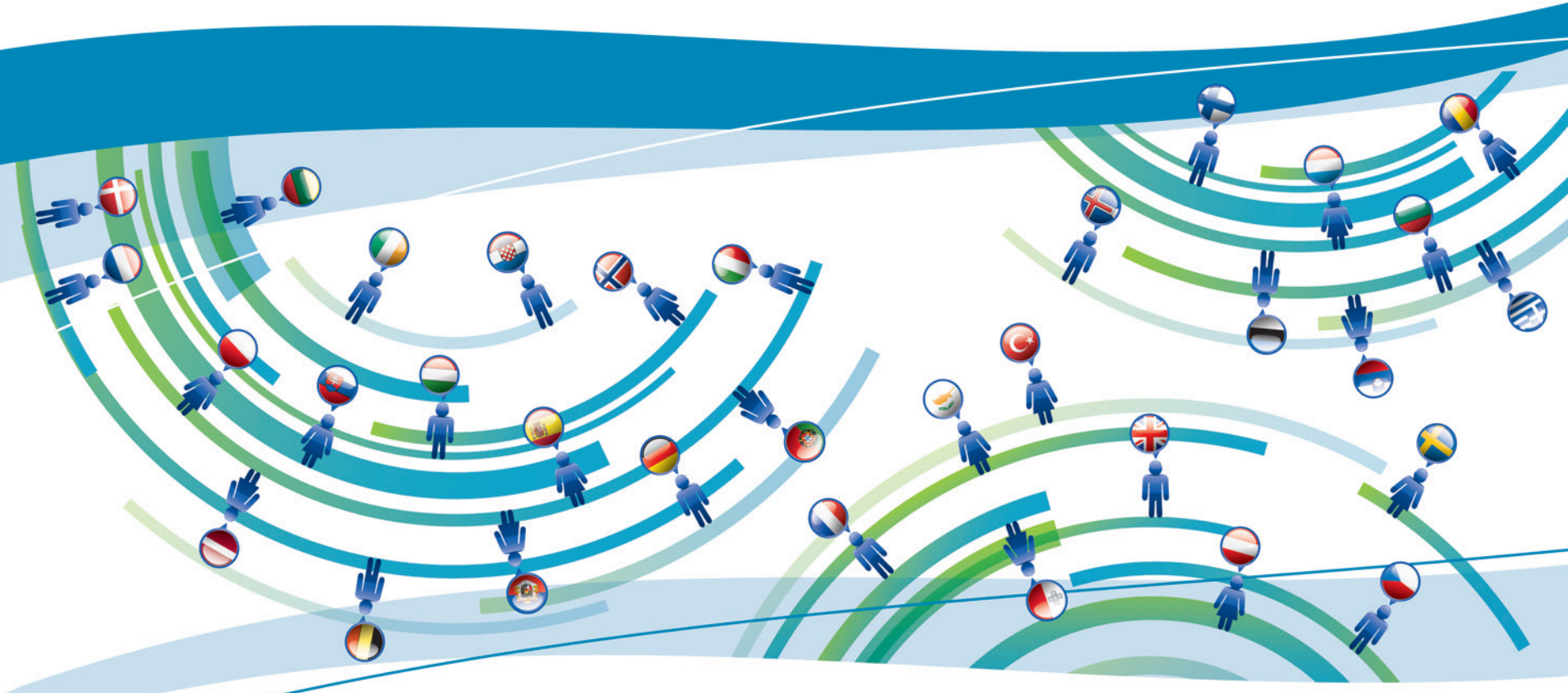
Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

ERASMUS

Since 1987



ERASMUS – FACTS, FIGURES & TRENDS

The European Union support for student and staff exchanges and university cooperation in 2009/2010

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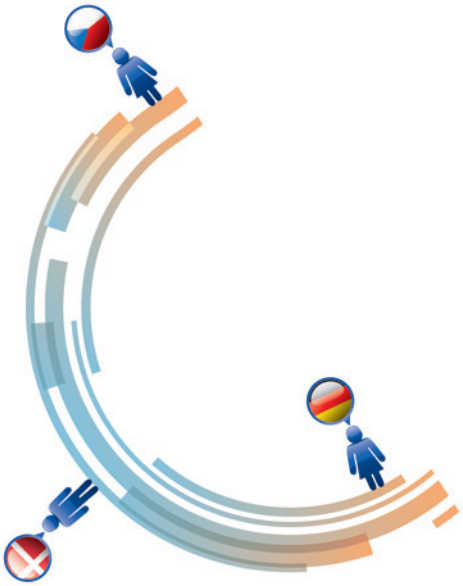
Preface



