

ESNsurvey XV: Making Quality Mobility a Reality for all

The latest edition of the most important research project in student mobility is here!



ESN survey

29th of May 2023

**22.000 answers to transform
mobility programmes and help the
Erasmus Generation**



ESNSURVEY XV IS OUT!

Europe's largest student-led survey focusing on student exchanges and Erasmus+.

[TAKE ME TO THE SURVEY!](#)

esnsurvey.org/survey
Open until the 31st of July

The most important student led research initiative focusing on student mobility and the Erasmus+ programme



Practically speaking:

- **A 20 minutes survey open to exchange students, degree seeking international students and students who have not been on mobility yet.**
- **The survey analyses different parts of their experiences and perceptions of international education, mobility and much more.**

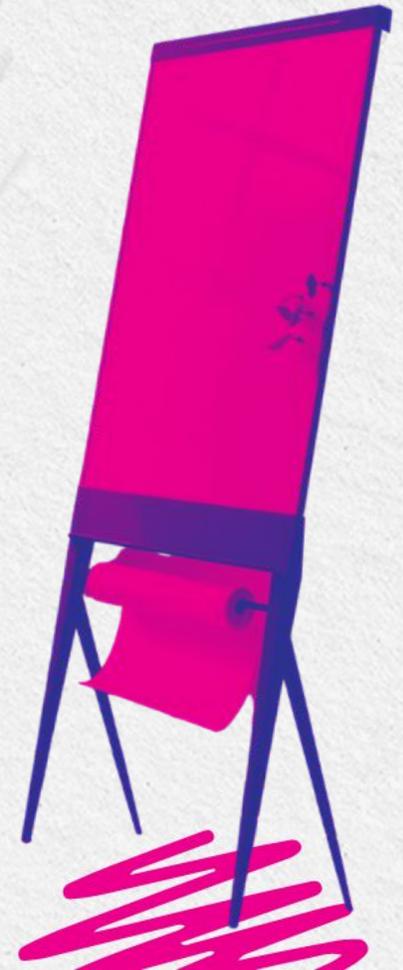


Two decades supporting the improvement of mobility programmes

- The **ESNsurvey** was first launched in **2005**. Since then, it has collected more than **200.000** students answers in its **XV** editions.
- The survey collects **information about all aspects of the exchange student experience**, focusing on improving access and quality of mobilities.
- The ESNsurvey is **open to exchange students who have participated in any kind of mobility during the last two years**, and students who haven't been on mobility yet.

Why is the ESN survey so important?

And why we kindly asked you to support its dissemination?





Giving a voice to the Erasmus Generation and helping others

Through the ESNsurvey, all students interested in mobility can share their experiences, ideas and challenges, helping to improve internationalisation opportunities for all.





Monitoring the implementation of Erasmus+ from the student perspective (and other mobility programmes)

The ESNsurvey allows ESN to bring proposals to improve Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes to all actors involved

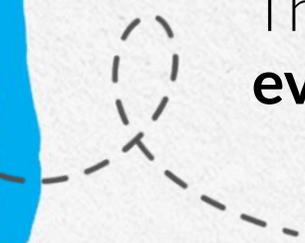


The 2023 Edition of the ESNsurvey was the first one analysing the Erasmus+ programme 2021/2027, as well as the first post-pandemic mobilities



The student perspective is more important than ever to ensure mobility matches the needs and challenges faced by students.

The **results** will **contribute directly to the Midterm evaluation** of the **Erasmus+ programme**



Assessing the perceptions and barriers faced by students who haven't gone on mobility yet

This edition provides direct insights on how students who have not gone on mobility perceive exchange opportunities, and what are the challenges they face to go abroad.



The three target groups of the ESNsurvey XV

1

Exchange students/trainees who have been abroad since August 2021

2

Full degree students/recent graduates

3

Non-mobile students currently enrolled in Higher Education



And we collected

1

17,855 answers from exchange students/trainees

2

1,856 answers from full-degree students

3

3,064 from non-mobile students



The success of this data collection effort can be attributed to the support of numerous stakeholders such as the European Commission, the European Parliament, National Agencies, Higher Education Institutions, Networks of Universities and European Alliances.

