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**ACADEMIC MOBILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

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*In this report* wе *describe the phenomenon o f academic mobility in a globalized society. We outlined the variety of programs available for mobile students. Essential requirements and obstacles wеrе overviewed.*

*Key words: academic mobility. European higher education area, the Bologna Process, Erasmus program.*

Academic mobility is an old phenomenon and it has already become a profile issue among the students and teaching staff. The number of countries involved has increased hugely in the lost decades. This is a contemporary kind of mobility that enables students to acquire qualifications with a difference, enhance their employment chances and integrate into various communities. There arc two types of academic mobility: inside (within a domestic country) and outside (going abroad to study for a limited time). The question of mobility is а matter for universities and high education in its entirely and not just a matter of bringing new students into universities. Universities should be more interested in this process and seek their budgets in a globalized economy. Unfortunately, academic mobility suffers from cultural. socio-economic and academic barriers. In most cases it is rather difficult to enter the European higher education area but the appearance of the Bologna Process helps to lower these obstacles. As one of the crucial requirements o f the Bologna Process, academic mobility means possibility to transfer one university to the other one in order to experience, overcome national self-sufficiency. Students may get knowledge, improve their linguistic proficiency and find a promising job. Mobile students arc frequently divided into free movers (students travelling on their own initiative) and program students ( using exchange programs at department, faculty, institution).

Key principles o f students mobility are: learning abroad in the frame o f mobility programs is free o f charge: students only carries the transport, accommodation, meal: medical assurance costs: students' home universities arc obliged to recognize the credits got in the receiving university.

Academic mobility is two way round trip circuits from home institution to the host partner institution and back.

Nowadays, there are a great variety of mobility programs ( the Erasmus program. ENEN. SICUE. UNITEH, Leonardo, COMENTUS ) that enhance education quality and diversity.

One of the leading program is the Erasmus program . It is aimed at increasing attractiveness of European higher education fostering international cooperation, accelerating mobility for university students in the EU and worldwide. Paving the way to higher education policy for the EU, it has also provided European students scholarships and opportunities to get firsthand experience of studying in another European country.

In the mid-90s. only a few international advisers had an objective understanding of what student international mobility implied. Most started from scratch and spent the rest of decade and beyond trying to figure out how to internationalize their campus through international academic mobility. Many challenges and obstacles are however still standing to the free movement of students, teachers and researchers. Financing, recognition, language and cultural barriers, states regulations within the European Higher Education Area and outside EHEA. The quality of study period and many other legal or informal barriers to mobility should be removed and international opportunities related to mobility should be made public. Each person who wants to take part in one of the above mentioned programs should be aware of required documents. Required documents guidelines: proof registration; transcript of records; draft study plan; motivation statement; your current CV; recommendation letter; passport; 12 month-rule declaration; letter of support of the host university and the home university; invitation letter .

The year 2013 is expected to be vet another year for international students' mobility worldwide.

References

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