



European
Commission



Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus Mundus Programme Implementation in the Context of COVID-19

Trends between the Academic years 2020 - 2021
and 2021 - 2022

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The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the Erasmus Mundus programme and participating Higher Education Institutions, students and scholars. In this context, the European Commission and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) put in place several supporting measures. The objective was to provide a coordinated and consistent operating framework for Erasmus Mundus consortia, to minimise disruptions of mobility and activities, and to apply a flexible approach for programme management under these force majeure circumstances.

The supporting measures included three surveys carried out by EACEA in May and October 2020 and in October 2021 in order to gather quantitative and qualitative data from Erasmus Mundus consortia on the impact of the sanitary crisis on the programmes and the students. The first survey (May 2020) on “Erasmus Mundus Programme Implementation in the Context of COVID-19” addressed 176 EMJMD consortia selected between 2015 and 2019. The results of this survey were published in a [report](#), which summarises the experiences, difficulties, solutions and good practices in the context of COVID-19, shared by the Erasmus Mundus consortia. Despite the many difficulties, consortia reacted by adopting innovative solutions and ensuring the continuation of the master courses. Through the second survey (October 2020 – 164 EMJMD consortia), quantitative data was collected on the scenarios finally implemented by the consortia during the academic year 2020-2021 as well as the situation of the students (see [factsheet](#) published in May 2021). The third survey (October 2021) gathered similar data for the academic year 2021-2022 and the impact of COVID-19 on EMJMD students. The survey addressed 163 EMJMD consortia selected between 2017-2020.

The purpose of this factsheet is to show the evolution of the scenarios implemented by EMJMD consortia and of the impact of the sanitary crisis on the students from the academic year 2020-2021 to 2021-2022.

The results of this third survey once more confirm the project consortias’ capacity to overcome the obstacles imposed in the COVID-19 context and to reach their initial objectives.

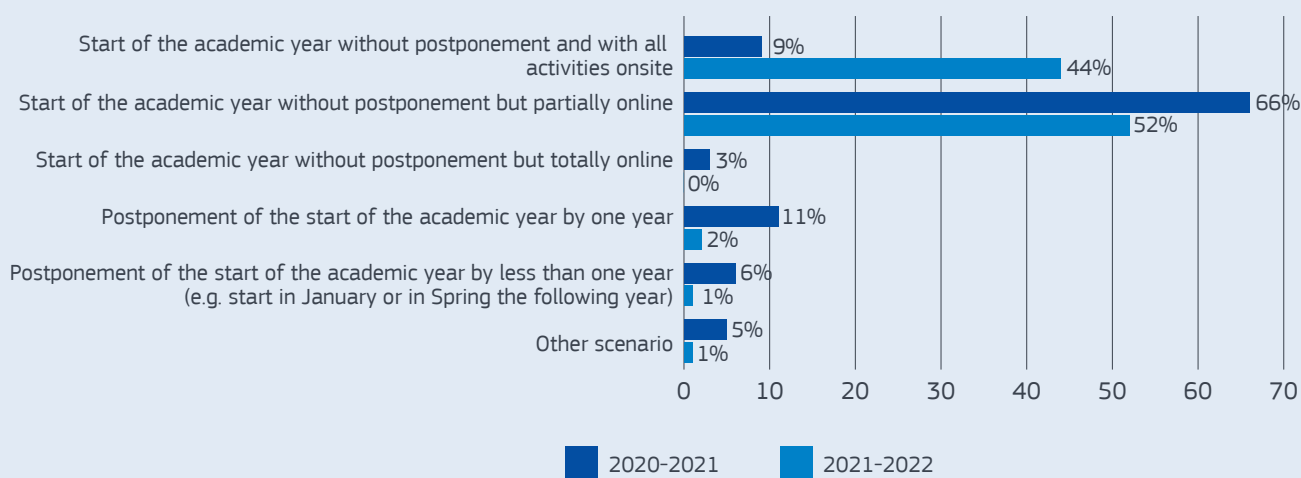


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Evolution of the scenarios implemented by EMJMD consortia (academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022)

In the October 2020 and October 2021 surveys, EMJMD consortia were asked to indicate which scenarios they implemented for the academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 respectively. The comparison of the results of both surveys shows that the consortia are moving towards scenarios closer to the pre-pandemic period. While 44% of the consortia were able to start the academic year 2021-2022 without postponement and with all activities onsite, only 9% had been able to do so for the academic year 2020-2021. Moreover, while none of the respondents indicated that they started the academic year 2021-2022 with all activities online, 3% had selected this option for the academic year 2020-2021. Furthermore, only 3% of consortia indicated that they had to postpone the academic year 2021-2022, while 17% replied that they had to delay the start of the academic year 2020-2021.