Encouraging students to go abroad as part of their studies (student mobility) has been at the heart of European Union's education programmes since the launch of the Erasmus Programme in 1987. Nearly a quarter of a century later, student mobility remains high on the EU's political agenda, featuring prominently in the Europe 2020 Strategy for growth and jobs and as a central part of the flagship initiative 'Youth on the Move'. Mobility has always been a key element of the Bologna Process, the cooperation process towards creating a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) which began in 1999, with Bologna Ministers setting the goal that by 2020 at least 20 % of all graduates from the EHEA should have spent a period of time abroad for either study or training.

As Europe's best-known mobility programme, Erasmus not only caters for students and Higher Education Staff, but also enables Higher Education Institutions to work together through funding transnational projects and networks. Over 2.3 million students have received grants from Erasmus. It has a budget of EUR 3.1 billion for the period 2007-2013. The budget for Erasmus activities in the 2009-2010 academic year totalled EUR 459 million.

Student mobility contributes to an individual's personal development and supports the growth of Europe's economies and societies. Spending time abroad broadens young people's horizons and helps them acquire skills that are valued by employers – from foreign languages to adaptability and greater intercultural awareness. In this way, mobility boosts job prospects and encourages labour market mobility later in life. Mobility supported by Erasmus has also promoted the internationalisation of the European Higher Education system, contributed to its modernisation and to improvements in quality and, ultimately, paved the way for the Bologna Process.

Erasmus is part of the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme. During the academic year 2009-2010, 32 countries took part in the Programme: the 27 EU Member States, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. With the addition of Switzerland in 2011, the number of participating countries rises to 33.

Every year, the European Commission compiles statistics from the National Agencies responsible for running the Erasmus Programme in the participating countries and publishes an annual statistical overview online. We hope you find this information both interesting and useful.

Erasmus Student Mobility

Erasmus is the world's most successful student mobility programme. Since it began in 1987-1988, the Erasmus Programme has provided 2.3 million European students with the opportunity to go abroad and study at a Higher Education Institution or train in a company. Student mobility accounts for around 85 % of the annual Erasmus budget, with around 4 % of students receiving Erasmus grants at some stage during their higher education.

- The Erasmus Programme supported **213 266** student exchanges during the 2009-2010 academic year, which represents a year-on-year increase of **7.4 %**. If this trend continues for the next three years, Erasmus will reach its target of supporting three million students by the end of the academic year 2012-2013.

- Spain **sent the most students abroad** with 31 158 students leaving for another country. It overtakes France which was the top sending country the previous year. France supported the second highest number of students going abroad, followed by Germany, Italy and Poland.

- The **most popular destination** among students was also Spain, which received 35 386 students, followed by France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy.

- In terms of the overall student population, the countries with the greatest share of Erasmus students in 2009-2010 include Liechtenstein (3.32 %), Malta (1.83 %), Spain (1.73 %), Austria (1.66 %), and Finland (1.53 %).

- The average **monthly EU grant** received by students (including both studies and company placements) was **EUR 254** – a 6.7 % decrease on the previous year. On the other hand, the number of **zero-EU grant students** (students that have Erasmus status without receiving an Erasmus grant) increased by more than 50 % between years. **This shows the success of the Erasmus 'branding', as students still choose to be part of the Programme despite not receiving EU funding.**

- The **average duration** of student exchanges was six months. This has remained constant over the last decade.

- Erasmus also actively supports the participation of **students with special needs** by offering a supplementary grant. The number of students with special needs taking part has increased considerably in the last few years. In 2009-2010, **257** students with special needs received additional funding. Although this is a relatively low figure, it reflects the limited participation of people with special needs in higher education in general, and represents a year-on-year increase of 20.6 %.

- Some 2 853 **European Higher Education Institutions sent students abroad** through Erasmus in 2009-2010, out of a total of 3 873 institutions holding an Erasmus University Charter (EUC) that year.

