



ERASMUS AT 20

- Past achievements, future perspectives -

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Overview

- **Where we are: the EU and higher education in 2007**
- **Where we have come from: Erasmus achievements**
- **Where we are going: challenges for the next phase**



EU & higher education 2007

- **LLP launch: larger budget, new actions, Erasmus stronger**
- **Erasmus Mundus: ambitious proposal for next phase**
- **New agreements with USA (Atlantis) and Canada**
- **New International Cooperation Instrument (industr.countries)**
- **EuropAid cooperation programme linked to Erasmus Mundus**
- **Tempus : future secure after uncertainty: new call 2007**
- **EduLink and Nyerere**
- **Global Promotion Project: promoting Europe worldwide**
- **European Institute of Technology**
- **Bologna Ministerial**



Erasmus – Quantitative developments

- > 3100 higher education institutions with Erasmus Charter (>90% of European HEI involved in the programme)
- Budget 100x 1987, 1000x 1977
- 1.7 million students, 2 mio by 2008, 3 mio by 2012
- >150,000 and 23,000 staff annually mobile
- Germany:
 - *Nearly 240,000 students since programme started*
 - *Growth in 19 of the 20 programme years*
 - *Slight imbalance in flows out/in, but 3rd receiver EU-wide*
 - *Strong complementary funding, excellent publications*
 - *Very balanced teacher mobility (largest sender and receiver)*
- Both student and staff mobility rose every year under Socrates-Erasmus (2000-2006) in total
- Strong growth rates in new Member States partly conceal stagnation and decline in mobility in some 'older' MS



Erasmus – qualitative aspects & impacts



- **Personal**
- **Institutional**
- **Systemic**
- **Societal**



Impacts on participants

- **Expansion has not been at the cost of quality (90% positive; level of recognition maintained)**
- **Stable socio-economic profile**
- **Academic learning impacts often underestimated**
- **Personal development (« Auberge espagnole »)**
- **Cross-cultural and foreign language competence**
- **General competences (coping, adaptability...)**
- **Professional impacts (more international jobs, though not necessarily better salaries)**
- **Personal lives (1/6 have foreign partner, 50% of these in Erasmus host country)**
- **Teaching staff: professional and personal impacts**



Institutional impacts

- Professionalisation of international services
- More stimulating learning environment through Europeanised campus?
- Improved academic content (CD, IP, TS)
- Staff development (increased knowledge, improved teaching methods, enhanced motivation)
- International networking and research collaboration



Systemic and societal impacts

- **Evaluation found little evidence of direct legislative impact or effects on national policy**
- **But strong indirect impact via European processes such as Bologna**
- **Erasmus : helping to create the European society**
- **Links between peoples; Europe & the citizen**



Erasmus – some future challenges



- Further quantitative expansion
- First major structural overhaul for several years
- Student mobility: focus on quality
- More strategic focus within the LLP objectives



Erasmus challenges (1)

- quantitative expansion

- **More people**
- **Better and less widely varying grants**
- **Improving the balance of flows**
- **Re-boosting interest in some older Member States**
- **Vigilance with regard to the impact of « Bologna »**



Erasmus challenges (2) – implementing changes



– **First major structural overhaul for several years:**

- **Implementation of new actions:**
 - Placements
 - Staff training
 - Links with enterprise
 - Modernisation projects
- **Further decentralisation**
 - Intensive Programmes



Erasmus challenges (3) – quality of student mobility

- **Emphasis on quality (academic and logistic)**
- **Monitoring compliance with the Charter**
- **ECTS: re-launching the label**
- **Erasmus Alumni Association**



Erasmus challenges (4) – strategic tool for modernisation

- **Unlocking the potential of teaching staff mobility**
- **Revitalising the ‘core’ centralised actions (CD, IP, TN)**
- **Strategic use of the networks**
- **Developing the new centralised actions**
 - *Modernisation*
 - *HE-Enterprise cooperation*
 - *Virtual campuses*
- **Monitoring impact on reform (including new role for Commission and NA)**
- **Strengthening Erasmus’ contribution to LLL**
- **Strengthening interaction within LLP and with other progs**
- **Re-stimulating multilateral academic cooperation in Europe**



University reform - Diagnosis



- **Diagnosis: European higher education of good quality, but systems underperforming in some respects:**
 - not enough students relative to the age group
 - adult population under-educated relative to the increasing qualifications requirements of the labour market
 - systems fragmented

- **Reform areas: Curricula, funding, governance**

- **Overall objective: Lifelong Learning**

- **2006 Communication : 9 key messages for reform**



University reform



- Ensuring real *autonomy* and *accountability* for universities
- Enabling universities to attract the best academics and researchers and providing staff with attractive career prospects
- Providing incentives for structured partnerships with business community
- Reforming curricula to provide the right mix of skills and competencies for the labour market



University reform



- **Embracing the challenges and opportunities presented by lifelong learning**
- **Enhancing inter-disciplinarity**
- **Sharing knowledge with society and reinforcing the dialogue with all stakeholders**
- **Reducing the funding gap on HE between Europe and its major world competitors (1.1% comp. w. 2.6% USA, though public funding level similar)**



Lifelong learning programme: modernisation and reform



- **LLP : 11 overarching objectives (Art.3)**
- **Erasmus: 2 specific programme objectives (Art.21.1)**
- **Erasmus: 6 operational objectives (Art.21.2)**



LLP(-Erasmus) – overarching programme objectives



- Quality, performance, innovation, European dimension in LLL
- European area of LLL
- Quality, attractiveness and accessibility of LLL
- LL contribution to cohesion, citizenship, inter-cultural dialogues, gender equality, personal fulfilment
- Creativity, competitiveness, employab., entrepreneurial spirit
- Increased participation for all ages and irrepective of special needs, disadvantage, socio economic background
- Language learning and linguistic diversity
- Innovative ICT-dimension of LLL
- European citizenship, human rights, democracy, tolerance
- Quality assurance
- Optimal utilisation of results and sharing of good practice



LLP – Erasmus-specific objectives



- **Erasmus: specific programme objectives**
 - Support achievement of a European Area of HE
 - Reinforce HE and advanced VET contribution to innovation

- **Erasmus operational objectives**
 - Student and staff mobility (quality + volume)
 - Multilateral cooperation (quality + volume)
 - Qualifications: Improve transparency and make HE – advanced VET qualifications more compatible
 - HE-enterprise cooperation (quality + volume)
 - Development and transfer of innovation
 - ICT



LLP – Erasmus-actions



- **Mobility**
 - **Students**
 - **Staff**
 - **Intensive programmes**

- **Centralised actions**
 - **Modernisation**
 - **Curriculum development**
 - **HE-enterprise cooperation**
 - **Virtual campuses**
 - **Thematic networks**

