



The **Erasmus** Impact Study Regional Analysis

Main results in a nutshell



Education
and Culture

Main results in a nutshell

What is the objective and methodology of the Erasmus Impact Study – Regional Analysis?

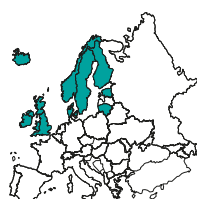
While the original Erasmus Impact Study (EIS) published in 2014 looked at the impact of Erasmus student mobility on employability, skills and careers at the European level, this new study brings a regional focus to the same data.

In total, the sample for the study comprises **71,368** individual responses to five online surveys launched in 2013. This includes students (mobile with and without Erasmus experience and non-mobile), alumni (mobile with and without Erasmus experience), staff (academic and non-academic, mobile and non-mobile), higher education institutions and employers.

In addition to asking about perceptions and actual progress in professional and social lives, the surveys included tests to measure real developments in the personality of students before and after mobility. This approach is based on six 'memo© factors' that are closely related to employability: Tolerance of Ambiguity (acceptance of other people's culture and attitudes and adaptability), Curiosity (openness to new experiences), Confidence (trust in own competence), Serenity (awareness of own strengths and weaknesses), Decisiveness (ability to make decisions) and Vigour (ability to solve problems).

The study revealed common characteristics in countries, which led to the grouping in the four regions of Europe below:

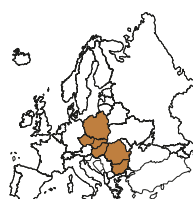
Northern



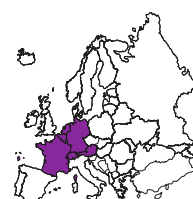
Southern



Eastern

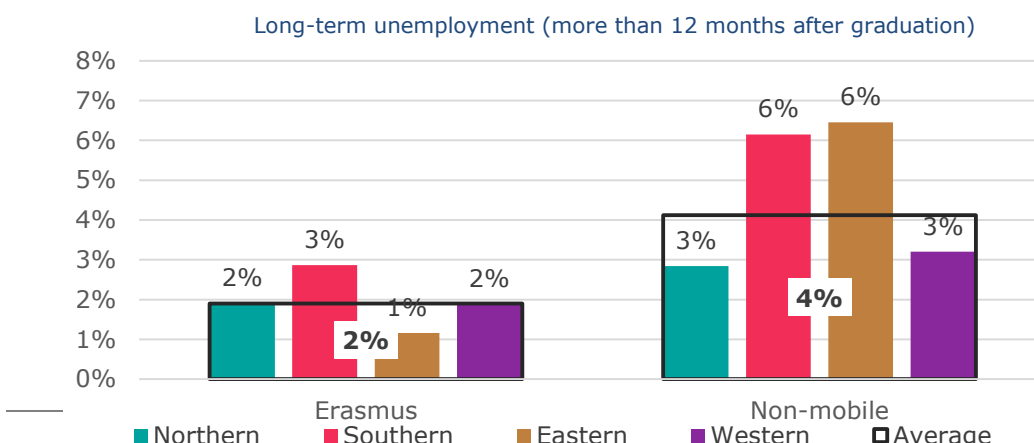


Western



How does Erasmus influence future careers and social lives?

The EIS analyses the impact of mobility on working life and careers, revealing that former Erasmus students are half as likely to experience long-term unemployment compared to those that do not go abroad. Students in **Eastern Europe** even reduce their risk of long-term unemployment by 83% by taking part in Erasmus. At country level, this advantage of Erasmus alumni over non-mobile alumni is the highest in **Hungary** and **Portugal**.