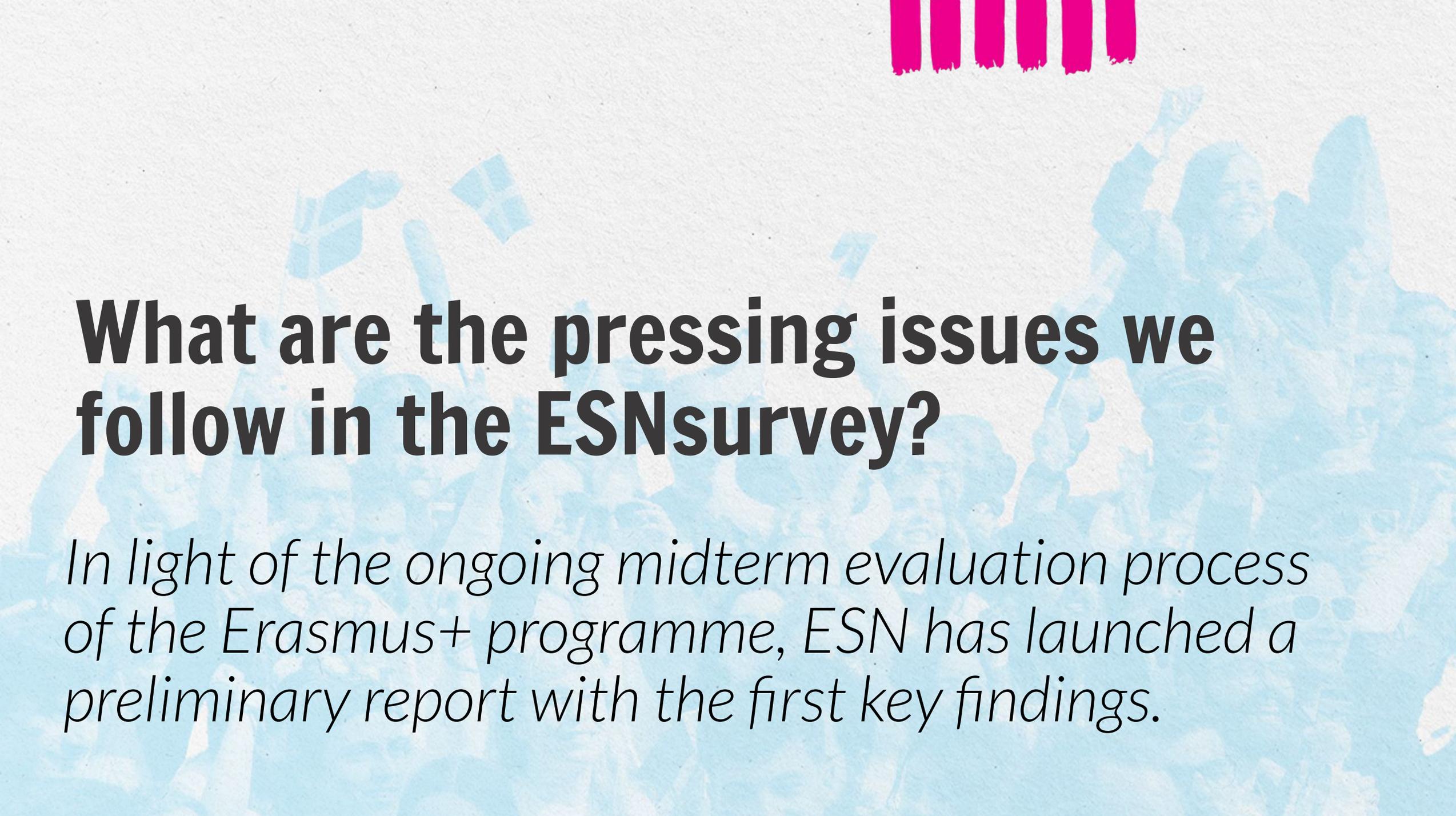




It all starts with listening

- **The ESNsurvey is not an isolated initiative.** It complements and reinforces the work of **ESN local sections supporting students** across 44 countries and especially 29 universities in Poland.
- Thanks to the daily support of ESN volunteers to mobile learners and their own experiences as students, ESN is able to identify trends that require special attention, and gather evidence through the ESNsurvey.



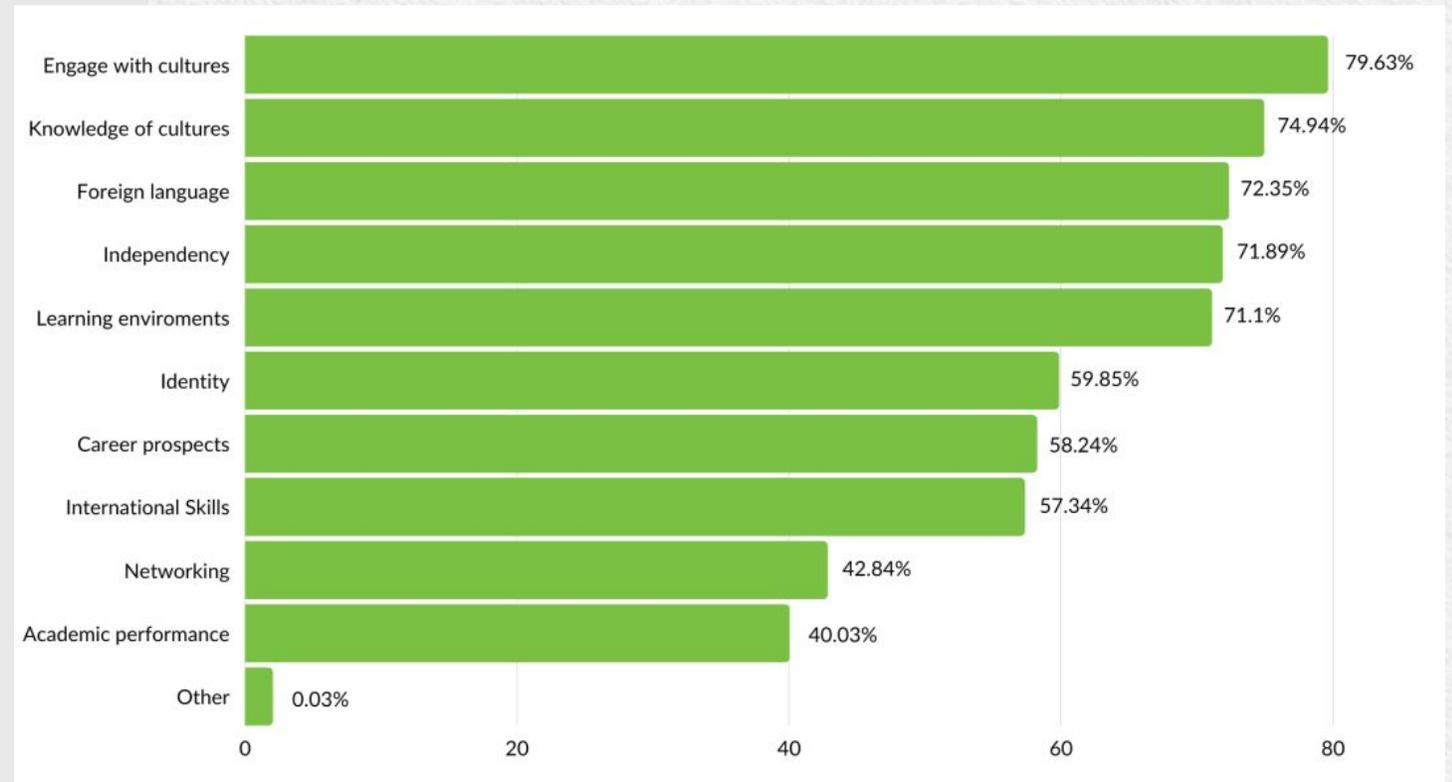


What are the pressing issues we follow in the ESNsurvey?

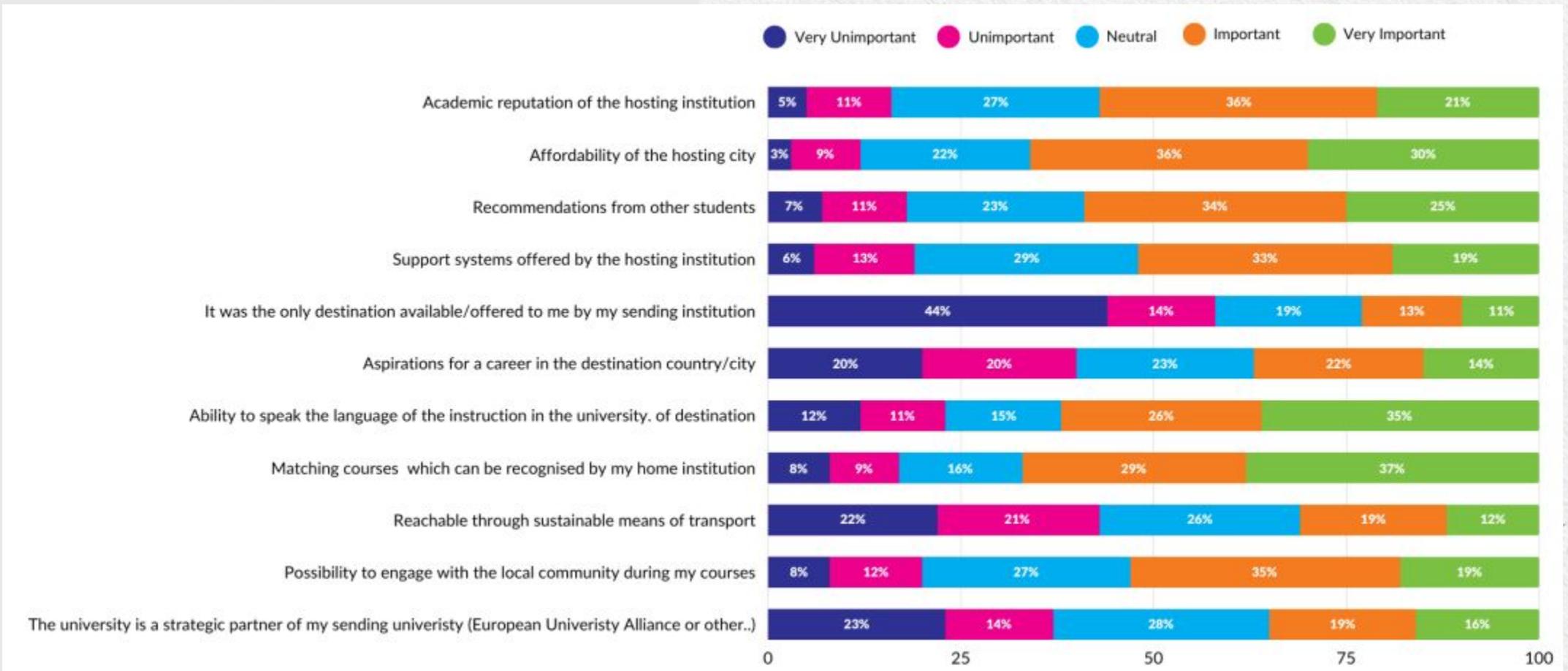
In light of the ongoing midterm evaluation process of the Erasmus+ programme, ESN has launched a preliminary report with the first key findings.