Mobility for Studies

Erasmus offers students the possibility of studying at another Higher Education Institution. **Erasmus Student Mobility for Studies**, which is the most common action, enables students to spend a study period of 3 to 12 months abroad. It aims to provide students with the opportunity of studying in another country, to promote cooperation between institutions and help enrich their educational environment, and to contribute to building a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced young people.

- In 1987-1988 just over 3 000 students went abroad to study with an Erasmus grant. Out of the 213 266 Erasmus students, **177 705** student exchanges were supported in 2009-2010. **This means that on average a student left to study abroad as part of Erasmus every three minutes.**

	Total	Type of student mobility	
	Student mobility	Studies	Company placements (traineeships)
Total number of Erasmus students	213 266	177 705	35 561
Average EU monthly grant (EUR)	254	236	386
Average duration (months)	6.04	6.4	4.24
Number of special needs students	257	230	27
Top sending countries	ES, FR, DE, IT, PL	ES, FR, DE, IT, PL	FR, DE, ES, UK, PL
Top receiving countries	ES, FR, UK, DE, IT	ES, FR, DE, UK, IT	ES, UK, DE, FR, IT
Level of studies (% share)	short cycle 2.5 % first cycle 66.9 % second cycle 29.4 % third cycle 1.2 %	short cycle 0.4 % first cycle 68.7 % second cycle 30 % third cycle 0.9 %	short cycle 13.5 % first cycle 57.8 % second cycle 26.3 % third cycle 2.3 %
Zero-EU grant students	7 053	6 114	939
Average age of students (years)	22.6	22.6	22.75
Total number of Higher Education Institutions sending students in 2009-2010	2 853	2 191	2 139
Gender balance (% of women)	61.1 %	60.9 %	62.1 %

- Spain **sent the most students abroad** followed by France, Germany, Italy and Poland. These countries also have the largest student populations in Europe. The same countries together with the United Kingdom, which receives twice as many students as it sends, make up the **most popular destination countries**: Spain, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy.

- The average length of stay remained at six months, while the average monthly grant decreased by 6.7 %, compared to the previous year, to EUR 236.

- Students of social sciences, business and law made up the biggest share of those on exchanges. The number of humanities and arts students going abroad rose by 49 % over the previous year. Students of engineering, natural science and education continue to participate actively, though in proportionately lower numbers compared to the overall number of students taking these subjects.

Mobility for Company Placements (Traineeships)

Company placements (traineeships) in companies or organisations is the fastest growing action within the Erasmus Programme. Previously managed within the Leonardo da Vinci Programme (for vocational education and training), company placements have been part of Erasmus since the 2007-2008 academic year. Grants enable students to spend a period of 3 to 12 months doing a company placement abroad. Spending time in a company abroad helps students to adapt to the requirements of the labour market and develop specific skills. It also boosts cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and companies.

- Since its inclusion in the Erasmus Programme, company placements abroad have grown rapidly. Out of the 213 266 Erasmus students, **35 561** went on company placements abroad in 2009-2010. This represents an annual increase of over 17 %.

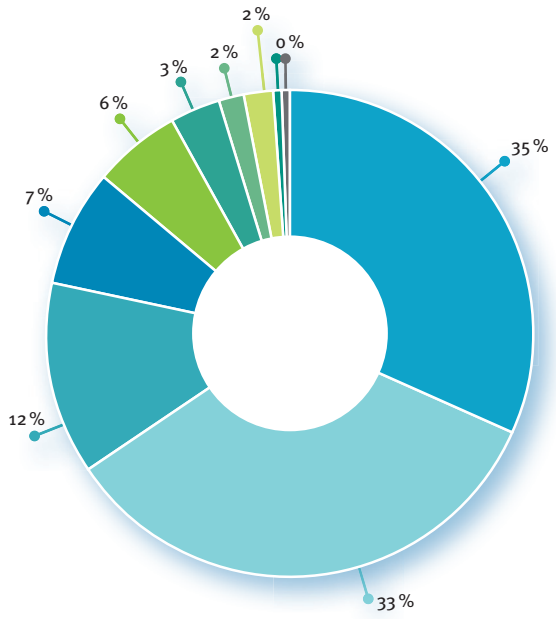
- France **sent the most students abroad** for company placements, followed by Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and Poland. The **top destinations** for students on company placements were once again Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy.