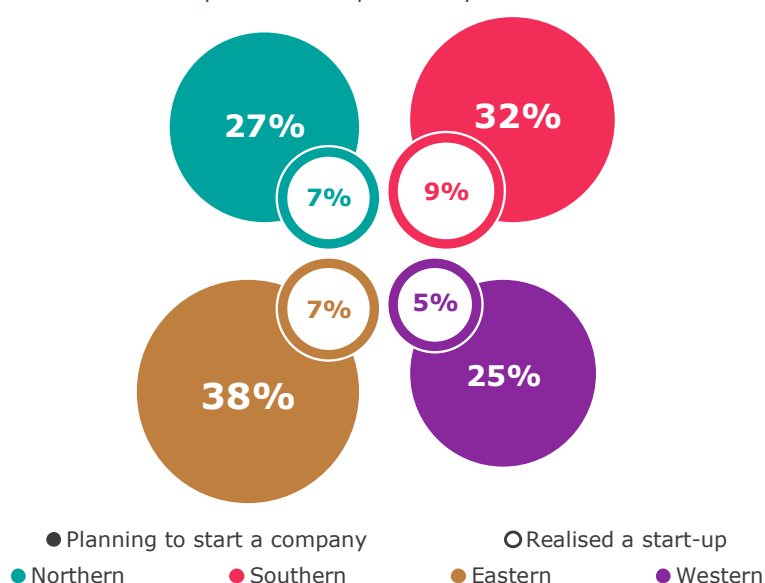


Even five to ten years after graduation, the unemployment rate of mobile students is lower than of non-mobile students. The largest difference can be found in **Southern Europe** with 56% less Erasmus alumni experiencing unemployment than non-mobiles.

Work placements seem to have a particularly direct positive impact on finding a job, with one in three Erasmus students on average offered a position by their host company. In **Southern Europe**, this share even goes up to almost one in two students, with **Italy** (51%) and **Portugal** (47%) ranking the highest.

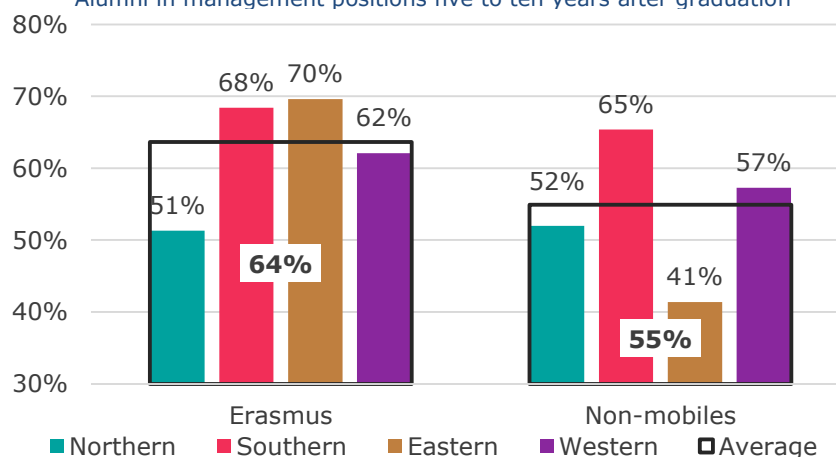
The mobility experience also fosters an entrepreneurial spirit. This is particularly the case for **Eastern Europe**, which has the highest ratio of alumni definitely planning to create a start-up (38%), as well as for **Southern Europe**, where almost one in ten graduates with Erasmus traineeship experience has already done so.