Engaging with people from different cultural backgrounds is the most common motivation for going on exchange

This factor is closely followed by **gaining knowledge of another culture** and learning/improving a foreign language.



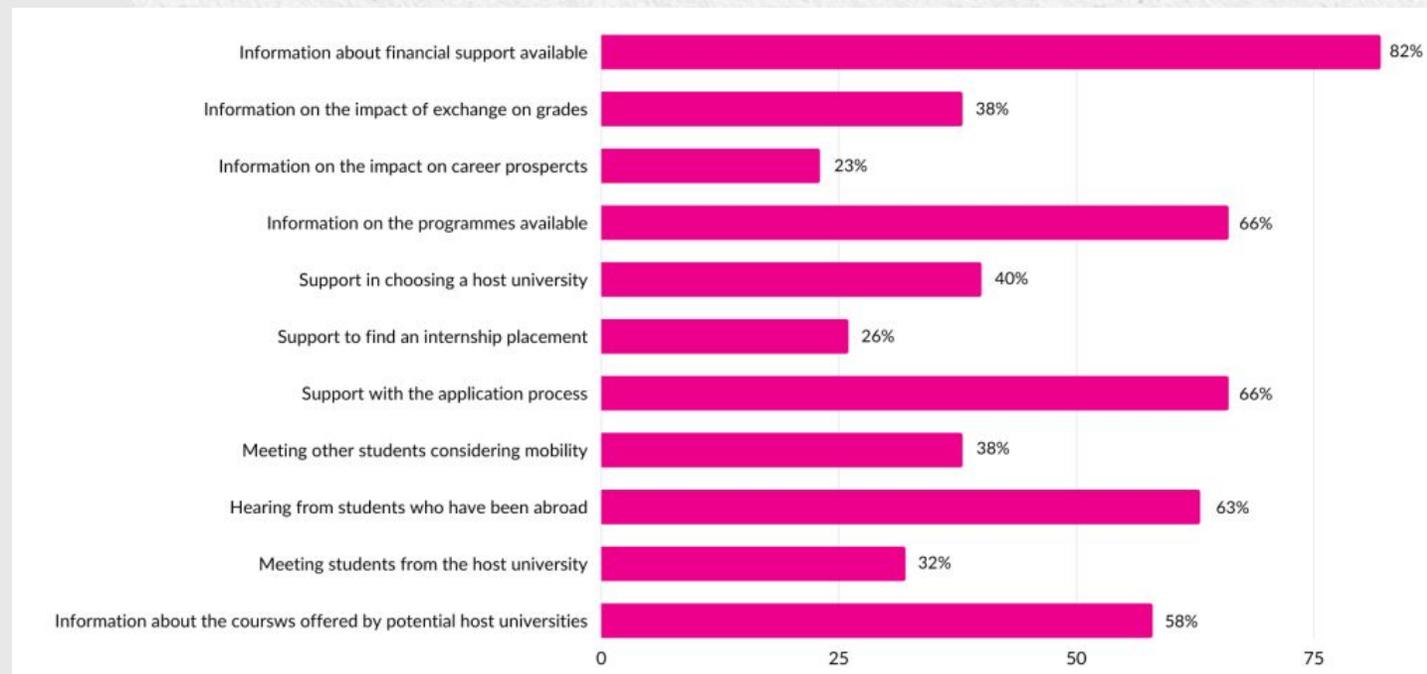
ESNsurvey XV: Motivations to go on exchange.



ESNsurvey XV: Factors influencing choice of mobility destination.

The highest priority was the need for information about available financial support

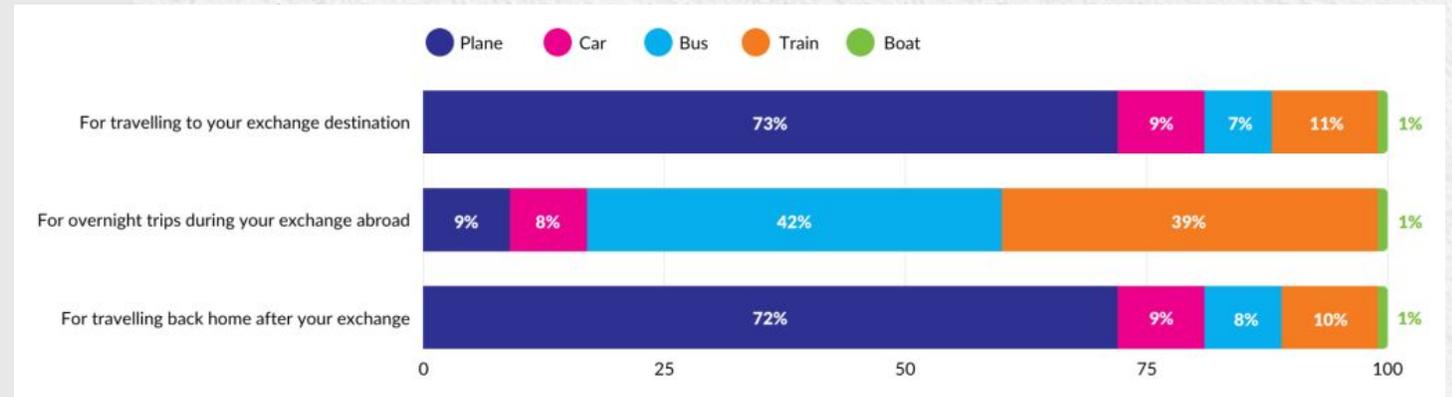
Peer-to-peer support is also highly valued, with more than half of participants desiring insights from former mobile students.



ESNsurvey XV: Student needs regarding pre-departure support.