- The average duration of company placements, which is generally lower than for study periods, was **4.2 months**. In line with study grants, the average monthly grant for company placements decreased by 11 % over the previous year to **EUR 386**.

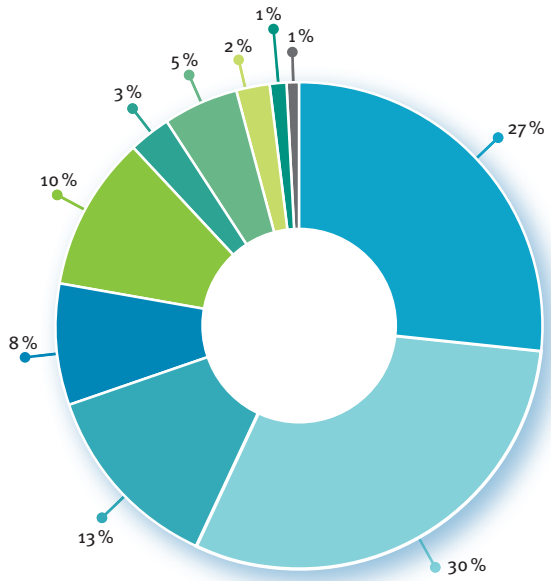
- Students of humanities and arts make up the biggest share of trainees. This number has more than doubled compared to the previous year. They were followed by students of social sciences, business and law. Those taking courses in engineering, manufacturing and construction participated in lower numbers.

- To support company placements abroad, a Higher Education Institution can create a **consortium for placements**. These consortia comprise Higher Education Institutions and other organisations, such as companies or associations. A total of 73 Erasmus Placement Consortia organised 5 482 company placements in 12 countries during 2009-2010. Company placements organised through consortia made up over 15 % of all company placements abroad under Erasmus.

Share of subject areas in mobility for studies

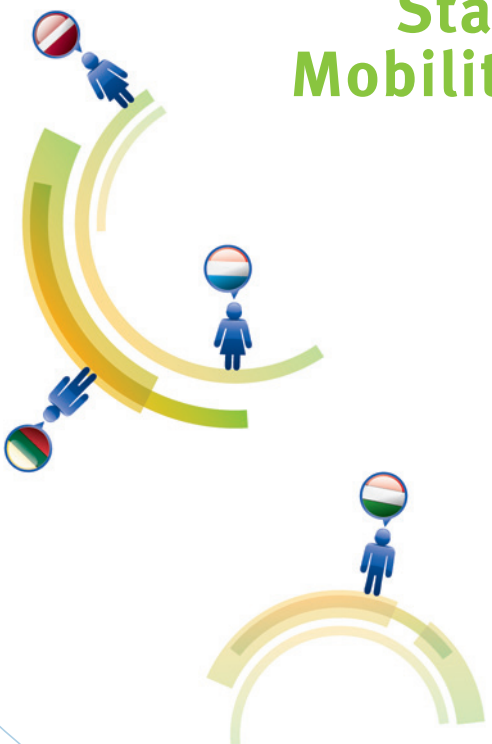


Share of subject areas in mobility for company placements (traineeships)



- Social sciences, Business and Law
- Humanities and Arts
- Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
- Science, Mathematics and Computing
- Health and Welfare
- Education
- Services
- Agriculture and Veterinary
- Not known or unspecified
- General Programmes

Erasmus Staff Mobility



Staff mobility for teaching has become a very popular action since its introduction in 1997. With the creation of the Lifelong Learning Programme in 2007, staff mobility was extended to include staff training as well as the possibility for Higher Education Institutions to invite staff from companies to come and teach at their institutions.

Since its launch, a total of 270 000 staff exchanges have been supported. Staff mobility aims to enrich the experience of participating staff, to contribute to the internationalisation and modernisation of higher education through cooperation among Higher Education Institutions and staff, and to encourage student mobility. Staff mobility accounts for approximately 10 % of the overall Erasmus budget.

- Some **37 776** staff exchanges were supported in 2009-2010, a year-on-year increase of 3.8 %.
- The share of teaching assignments was 77 %, while staff training accounted for 23 % of all staff exchanges.
- The **average duration** of a staff mobility period (including teaching assignments and staff training) was **5.7 days** and the **average grant** was **EUR 673** per staff exchange.
- Poland **sent the most staff abroad**, followed by Spain, Germany, France and Italy. The **five most popular destinations** were Germany, Spain, Italy, France and the United Kingdom.
- Almost the same number of women (47 %) and men participated in Erasmus staff mobility in 2009-2010.