Start-ups realised or planned by Erasmus alumni



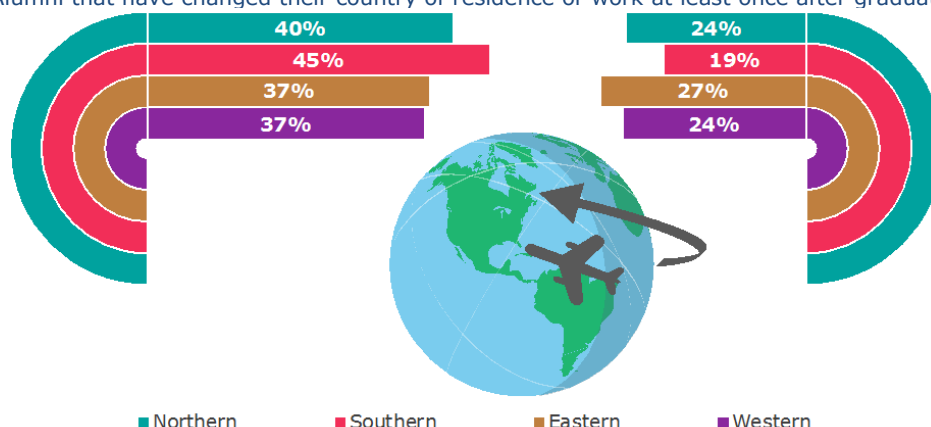
Five to ten years after graduation, significantly more Erasmus alumni (64%) than non-mobile alumni (55%) hold a management position. The difference is especially large in **Eastern Europe** (70% compared to 41%), in particular in **Hungary**, where more than nine out of ten Erasmus alumni hold a managerial position, more than twice the figure for non-mobile alumni. Furthermore, 50% of **Bulgarian employers** claim to give higher salaries to recently hired employees if they are internationally experienced.

Alumni in management positions five to ten years after graduation



Erasmus promotes labour mobility after graduation. Of the Erasmus alumni, 40% had moved country at least once since graduation compared with 23% of non-mobile alumni. In addition, 93% (compared with 73% of the non-mobile students) could envisage living abroad. Former Erasmus students are also more than twice as likely to change their employer as non-mobile alumni. **Southern European Erasmus students** in particular become mobile later in life and are more than twice as likely to move from one country to the other than their non-mobile counterparts.

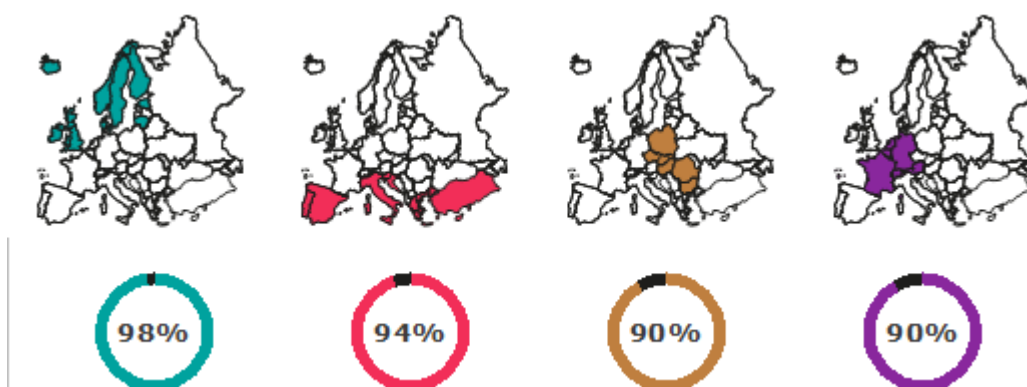
Alumni that have changed their country of residence or work at least once after graduation



How does Erasmus increase employability skills?

Across Europe, 93% of the surveyed employers confirm that the six personality traits (memo© factors) are important for the recruitment and professional development of their employees. This even goes up to a remarkable 98% in **Northern Europe**.

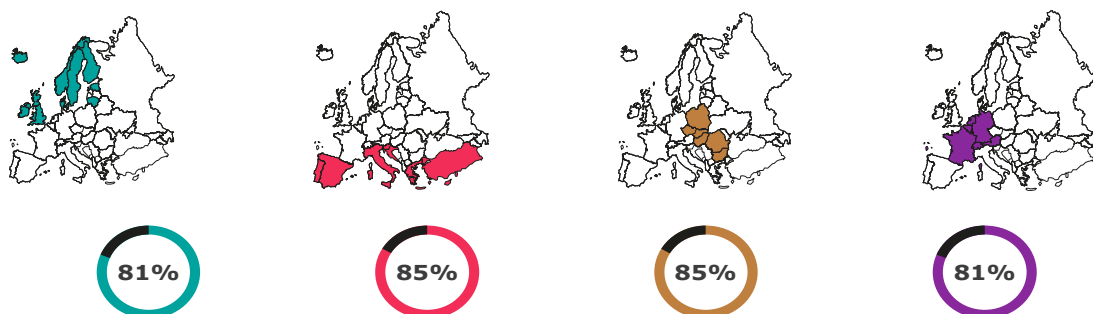
Relevance of personality traits and skills for recruitment



