Social Inclusion & Engagement in Mobility

SiEM
Social Inclusion &
Engagement in Mobility

Un café avec Erasmus+ by AEF EUROPE

7th of December, 2021

SIEM
Project

More opportunities in life for young people from disadvantaged background by increasing their participation in the Erasmus+ programme.

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Widening participation of less advantaged and underrepresented groups

Increase the **interaction** between International students and **local communities of underrepresented groups** in order to increase intercultural exchange and visibility of international student mobility.
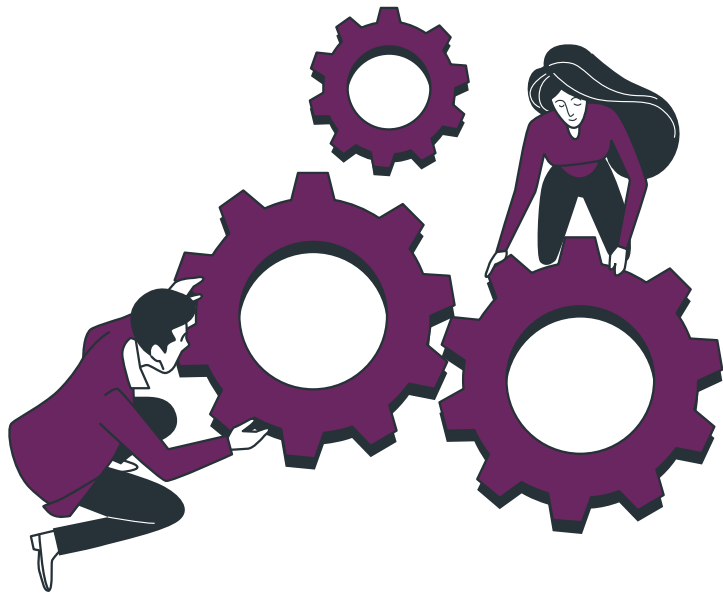
Making the Erasmus+ programme more **inclusive**

SiEM Project partners

Diverse partnership

European networks, & Universities, National Student Organisations

Cross sectoral collaboration

higher education, inclusion organisations & youth work

Inclusion in Erasmus+ 2021 -2027

Inclusion as a KEY transversal principle in the programme

- **Inclusion Framework:** translating the legal base into a framework of instruments that are measurable.

- **Inclusion and Diversity strategy** :
  - Unified strategy that aims to create a shared structure for implementation across the Erasmus+ programme.

- **National Inclusion Action Plans**
  - Each National Agency will have too create a National Action plan
  - These will be yearly updated and monitored by the EC
  - First elaborate version expected by end of 2021
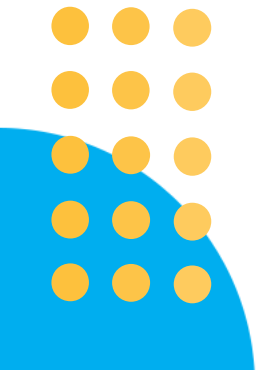
- **Central in Projects & Monitoring**

Changing narratives

Programme 2014 - 2020

- Social Inclusion

- Disadvantaged students

- 7 categories

Programme 2021 -2027

- Inclusion & Diversity

- Students with fewer opportunities

- 8 barriers highlighted

Erasmus+ mobility by disadvantage status

Economic obstacles	9%
Cultural differences	5%
Social obstacles	4%
Geographical obstacles	3%
Health problems	3%
Educational difficulties	2%
Disability	1%

Between 2014 and 2018, two million students and staff in higher education undertook a learning, training or teaching period abroad with the new Erasmus+ programme

Source: Erasmus+ Higher Education Impact Study

"Maybe it will be different abroad"