Teaching Assignments

- Since its introduction in 1997 the number of teaching assignments has grown constantly. Out of the 37 776 staff exchanges **29 031** were teaching assignments in 2009-2010. This represents an increase of 1.5 % on the previous year.
- The **average duration** of a teaching assignment was **5.6 days**. A small but constant decrease has been observed since 2000-2001 when the average was 6.9 days. The average grant per teaching assignment was **EUR 654**, representing a slight decrease on the previous year.
- Teachers from humanities and arts spent **the most number of periods abroad** on teaching assignments. This was followed by teachers of social sciences, business and law and then teachers in engineering, manufacturing and construction. This share has been more or less constant in recent years. On average, teachers taught 8.5 hours abroad per teaching assignment.

	Total	Type of staff mobility	
	Staff mobility	Teaching assignments	Training
Total number of staff	37 776	29 031	8 745
Average duration (in days)	5.7	5.6	6.3
Average EU grant (in EUR)	673	654	735
Number of staff with special needs	5	4	1
Top sending countries	PL, ES, DE, FR, CZ	PL, ES, DE, FR, CZ	PL, ES, FI, DE, TR
Top receiving countries	DE, ES, IT, FR, UK	DE, IT, ES, FR, PL	UK, ES, DE, IT, FR
Total number of Higher Education Institutions sending staff in 2009-2010	2 154	2 032	1 484
Gender balance (% of women)	47 %	40 %	68 %

- The five **most popular destinations** for staff on teaching assignments were Germany, Italy, Spain, France and Poland. Teachers taught most often in English, followed by French, German, Spanish and Italian. The five **most active countries in sending teachers abroad** on teaching assignments were Poland, Spain, Germany, France and the Czech Republic.

- Around **41 %** of teaching assignments were undertaken by female teachers.

- Some **259** teaching assignments were undertaken by staff from companies who were invited to teach at Higher Education Institutions in other European countries.

Staff Training

- Staff mobility for training continues to increase in popularity. Out of the 37 776 staff exchanges **8 745** were staff training periods in 2009-2010. This represents a **12.5 %** increase over the last academic year.

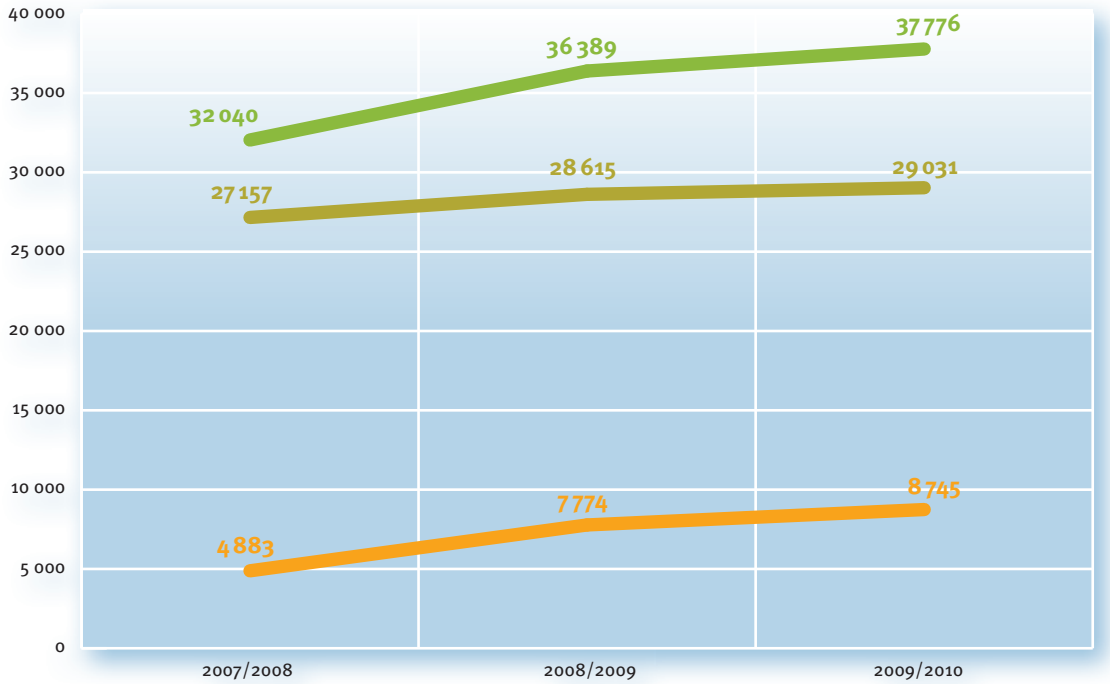
- Staff went abroad for training for **6.3 days** on average and received an average grant of **EUR 735**.