Even before going abroad, Erasmus students from all regions show higher values for the six personality traits than non-mobile students. The mobility experience itself brings a further positive impact and increases the already existing advantage of Erasmus students over non-mobiles by about 40%. Students from **Eastern Europe** show the highest level upon their return from Erasmus, particularly in terms of tolerance. Students from **Western Europe** start from the lowest scores but show the same level of improvement as in Eastern Europe through the mobility experience. **Northern European students**, whose personality traits increase less than in other parts of Europe, may not experience Erasmus in the same striking way as others, considering that they are generally quite used to travelling before they enter into the higher education system. Interestingly, in all regions, people who do work placements abroad increase their analytical and problem solving skills significantly more than those who study abroad.

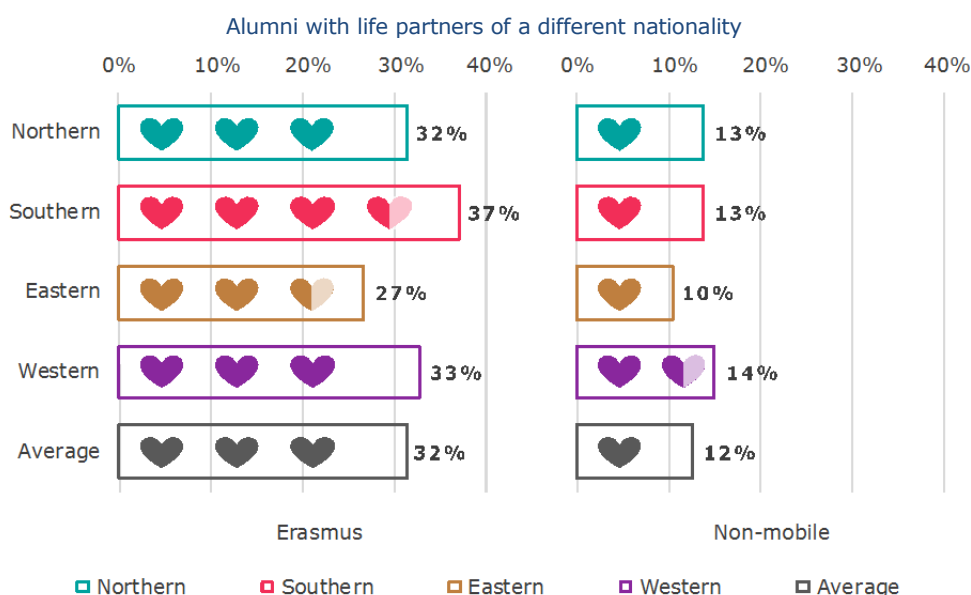
How does Erasmus influence relations to Europe and personal life?

Perceived improvement of European attitude through mobility



In all regions, Erasmus students as well as alumni feel significantly more related to Europe than non-mobiles, and in all regions, more than 80% feel that their European attitude has been strengthened by going abroad. This perception is especially strong in **Southern** and **Eastern Europe** (each 85%), with **Bulgaria** (90%), **Portugal** (89%) and **Italy** (87%) at the top, followed by the **United Kingdom** with 88%.

The Erasmus experience also leads to an intercultural private life. 32% of former Erasmus students have a life partner of a different nationality than their own, nearly three times more than those who never studied or trained abroad (13%). Graduates from **Southern Europe** are most frequently found in international relationships (37%). Looking at individual countries, most Erasmus alumni in transnational relationships were observed in the **United Kingdom** (57%) and **Austria** (52%).



Links:

[The Erasmus Impact Study Regional Analysis – executive summary](#)

[The Erasmus Impact Study Regional Analysis – final report](#)

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