The most preferred mode of transportation for travelling to and from the mobility destination is still the plane

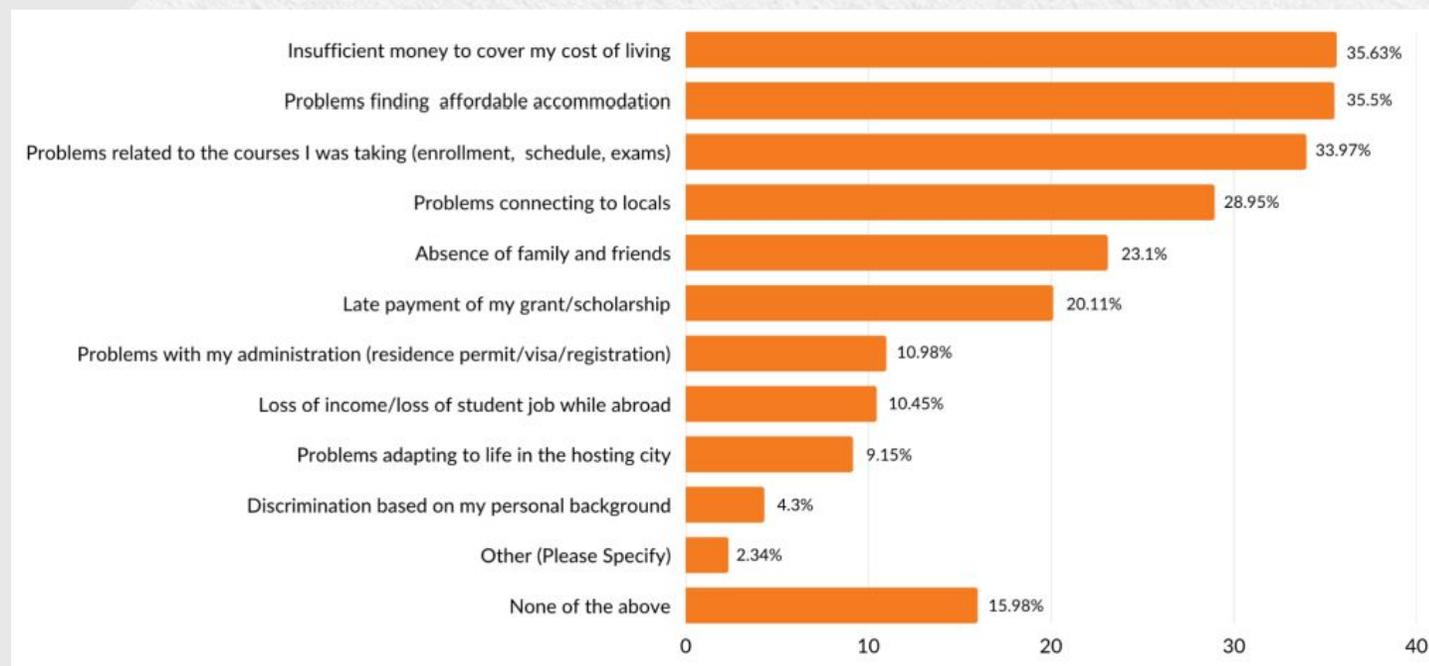
As anticipated, the limited availability of the Green Travel top-up **has not led to a significant rise in the use of sustainable means of travel** among mobility students. However, for overnight trips during their mobility, **buses and trains** emerge as the preferred choices.



ESNs survey XV: Means of transport used for travelling before/during/after exchange.

In comparison with XIV ESNsurvey, the issue of insufficient funding to cover the cost of living has increased

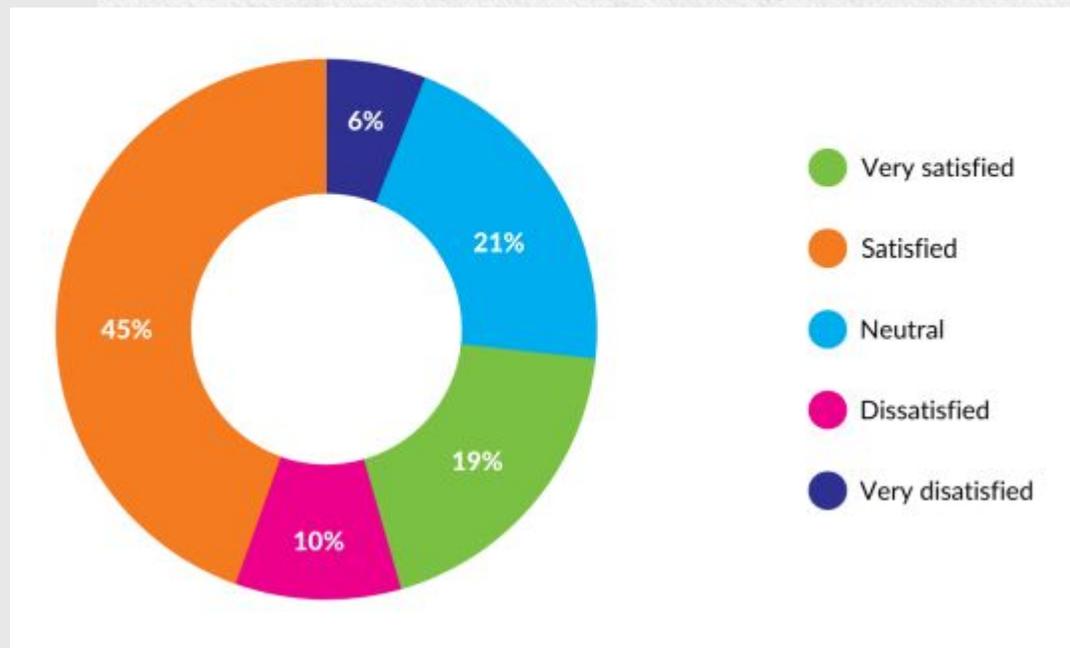
This is closely followed by challenges related to **finding affordable accommodation**, which has also seen an increase compared to previous years.



ESNsurvey XV: Challenges faced by students.

Satisfaction with both hosting and sending HEI has declined compared to ESNsurvey XIV