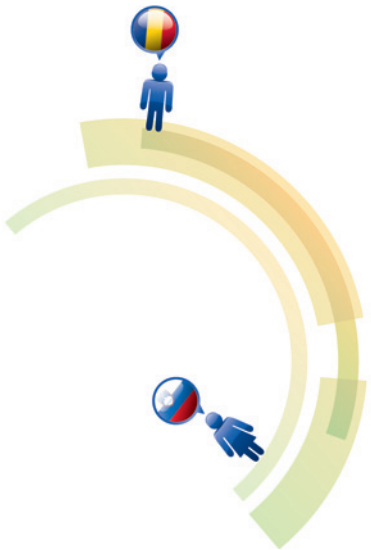
- Most training periods abroad were undertaken by academic staff (37 %), followed by general administrative and technical staff (24 %) and staff from international offices (20 %).

- Most staff received specific training (46.5 %) abroad, while nearly 25 % of staff went for job shadowing. Around 15 % of beneficiaries used the action for other purposes, such as to participate in workshops or conferences.

- Staff from Polish Higher Education Institutions spent the **most periods abroad for training** with 1 476 staff training periods supported. They were followed by staff from Spain, Finland, Germany and Turkey. The five **most popular destinations** for staff training were the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Growth in staff mobility numbers from 2007/08 to 2009/10





Erasmus Intensive Programmes

Erasmus Intensive Programmes are short subject-related programmes of study (of between 10 days and 6 weeks in length), which bring together students and teaching staff from Higher Education Institutions from at least three European countries. Intensive Programmes aim to encourage the multinational teaching of specialist topics; to enable students and teachers to work together in multinational groups and so benefit from learning and teaching conditions not available in a single institution; to allow teachers to exchange views on course content and new curricula approaches; and to test teaching methods in an international classroom environment.

- Since 2007-2008 Erasmus Intensive Programmes have been managed individually by the participating countries. They have also experienced strong growth during this time. A total of **384** Intensive Programmes were organised in 29 countries during the academic year 2009-2010, which represents a more than 20 % increase on the previous year.

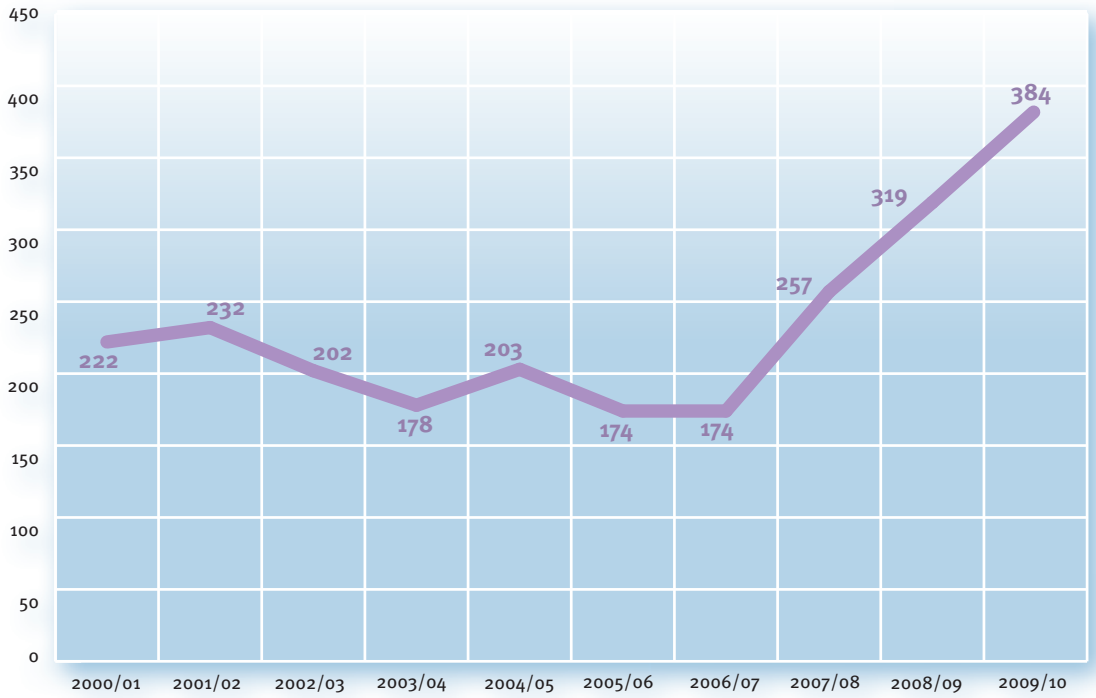
- Altogether **12 606** students and **4 378** teachers participated in Intensive Programmes in 2009-2010.