Key results of the research report

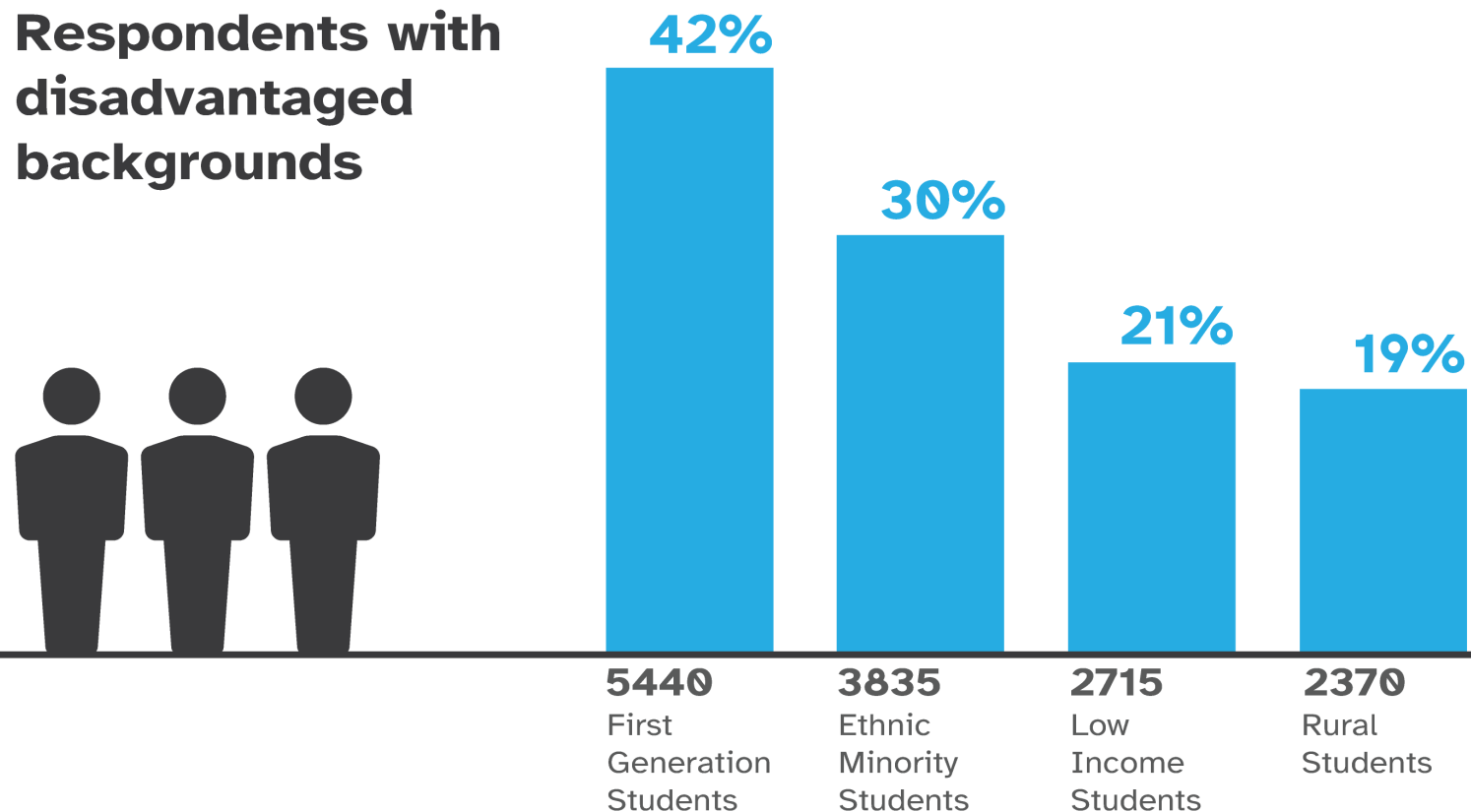Student and Staff Perspectives on Diversity and Inclusion in student exchanges
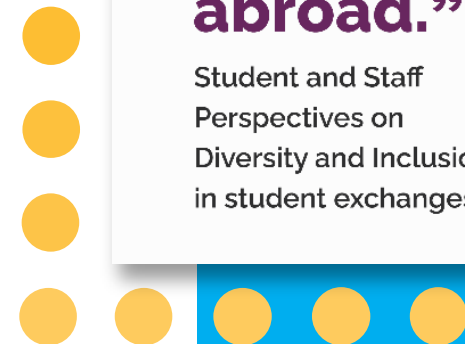
Methodology

- **Student survey**
  (12,820 responses)

- **Staff survey**
  (786 responses)

- **Focus Groups**
  6 focus groups with 36 students in 4 countries

- **Study visits**
  6 institutions
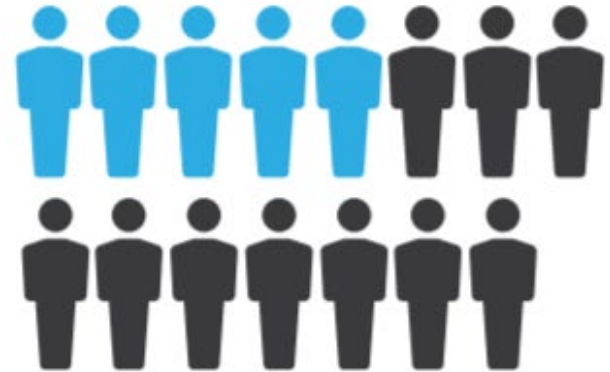
Mobility strategy

93%
of staff survey respondents said their institutions' **strategic plans include outgoing mobility**.

