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The way forward for the ERASMUS Programme



University of Twente
The Netherlands



Workshop by Hans Vossensteyn / Marita Wigren

EU-Presidency conference: Erasmus – The way forward

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



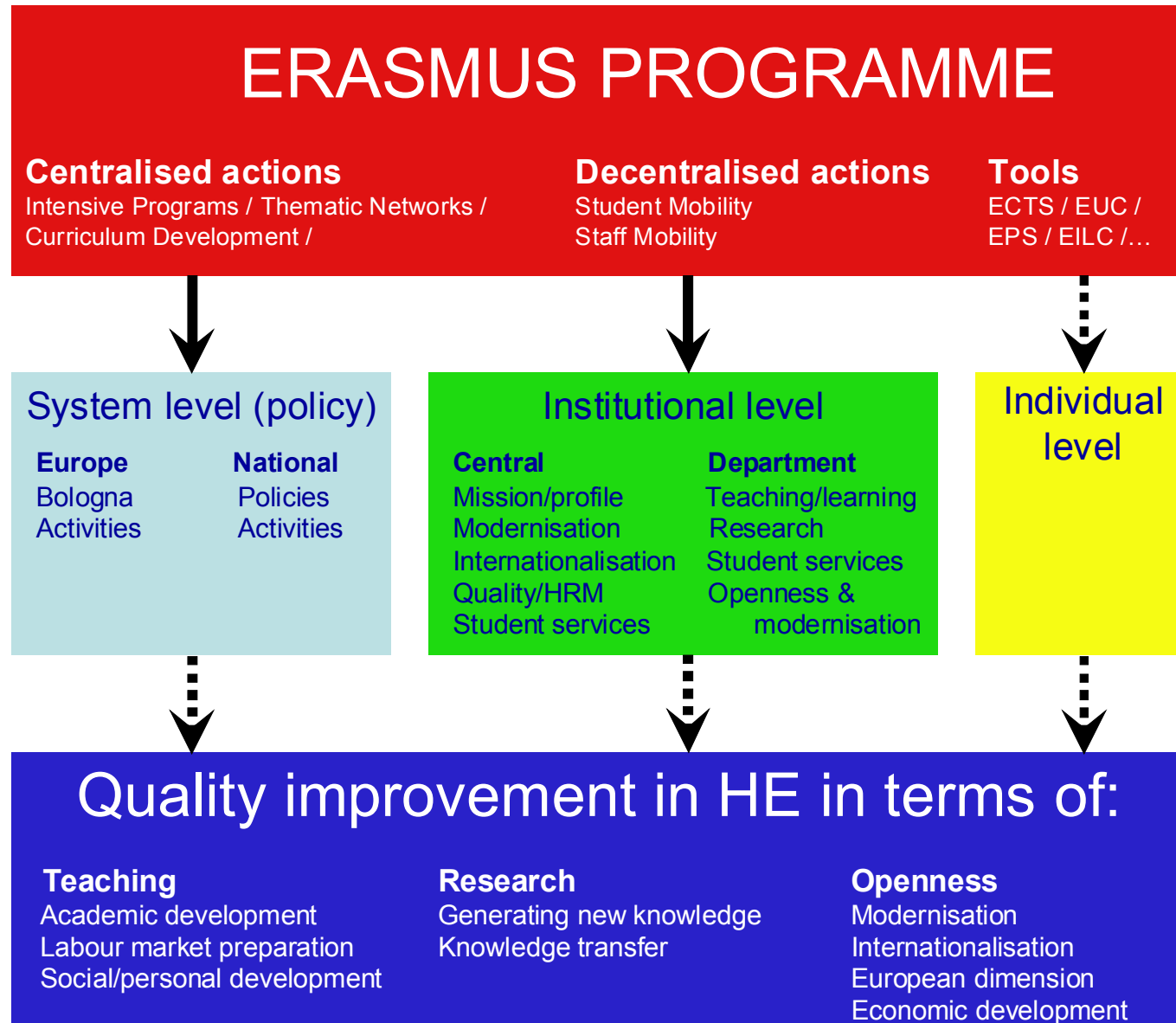
Purpose and overview of this workshop



1. Main outcomes of the study: *Erasmus and quality improvement in HE in Europe*
2. Main recommendations of the study
3. Potential innovations for ERASMUS based on the study
4. Guiding questions for the discussion: *Help design the successor of the current Erasmus Programme (2014-2020)*