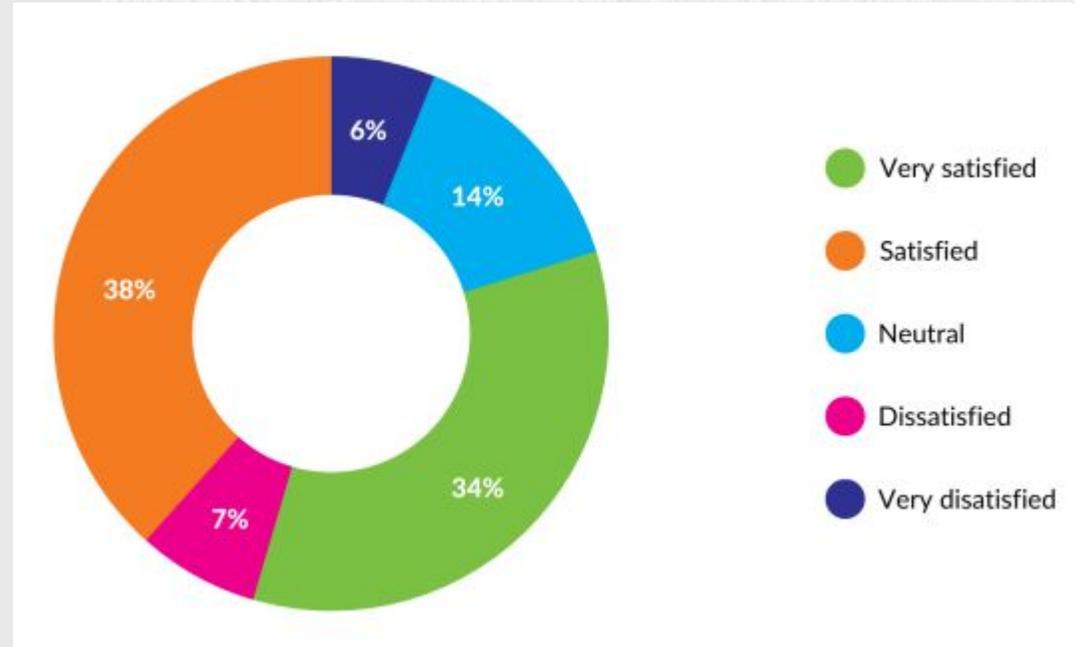
The **return after the COVID-19** pandemic and **difficulties in implementing grant payments** during the academic year of 2021-2022 may explain students' dissatisfaction with institutional services. Additionally, the **growing housing crisis**, could be another contributing factor.



ESNsurvey XV: Satisfaction with the Sending Institution.

Satisfaction with both hosting and sending HEI has declined compared to ESNsurvey XIV

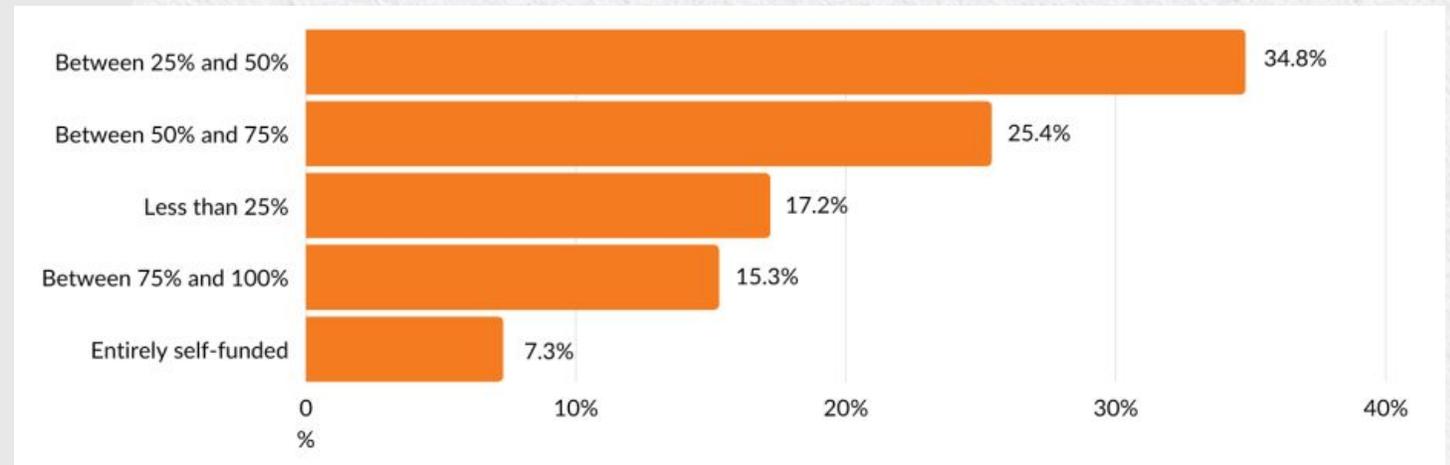
The **return after the COVID-19** pandemic and **difficulties in implementing grant payments** during the academic year of 2021-2022 may explain students' dissatisfaction with institutional services. Additionally, the **growing housing crisis**, could be another contributing factor.



ESNsurvey XV: Satisfaction with the Hosting Institution.

Over one third of students report that E+ programme covered between 25% to 50% of their mobility costs

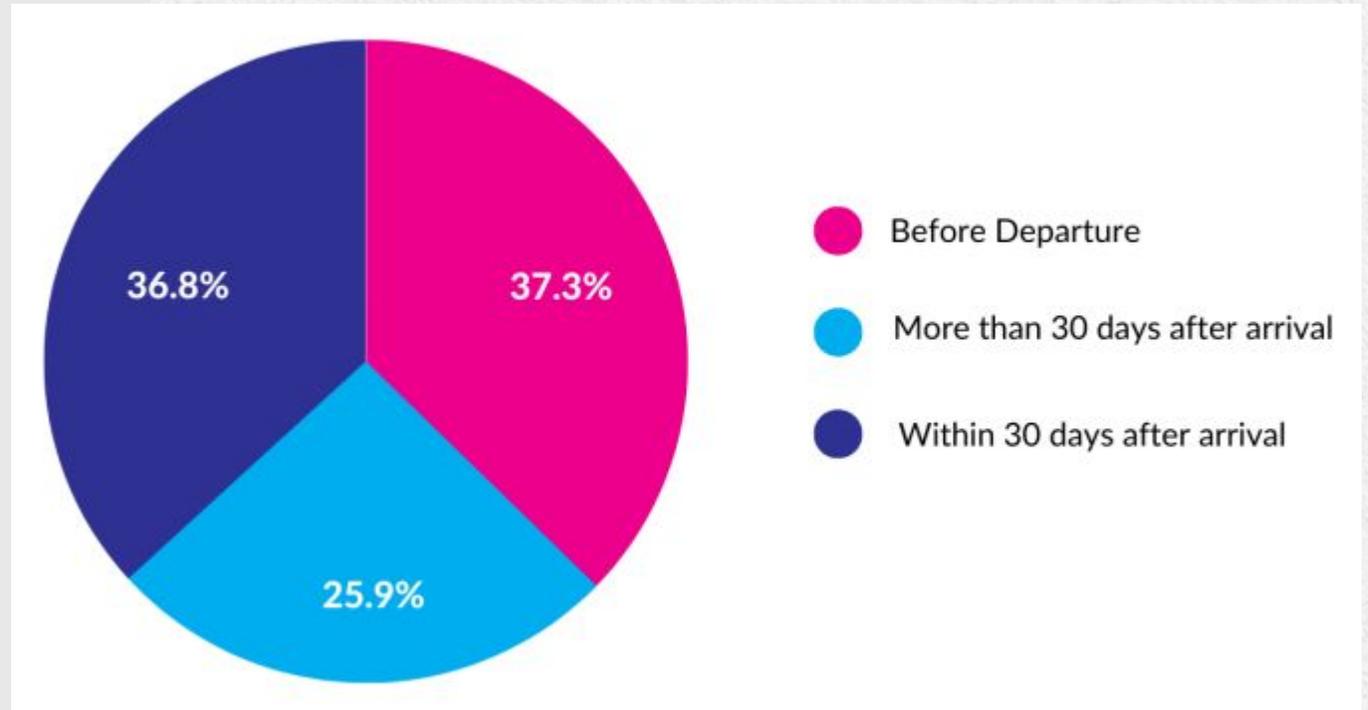
The final report of the ESNsurvey, will aim to compare these five categories with the programme countries in order to identify **which ones offer the most financial support** to international students.



