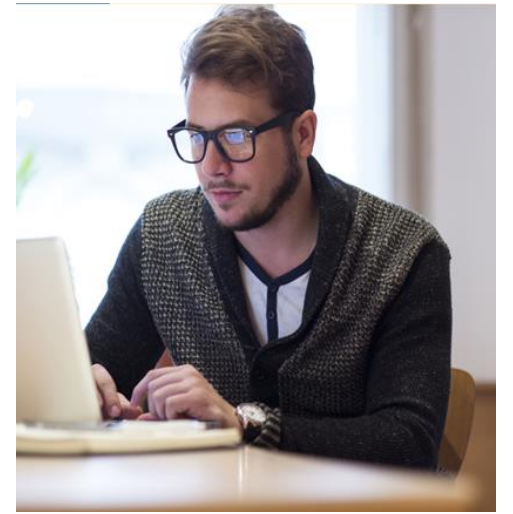
Participants profile per region 2015-2020



# Two strands of international higher education mobility

	International outgoing mobility supported by internal policy funds (KA131)	International outgoing and incoming mobility supported by external policy funds (KA171)
Funding sources	Up to 20% of project grant for international mobility, one budget for the whole world	Earmarked budget envelopes per world region
Available funding in 2022	199m EUR (if max 20% use)	194m EUR, KA131 same grant rates as KA171
Geographical scope and flows	Worldwide, only outgoing mobility in call 2021 and 2022, geographical diversity	Worldwide except Regions 13 and 14, geographical targets
Funding priorities	Priorities decided by 5000+ HEIs Students and staff	Priorities decided by EU: Africa, Western Balkans etc. Restricted outgoing students (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle); staff
Implementation mode	Selection of partner countries & HEIs & host organisations during implementation	Approval of partner countries and HEIs during application

## 2. Blended short-term mobility



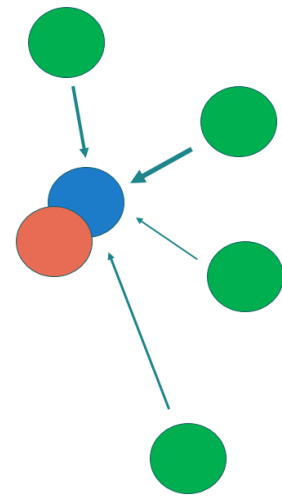
### Students

- Individual blended short-term studies
- Group short courses (blended intensive programmes and similar)
- Blended traineeships

### Staff

- Blended teaching
- Blended training individual / group (BIPs and blended staff weeks)

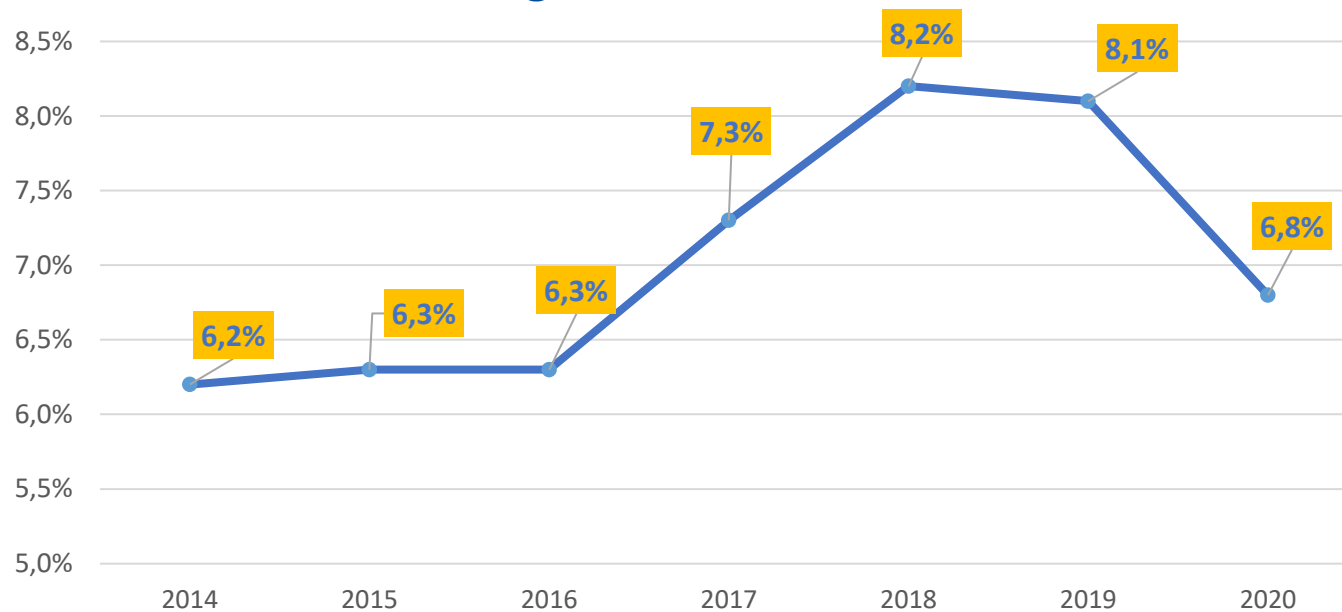
# Blended intensive programme (BIPs)