1/3
included reference to **disadvantaged groups** in their strategy.

Two thirds of institutions reportedly have a "Diversity and Inclusion Strategy   "

Response	All	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Yes	67%	93%	69%	39%
No	30%	1%	28%	58%
Total	765	65	500	105

Q. Does the institution have a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy?

Group 1 - Programme countries with higher living costs (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Sweden, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Norway)

Group 2 - Programme countries with medium living costs (Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Netherlands, Malta, Portugal)

Group 3 - Programme countries with lower living costs (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Turkey)

"The bureaucracy : the pile of information raises even more questions."

"Lots of forms and papers to fill, the information was structured badly..."

- student quote

Administrative barriers make the process difficult to follow

Access to Financial support

82%

of students reported advancing initial costs to be a barrier to participate in mobility.

"I am someone who has to combine five jobs to pay for my room and studies."

"I have to spend everything I earn immediately. Saving for Erasmus is therefore extremely difficult."

- student quote

Finance continues to be a major barrier to students accessing mobility programmes, and this barrier is compounded for students from less advantaged backgrounds.
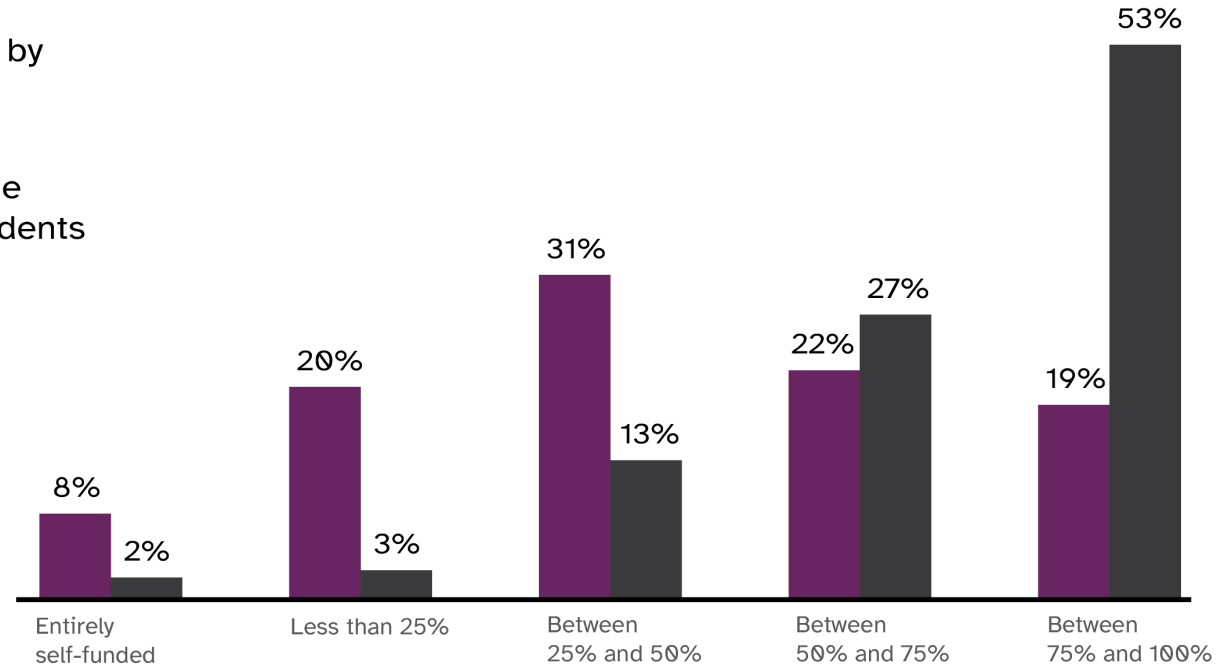
Financial support offered versus needed

Actual grant coverage by mobile respondents

Needed grant coverage by non-mobile respondents

Category	Actual	Needed
Entirely self-funded	8%	2%
Less than 25%	20%	3%
Between 25% and 50%	31%	13%
Between 50% and 75%	22%	27%
Between 75% and 100%	19%	53%

59% received less than 50% financial support

80% indicated they would need more than 50% financial support

According to the Erasmus+ Annual report 2017, only 7% of students from disadvantaged backgrounds received an additional top-up, while according to the answers from the staff survey (research), 25% of universities offer targeted support for students from low-income households.