- The highest number of courses (47) were organised by Italy, which represents 12.2 % of the total number of courses organised in 2009-2010. Germany organised 37 courses followed by France (31), the Netherlands (24) and Austria (23).

- The **most popular subjects** for Intensive Programmes were social sciences (26 %), engineering, manufacturing and construction (18 %), humanities and arts, science, mathematics and computing (with a 15 % share each).

Number of Intensive Programme courses	384
Total number of participating students	12 606
Total number of participating teachers	4 378
Top five organising countries	IT, DE, FR, NL, AT
Average duration of Intensive Programmes	12.2 days

Number of Erasmus Intensive Programmes from 2000/01 to 2009/10



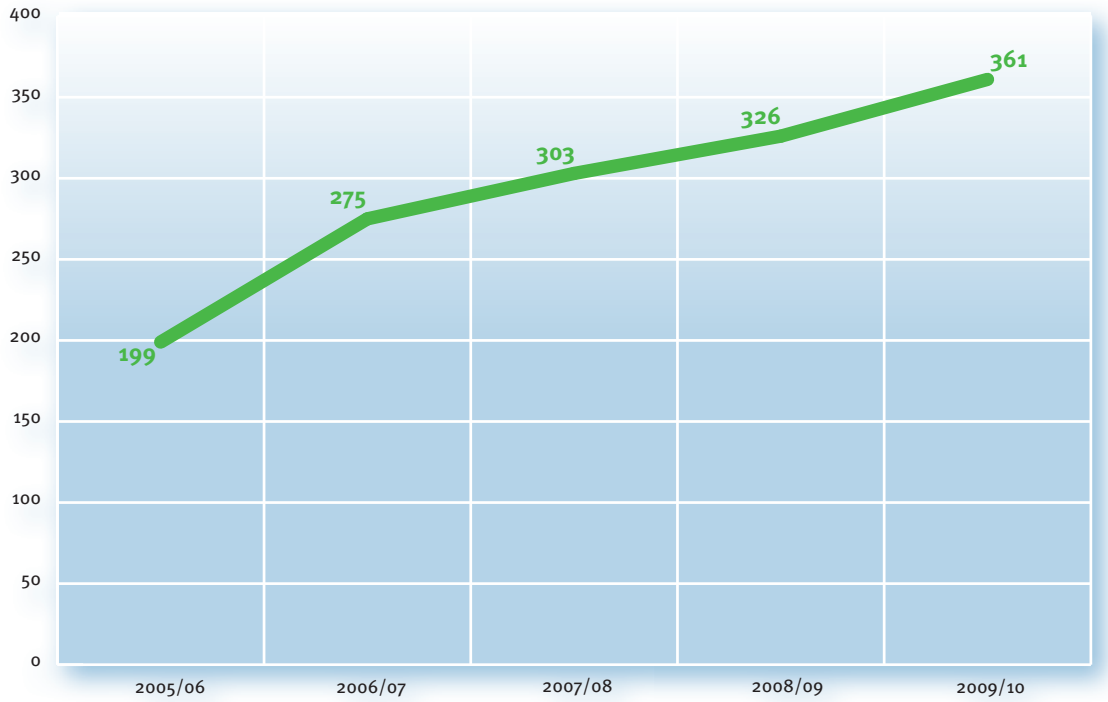
Erasmus Intensive Language Courses

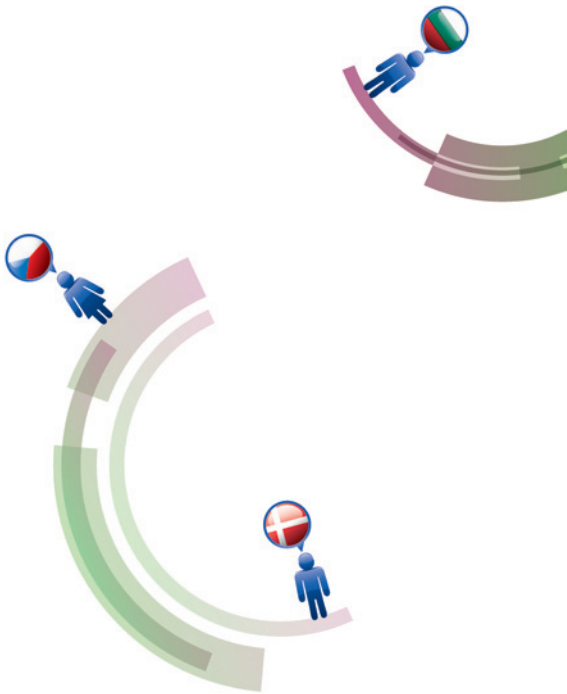
Since 1996, Erasmus has financed specialised courses in the less widely used and taught languages for students going abroad as part of the Programme. The aim is to prepare incoming students for their study exchange or company placement through a linguistic and cultural introduction to the host country. Language courses are not organised for the most widely taught languages English, German, French and Spanish (Castilian).

- The number of Intensive Language Courses supported has grown tremendously since their launch. Some **361** courses were organised in 23 participating countries in 2009-2010, an increase of 10.7 % compared to the previous year.