- Call 2021: Around 2500 BIPs in 1050 projects out of 3500 projects
  - 18 M € on BIP organisational support for BIP partnership coordinators, not counting the 37,000+ blended mobilities
- Objectives: innovative learning, training and teaching; addressing priorities; transdisciplinary, research/challenge based approach; seed funding, create blended mobility opportunities
- Target groups: students or staff learners, funded by KA131 or KA171 or at their own costs
  - Min. 15 learner participants joining through blended short-term mobility

# 3. Inclusive mobility

Share of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, 2014-2020



Goal 2021-2027

**10 %**

of people with fewer opportunities taking part in mobility at EU level.

# Inclusive mobility



- Inclusion and diversity strategy at Programme level + national plans
- Higher base grant for students.
  - Further increase between 2021-2022 grant levels: 7 countries **have increased** Erasmus+ grant levels between the 2021 and 2022 call. Only one of the countries has decreased Erasmus+ grant levels.
- Extra funding:
  - Top-up to individual support amount ( 14 countries **added target groups** in 2022 call)
  - Inclusion support, exceptional costs for expensive travel (real costs)
- More flexible mobility formats: short-term mobility

## 4. Doctoral mobility



- Short-term mobility for doctoral candidates whether student or staff
- Virtual component *optional* in short-term physical mobility
- Long-term student mobility for doctoral candidates maintained
- Stays abroad for primarily education and training purposes incl. thesis

# Exceptional measures for support to Ukraine

- The Erasmus+ programme will be **opened up to incoming** higher education students and staff from Ukraine in mobility projects supported by EU internal policy funds
- They will have an opportunity:
  - to spend a period at a hosting higher education institution, or
  - to complete a traineeship in the host HEI or another organisation
- KA2 Beneficiary institutions of ongoing Erasmus+ projects are encouraged and supported to **reallocate part of their project funds to adapt or refocus activities** supporting the education challenges related to the refugee crisis.

# Mobility in practical terms

- HEIs with ongoing Erasmus+ projects will be able to
  - **host students and recent graduates** from Ukrainian HEIs for a study or traineeship period, or
  - **host teachers/staff** from Ukrainian HEIs to carry out teaching or receiving training or **staff** from Ukrainian organisations that are not HEIs.
- The newly opened activities will be available for all who were enrolled, had graduated or were working in an HEI at the time of fleeing Ukraine.

# Mobility from Ukraine to Programme Countries


- Incoming mobility activities can be fully **organised by the receiving HEI**, considering that HEI from Ukraine may have severe difficulties to provide support or sign agreements.
- Ukrainian participants can receive **grants** to contribute to their **travel, accommodation and subsistence costs**, while the hosting HEI can receive organisational support to organise their mobility and provide support to them.
- Receiving HEI are encouraged to **facilitate** the processes of application, selection, enrolment and integration of the participants.


Thank you for your attention!





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**2021-2027**

Erasmus+