

## The Impact of the Erasmus+ Programme in Europe Elena Maddalena, Italian NA Erasmus+ INDIRE

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## The **EraSmuS** Impact Study



Effects of mobility on the skills and employability of students and the internationalisation of higher education institutions



In September 2014 the European Commission published the Impact Study dedicated to Erasmus and the effects of mobility:

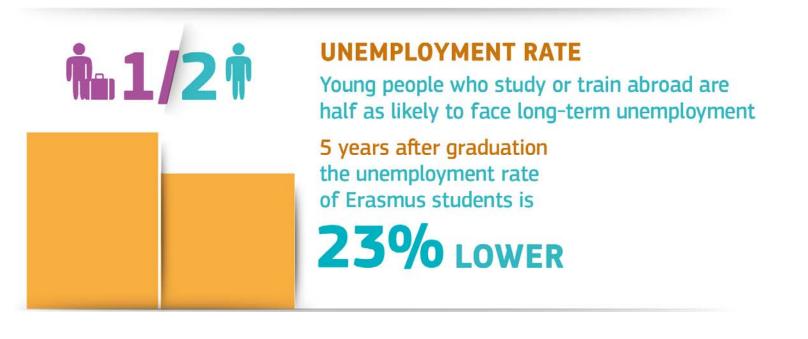
It confirms EU student exchange scheme boosts employability and job mobility



## EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ERASMUS STUDENTS

# **MORE THAN 85%**

of Erasmus students study or train abroad to enhance their employability abroad



**EM4** Young people who study or train abroad not only gain knowledge in specific disciplines, but also strengthen key transversal skills which are highly valued by employers. A new study on the impact of the European Union's Erasmus student exchange programme shows that graduates with international experience fare much better on the job market. They are half as likely to experience long-term unemployment compared with those who have not studied or trained abroad and, five years after graduation, their unemployment rate is 23% lower. The study, compiled by independent experts, is the largest of its kind and received feedback from nearly 80 000 respondents including students and businesses.

#### **EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT**



EM6

**EM6** The new study shows that 92% of employers are looking for personality traits boosted by the programme such as tolerance, confidence, problem-solving skills, curiosity, knowing one's strengths/weaknesses, and decisiveness when making a recruitment decision. Tests before and after exchange periods abroad reveal that Erasmus students show higher values for these personality traits, even before their exchange starts; by the time they come back, the difference in these values increases by 42% on average, compared with other students. Elena Maddalena; 08/06/2015

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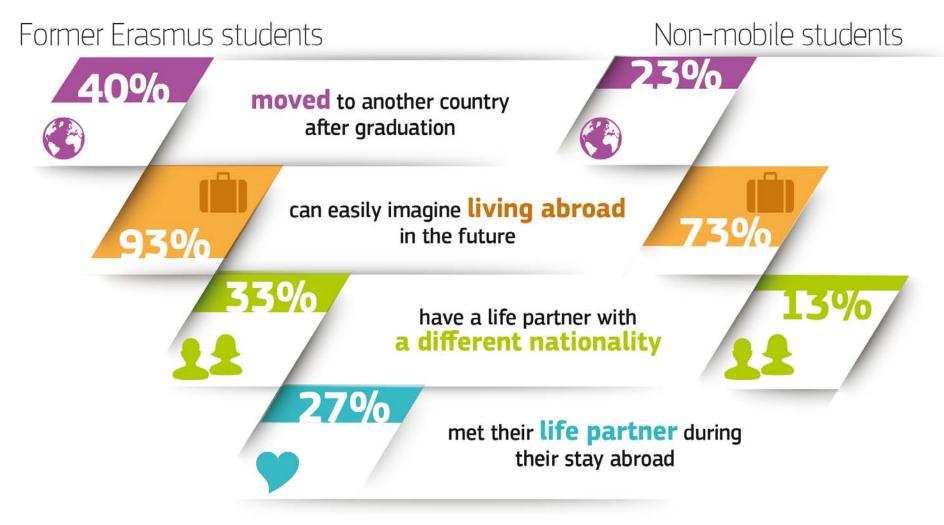
### WORK PLACEMENT

Almost 1 in 10 Erasmus trainces who did work placements have started **their own company** and **3 out of 4** plan to or can envisage to do so

> More than 1 in 3 Erasmus trainees were offered a position at their host company

**EM7** Students benefitting from Erasmus funding can choose to study or take up a traineeship abroad. The report reveals that more than one in three Erasmus trainees is offered a position at the enterprise where they do their traineeship. Erasmus trainees are also more entrepreneurial than their stay-at-home counterparts: 1 in 10 has started their own company and more than 3 out of 4 plan to, or can imagine doing so. They can also expect faster career advancement; staff with international experience are given greater professional responsibility according to 64% of employers.