Conceptual Framework

Impact levels and areas of ERASMUS



ERASMUS' impact

System level



- 1. Bologna process:** ERASMUS a main driver: DS, ECTS, mobility, Stocktaking exercises, Ministerial Conferences, ...
- 2. Quality assurance:** many EU-level initiatives, ...
- 3. Wider impact:** Classification, Lisbon Strategy, Modernisation Agenda, ...

ERASMUS high impact on institutional development:

- 1. Internationalisation:** internationalisation strategy, international profile, international networks, tendering, ...
- 2. Professionalisation:** professionalisation of institutional management: regular reflection and evaluation of institutional strategies, career development
- 3. University – Enterprise relationships:** intensify networks, research partnerships, LLL, ...

ERASMUS' impact

Academic department level



1. Teaching and Learning:

1. 90% strong effect on internationalisation & modernisation of curricula
2. development of "soft skills" of students
3. modernisation of curricula
4. English/foreign language programs
5. Teaching methods inspired by international students & staff
6. Driver of transparency

ERASMUS' impact

Academic department level



2. Research:

1. 40% indicates impact on participation in international projects
2. particularly at small institutions
3. increased international conference attendance
4. excellence & competition
5. benchmark & learn from other institutions (QA)
6. strengthen joint publications
7. international networks and development of research agenda

ERASMUS' impact

Academic department level



3. Student services:

1. largest area of quality improvement
2. counselling and non-academic support for mobile students & staff
3. improved information provision & in English
4. language training
5. improved services to domestic students

ERASMUS' impact strong

But ... areas for improvement



1. Bureaucratic costs: time and administrative procedures to tender for centralised actions
2. Decentral units lack interest & capacity to apply for centralised actions

But ... overall expectation:

Impact of ERASMUS will increase (75%)
placement in enterprises and modernisation of management

Main Recommendations

System level

1. European level:

1. Better promote ERASMUS through:
information, stronger networks & less bureaucracy,
centralised projects, placements in enterprises
2. Identify and disseminate good practices
3. Stimulate “internationalisation at home”
4. Further push the internationalisation policy agenda

Main Recommendations

System level

2. National authorities:

1. Push & support internationalisation agenda
2. Remove barriers (mobstacles, like visa, portability, recognition, ...)
3. Promote internationalisation & ERASMUS through information
4. Increase national/local budgets for internationalisation and mobility
5. Uniform implementation of ECTS / DS
6. Support student unions to integrate foreign students
7. Stimulate internationalisation and language education in secondary education
8. Guidelines & targets for internationalisation by HEIs

Main Recommendations

Institutional level



1. Central Management Level:

1. Policy emphasis on internationalisation and recognition
2. Leadership commitment
3. Carefully select ERASMUS partners (more selective)
4. Develop service infrastructure (information, accommodation)
5. Language training, scholarship funds
6. Intensify cooperation with enterprises
7. Internationalisation at home with international staff
8. Reward active staff

Main Recommendations

Institutional level



2. Academic department level:

1. Positively inform students on mobility in an early stage
2. Organise mobile students' feedback
3. Increase awareness about centralised actions
4. Remove obstacles (recognition, language, academic calendars, ...)
5. Reduce internal bureaucracy around mobility
6. Involve more staff in internationalisation: e.g. special rewards
7. Intensify "internationalisation at home"
8. Use international staff experiences
9. Better integrate foreign students in lectures & social activities (give presentations)
10. Stimulate "soft skills" and intercultural cooperation in curricula

Opportunities to innovate ERASMUS

If the target is to increase mobility ...