ESNsurvey XV: Funding of the mobility period.

It is visible that ongoing efforts in timing of the grants are showing positive results, although, there is still more to be done

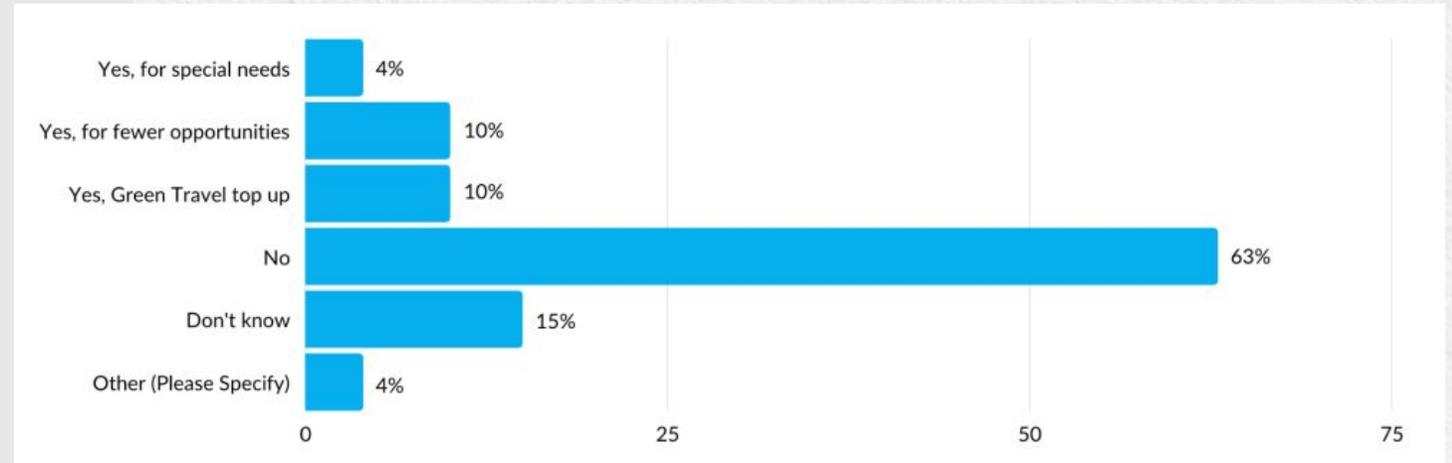
Compared to ESNsurvey XIV, more students are receiving grants **prior to their departure**, more students are receiving grants within 30 days after their arrival and fewer students are receiving grants more than 30 days after their arrival.



ESNsurvey XV: Timing of the grants.

10% of students reported that they have received top-up for students with fewer opportunities

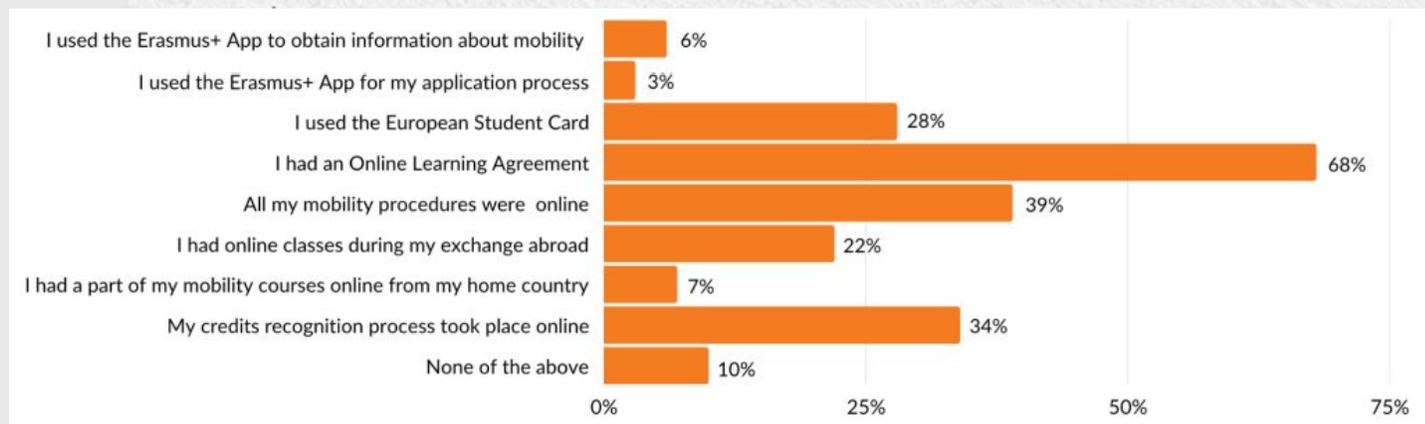
15% of respondents reported **not knowing whether they had received top-ups or not.** This underscores the importance of providing clear financial information to ensure that they can fully benefit from these opportunities.



ESNsurvey XV: Top-Ups.

Implementation of the Online Learning Agreement is considered the most successful initiative

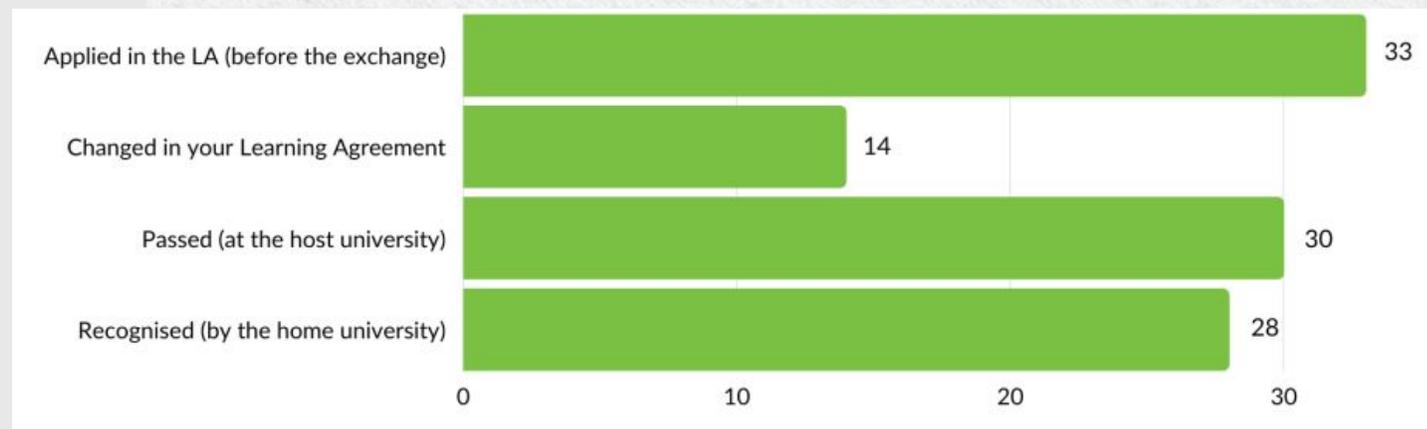
At the same time, the **Erasmus+ App** is the one needing the most necessary strengthening.