Student impressions: Inclusion & Equality of international students

76%
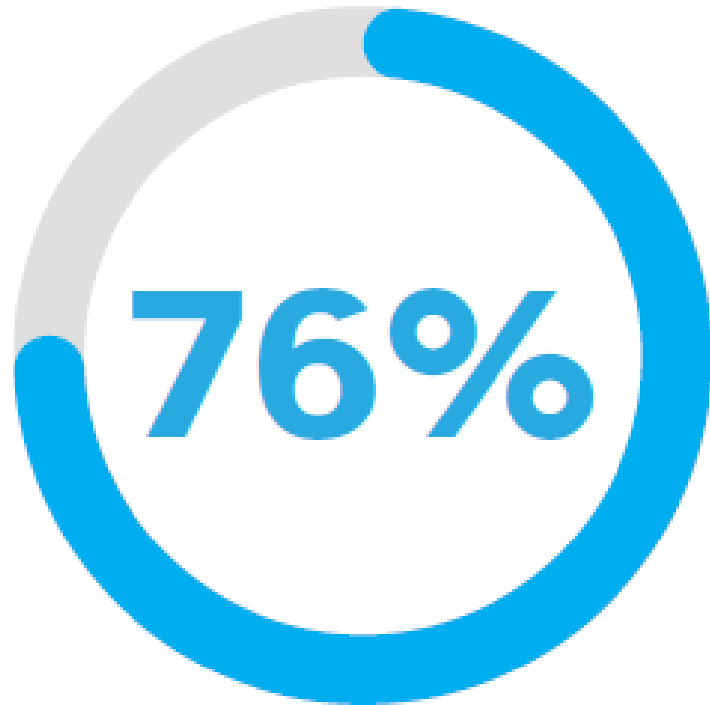
had **positive** experiences while abroad.

24% reported experiencing some form of discrimination while abroad on a mobility programmecompared to home students.

10% of students felt that they were treated differently or unfairly at their host university

15% felt that they did not have equal access to resources and opportunities compared to home students.

16% experienced discrimination based on nationality

6% reported experiencing discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity
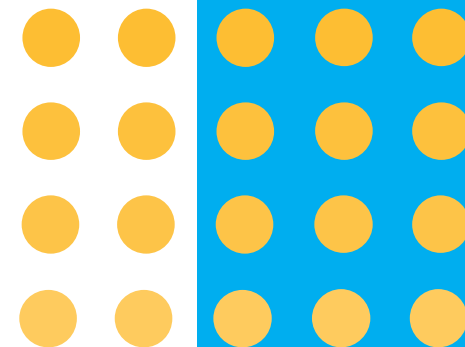
5% Reported experiencing discrimination on the basis of gender

Recommendations

Highlighted key recommendations for institutions.

Define 'fewer opportunities'

How to define which students within the local reality of your institution. **Discuss** them with your **National Agency** for the definitions in **National Action** plans.

Higher Education Institutions
& International Student   Organisations

- Is there local research available that analyses local realities? Check with the local city's youth department.
- Check with the registration / student services department; they might know the profiles better.
- Discuss with students directly : engage your local student councils / organize focus groups
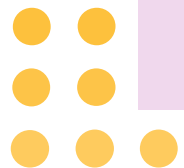
Diversify programme offer

Offer different types of mobility programmes across study, work and volunteer opportunities that will appeal to different student groups.
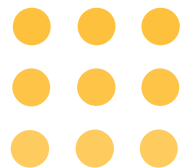
European Commission

- Ensure short term mobilities are embedded in the internationalisation strategy.

National Agencies

- Ensure short term mobilities are embedded in the internationalisation strategy

Higher Education Institutions

- Offer different mobility programmes with a variety of durations.

Encourage student engagement

Collect student input

Collaborate with student groups at your institution, as well as mobility alumni to improve the programmes on offer.

- Include students in the strategy development
- Structural support for students

## peer to peer initiatives

Connect mobile students with local students to help students navigate the new institution or organisation, as well as the local area.

- Support peer to peer initiatives
  - Organise buddy and ambassador systems
  - Organise community engagement initiatives

Safe space to signal concerns

Create a safe space where the student can discuss their fears without judgement, and if needed seek specialist advice to respond to the students' queries.

- Clear com. channels and reference persons
- Organise feedback sessions
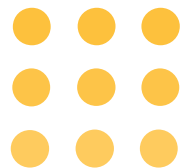
Provide support for students

Contacts

Assign students a key contact, both at the home institution and the host institution . Any support given to students should be provided in English or a shared language.

- Ensure that services are accessible and equal treatment is guaranteed.

Finances

provide structured funding in the form of grants and scholarships to support study, work or volunteering abroad opportunities.

- Ensure transparent procedures and info (cost of living abroad, work opportunities
- Apply top-up for fewer opportunity students

Develop Crisis plan

Prepare to support students in an emergency, signpost transparent procedures and contact points in case negative experiences do happen.