Intensify stays abroad, reduce duration *without compromising quality and the added value of mobility*

1. European level:

1. Include new target groups: non-EU, 2nd mobile period

2. National authorities:

1. Take students' SES as a guide to distribute grants
2. Targets for internationalisation

Opportunities to innovate ERASMUS



3. Higher education institutions (management):

1. Window for mobility in all programs: more intense
2. Search additional private sector funds for mobility
3. Provide additional scholarships
4. Allocate ERASMUS grants on basis of students' SES
5. Integrate internationalisation in career development plans

4. Higher education institutions (academic departments):

1. Actively search enterprise placements for mobile students
2. Introduce "International Week" in study programs
3. Use ERASMUS programmes to "think out of the box" and learn from others (minors)
4. Integrate enterprise guided projects for international teams of students
5. Develop more intense programs for mobile students

Guiding questions for our workshop: The way forward: How?

The role of major changes in the HE landscape
(Europeanisation, consortia, graduate schools, degree mobility,
research mobility...)

The role of ERASMUS

(Become more directive? Still promote modernisation? Stay
involved in the Bologna Process?)

How to support expansion of mobility?

What mobility? (short periods, full study, III, ...)

How to support students?

(EU, national and institutional responsibilities)

Diversify resources: Who funds what mobility?



Major changes in the HE Landscape

Do we expect major changes in the HE landscape?
the rise of graduate schools
a stronger research focus
more short cycle study programmes
mergers between HEIs and large consortia
increasing Europeanisation of HE and HEIs
...

What does this mean for Erasmus?
different forms of mobility?
role of the Erasmus University Charter?
...

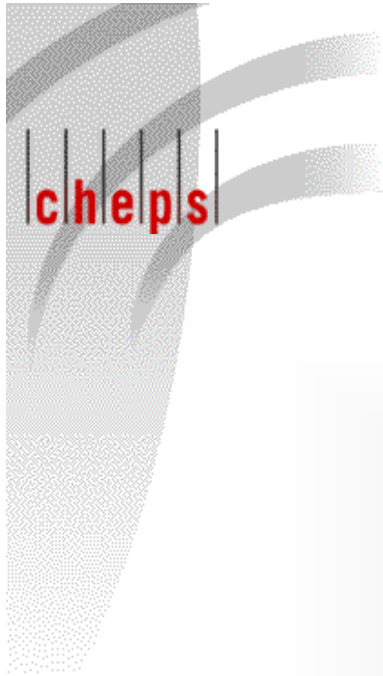


A new role for the Erasmus Programme?

Does the Erasmus programme stay involved in:
the Bologna process?
the modernisation of HE and HEIs?
...

Should Erasmus become more directive?
less a promoter of spontaneous cooperation
but more pro-active stimulate initiatives?
...

Should Erasmus merge with other sectoral programmes?
or internationalisation at home
...



How to support more mobility?



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How to contribute to the mobility targets?
new exchange actions?
more destination countries
more target groups of students (which groups?)
more flexibility in criteria?
build mobility window in all study programmes

...

Different types of mobility?
shorter but more intensive periods
international weeks/months
longer periods abroad (full programmes)
stronger focus on research mobility
links to other external partners
include lifelong learning

...



How to support students?

Different responsibilities for different partners?

EU

National governments; regions; local communities

HEIs: mobility windows; motivate staff, ...

Students: information & encouragement, ...

Enterprises: tax incentives, ...

...

Information or money?

how to interest students for mobility?

in secondary education?

convince about the value added

prepare and facilitate students

integrate mobile students

...

Diversify resources: Who funds what?

How to increase funds for mobility?
increase Erasmus support (grant amounts)
increase national support and portability
EIB initiatives (top up Erasmus grants with loans?)
contributions from regions and municipalities
contributions from enterprises
convince students from investing in their career?

...

Feasibility
can we expect new constituencies to contribute?
tax incentives for enterprises?

...