#### **INTERNATIONAL LIFE**

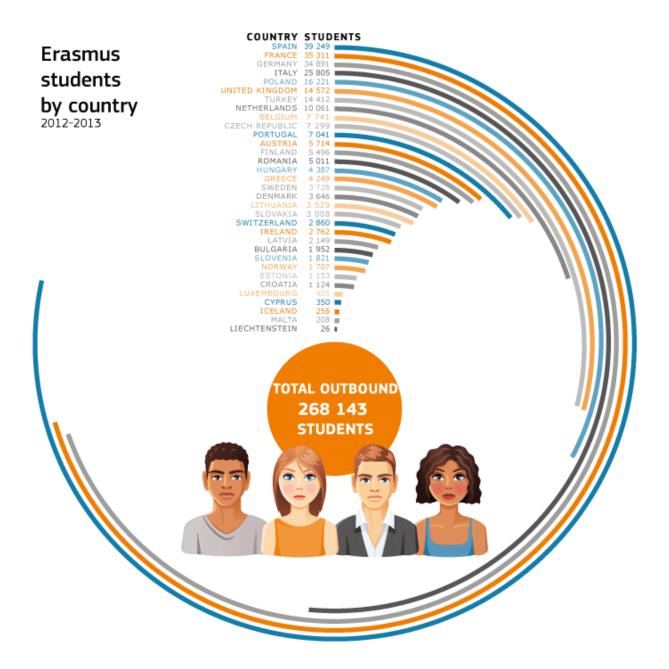


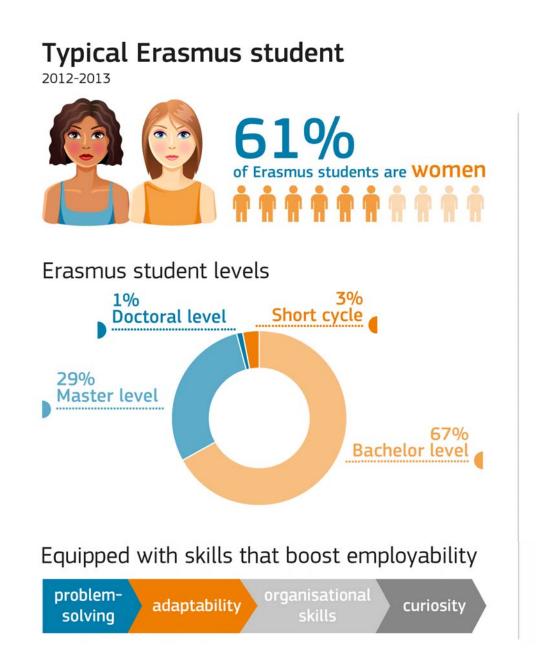
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**EM5** Erasmus not only improves career prospects, it also offers students broader horizons and social links. 40% have changed their country of residence or work at least once since graduation, almost double the number of those who were not mobile during studies. While 93% of students with international experience can imagine living abroad in the future, this is the case for only 73% of those who stay in the same country during their studies.

Former Erasmus students are also more likely to have transnational relationships: 33% of former Erasmus students have a partner of a different nationality, compared with 13% of those who stay home during their studies; 27% of Erasmus students meet their long-term partner while on Erasmus. On this basis, the Commission estimates that around one million babies are likely to have been born to Erasmus couples since 1987.

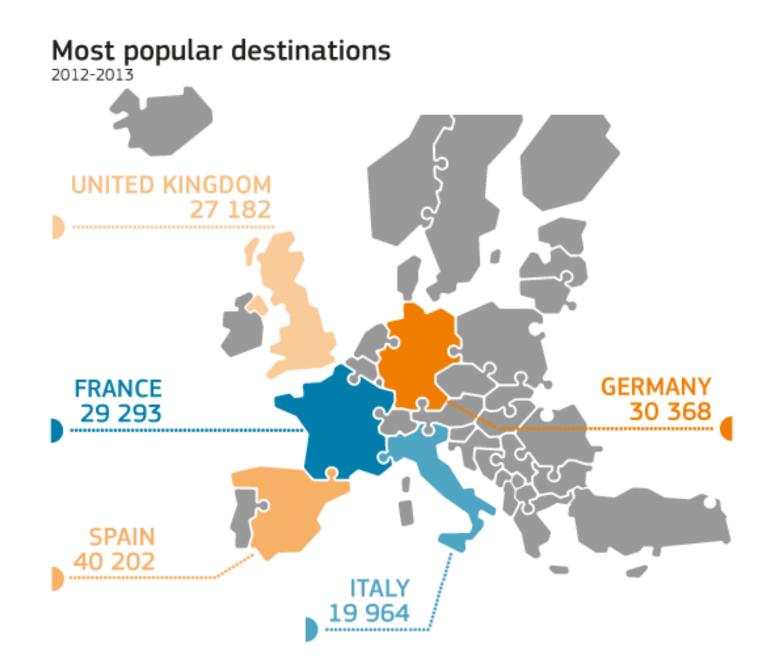
The new Erasmus+ programme will provide opportunities to go abroad for 4 million people, including 2 million higher education students and 300 000 higher education staff in the next seven years (2014-2020). In addition, the programme will fund 135 000 student and staff exchanges involving non-European partner countries. Erasmus+ will be even more accessible thanks to increased linguistic support, more flexible rules and additional support for people with special needs, from disadvantaged backgrounds or from remote areas. Elena Maddalena: 08/06/2015















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