ESNs survey XV: Digital tools used on mobility.

Upon returning to their home university, the average number of recognised credits is 28 ECTS

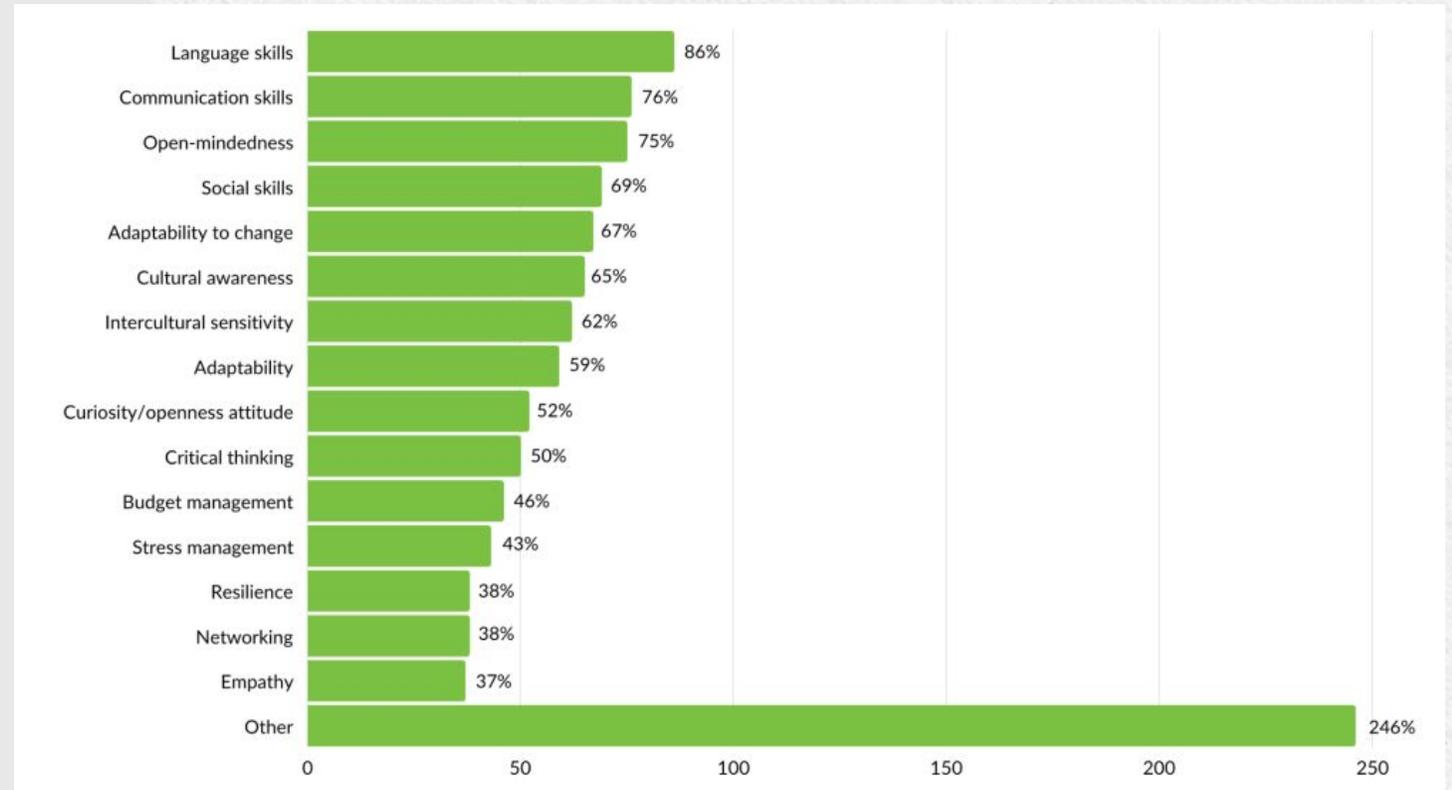
While choosing their mobility destination students consider “**Matching courses which can be recognised by my home institution**” as a key factor for their decision, **making recognition the second most important factor**, only behind the affordability of the hosting city.



ESNsurvey XV: Recognition of Credits.

Erasmus+ presents individuals with great opportunities to elevate their language proficiencies

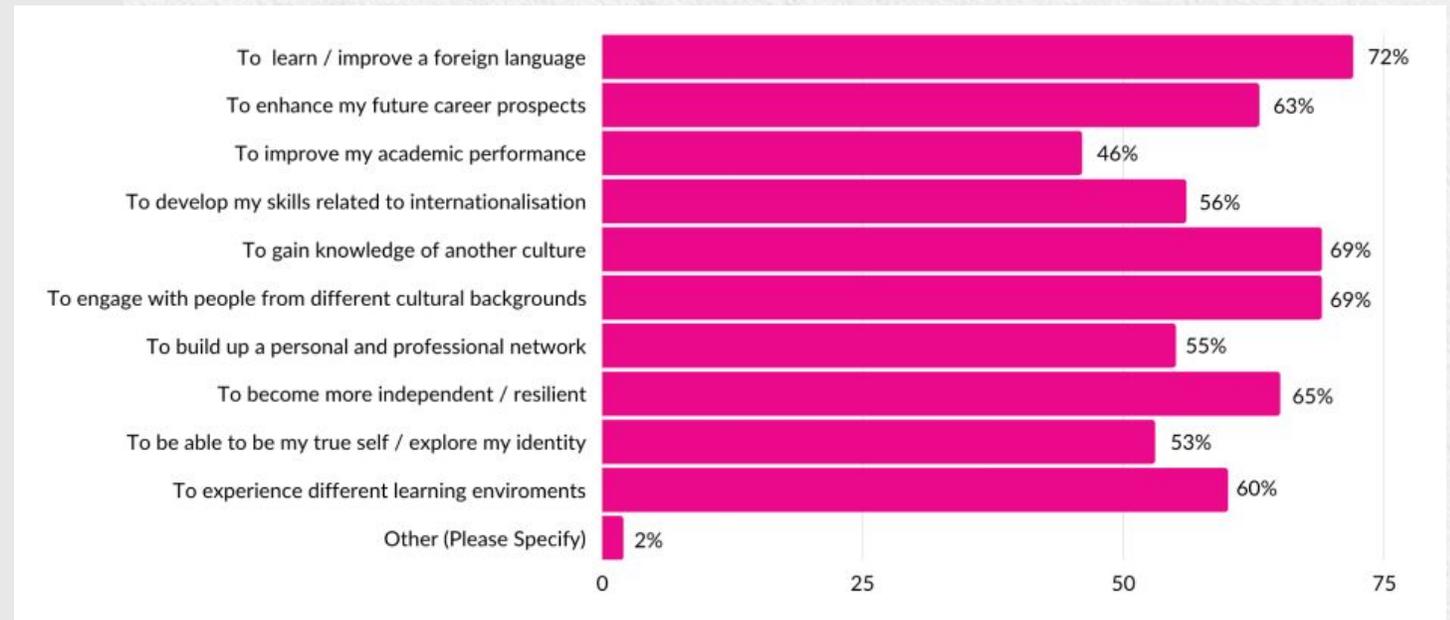
Top 5 improved skills were **Language skills**, Communication skills, Open-Mindedness skills, Social skills and Adaptability to Change.