- Ensure crisis plans take into account internationals
- Signpost procedures and contact point
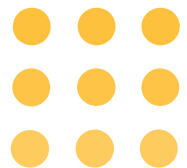
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Guidelines for Inclusive Mobility Promotion

Supporting in- and outbound
student mobility

Guidelines for Inclusive Mobility Promotion

Handbook developed for International Relations Offices working with in- and outbound student mobility, primarily within the Erasmus+ programme.

The Guidelines focus on how to make your **mobility promotion** more **inclusive** and **reach more students.**
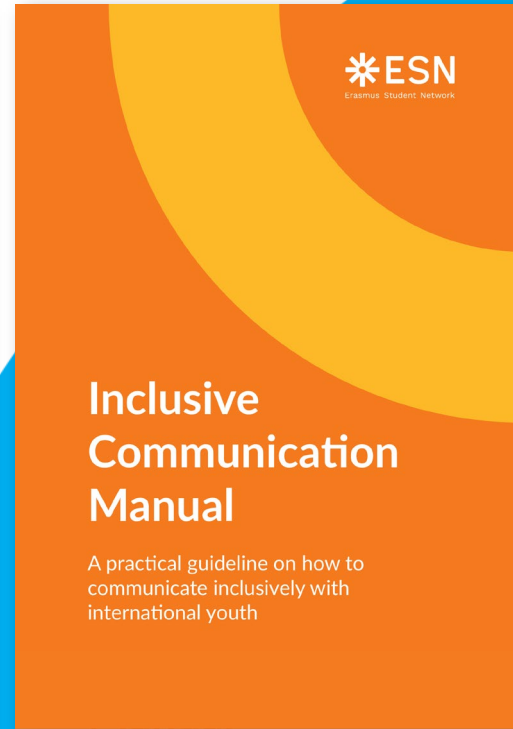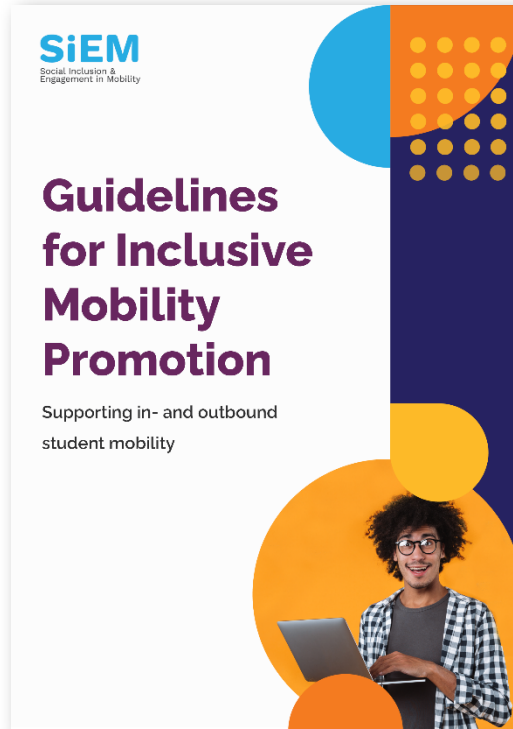
ESN
Erasmus Student Network

Inclusive Communication Manual

A practical guideline on how to communicate inclusively with international youth

Inclusive Communication Manual

A practical guideline on how to communicate inclusively with international youth for written, spoken and visual communication.

This manual focus on how to make general **communication** more **inclusive** .
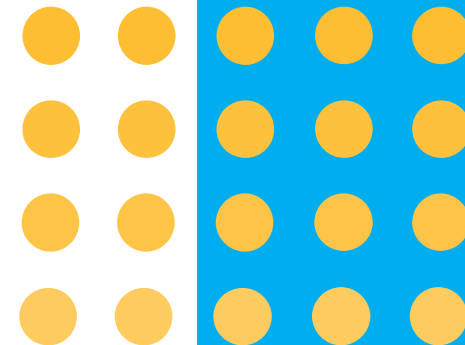
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"**Maybe
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Student and Staff
Perspectives on
Diversity and Inclusion
in student exchanges

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**Guidelines
for Inclusive
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Supporting in- and outbound

student mobility

✳ESN
Erasmus Student Network

**Inclusive
Communication
Manual**

A practical guideline on how to
communicate inclusively with
international youth

Find our publications on
siem-project.eu/ research

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Please refer to the research report as:
Allinson K., Gabriels W.,(2021). Maybe it will be different abroad; student and staff perspectives on diversity and inclusion in student exchanges. SIEM Research Report, siem - project.eu

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