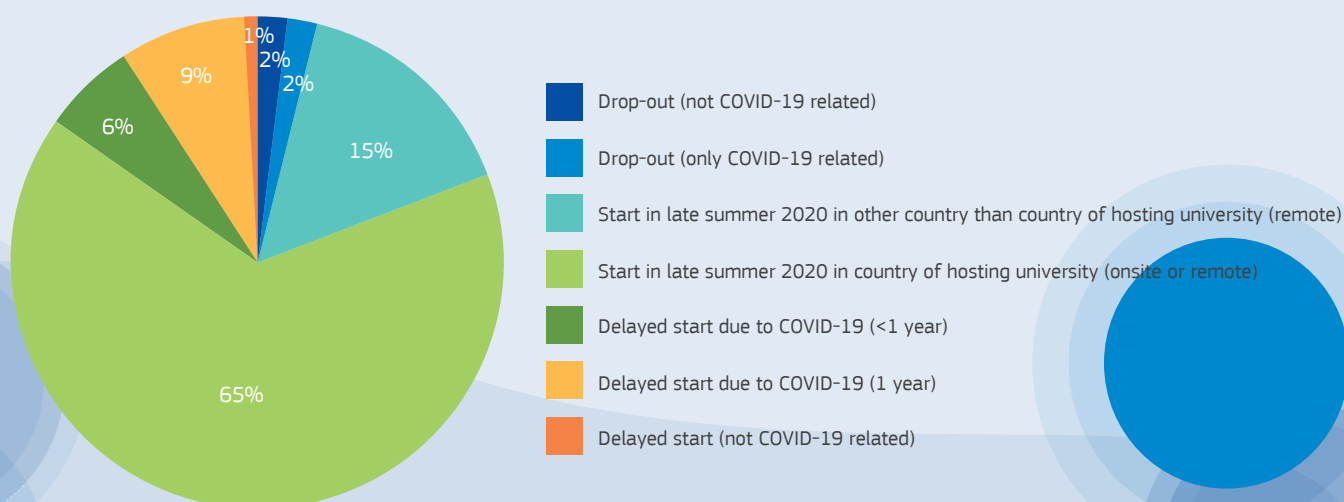
Figure 1: Scenarios implemented by EMJMD consortia (academic year 2020/2021 vs. 2021/2022)



Data from the October 2020 and October 2021 surveys (128 and 100 respondents respectively)

Impact on the students

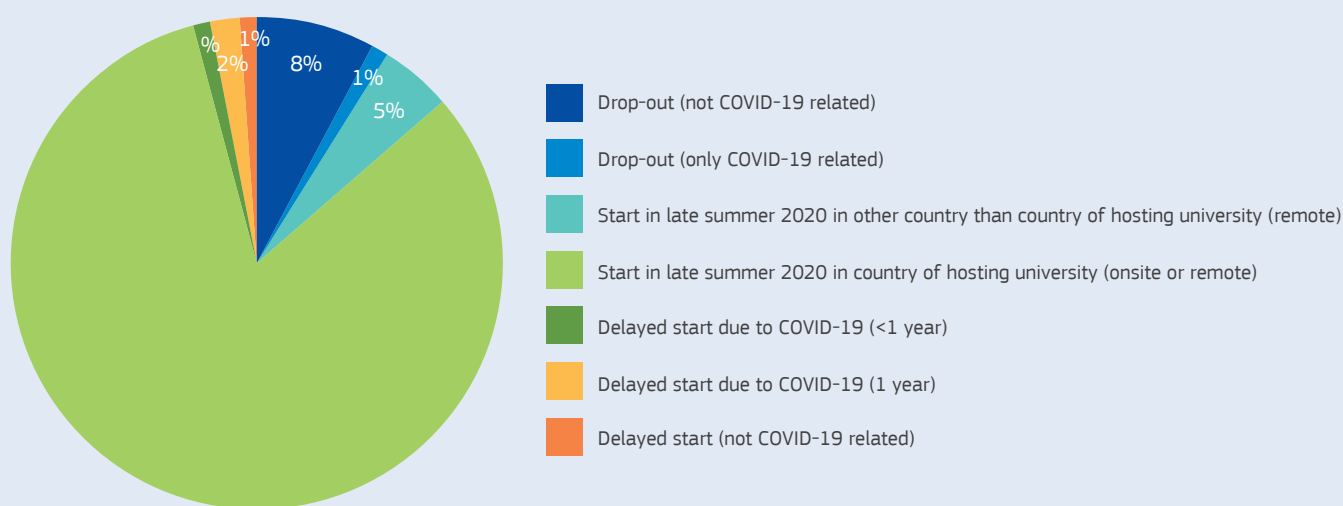
Figure 2: COVID-19 impact on EMJMD students - Start of the academic year 2020/2021



Data from Follow-up-survey - October 2020
>5800 students (scholarship and non-scholarship holders)

The survey results show that the impact of the sanitary crisis on the student population has decreased from one intake to the next. While 65% of the students could start the academic year 2020-2021 without postponement in the country of the hosting university, this percentage grew to 83% in the following year. Moreover, if in 2020 15% of the students could start the academic year on time but remotely from another country, only 5% could not start their studies onsite in 2021. It is also interesting to note that while 15% of the students had to delay the start of their courses in 2020, only 3% postponed their courses in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Figure 3: Situation of students - Starts of academic year 2021/2022



Data from the October 2021
>4884 students (scholarship and non-scholarship holders)

Although the return to a pre-pandemic situation will highly depend on further developments of the sanitary situation, the results of this October 2021 survey are reassuring and show concrete signs of a positive evolution. Moreover, the survey once again confirms the huge commitment of the EMJMD consortia to support their students and to ensure the continuation of the courses. The data on the situation of the students reflect their strong motivation and resilience despite the difficulties encountered.