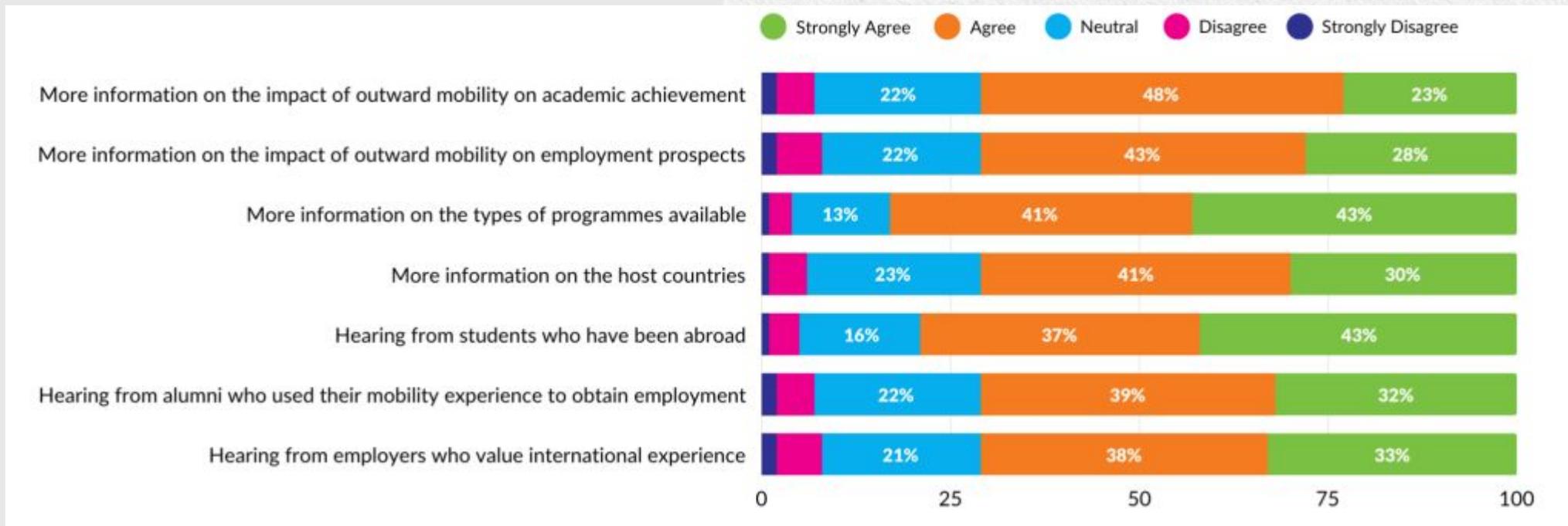
ESNsurvey XV: Skills improved during exchange.

Motivations of non-mobile students can be easily compare to mobile ones

The key motivation factors include **learning and improving a foreign language**, gaining knowledge of another culture, and engaging with people from different cultural backgrounds.



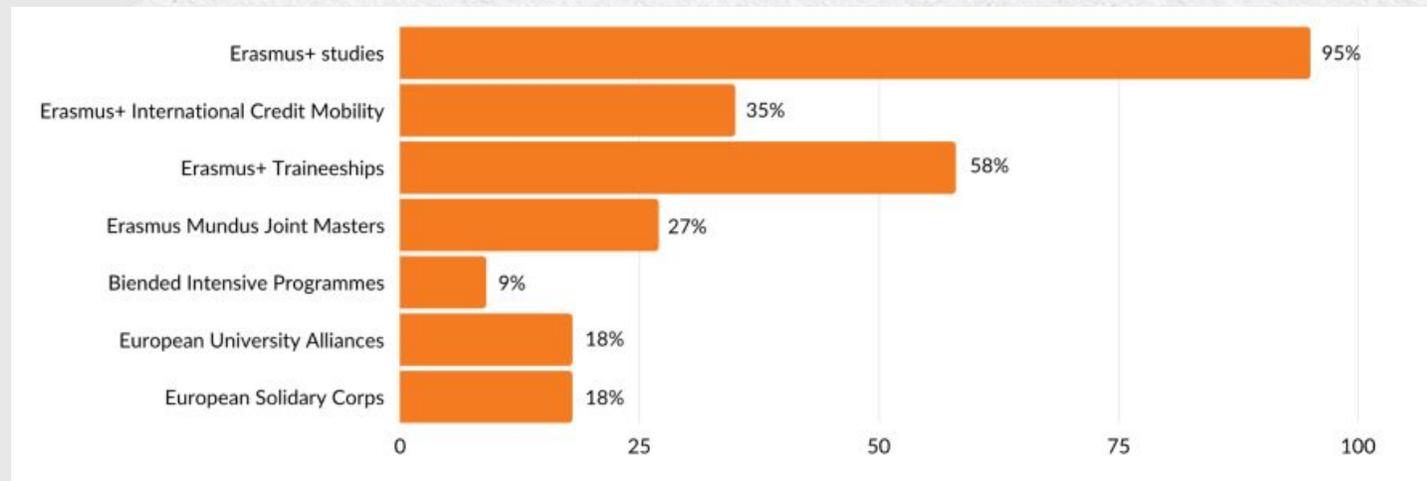
ESNsurvey XV: Motivational factors to go abroad.



ESNsurvey XV: Factors encouraging non-mobile students to go abroad.

Erasmus+ for studies remains the most well-known opportunity among non-mobile students

Regrettably, initiatives such as Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters, ESC, European Universities Alliances and **BIPs** appear to be underrepresented in the awareness of higher education students. The implementation of more comprehensive information among students is necessary.



ESNsurvey XV: Student knowledge on available options.

The findings show that institutional barriers are the biggest barrier to mobility

Financial constraints emerge as the main barrier to participating in student mobility. The data underscore the impact of tuition fees, living expenses and travel costs as obstacles that influence non-mobile students' contemplation of joining mobility initiatives.



ESNsurvey XV: Barriers to participate in mobility.



Conclusions that we draw from the preliminary report



Making mobility a reality for all

- Pre-departure support
- Means of transport used during the mobility
- Challenges faced by the students
- Satisfaction with hosting and sending universities
- Timely payment of the grants
- Digitalisation
- Recognition of credits



Making mobility a reality for all

- Motivations to participate in the mobility
- Knowledge of the Erasmus+ initiatives
- Barriers to participate in mobility





**Final report will
be published in
December 2023**

We are the Erasmus Generation

Contact us at
president@esn.pl