- A total of **5 386** Erasmus students benefited from a language course prior to their study exchange or company placement (a 3.4 % increase compared to the previous year). This represents 2.5 % of the total number of students participating in the Programme.
- The **most popular destination** was Italy with 960 participants, followed by Belgium (Dutch-speaking region), Portugal, Sweden and Turkey.
- The **highest proportion of incoming students** participating in a language course was in Slovenia, where 20.4 % of incoming students took part, followed by Estonia (14.6 %) and Iceland (12.8 %).

Number of courses	361
Total number of students	5 386
Top hosting countries	IT, BE, PT, SE, TR

Number of Erasmus Intensive Language Courses from 2005/06 to 2009/10





Erasmus University Cooperation Projects

Together with mobility, the Erasmus Programme also fosters the modernisation of European Higher Education through funding joint projects. These projects, which run from between one and three years, aim to stimulate policy reforms through transnational cooperation among Higher Education Institutions and other relevant stakeholders across Europe. Applications are submitted once every calendar year and around EUR 20 million is allocated annually to these projects.

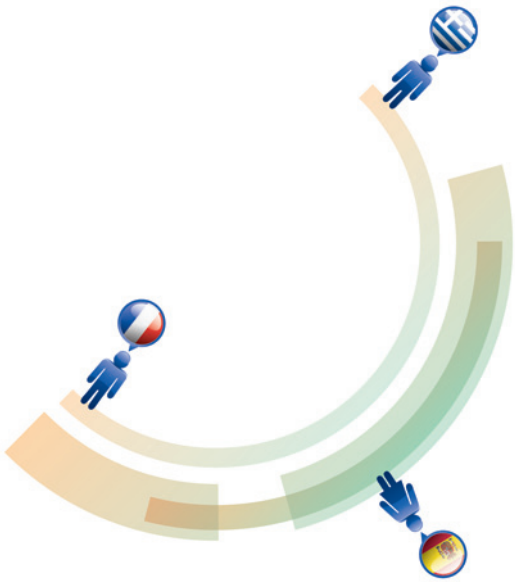
Type of action		Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Applications success rate in (%)
Multilateral Projects	Curriculum Development	67	21	31
	Cooperation between Universities and Enterprises	33	10	30
	Modernisation of Higher Education	24	12	50
	Virtual Campuses	22	6	27
Networks	Academic Network	15	7	47
	Structural Network	12	1	8
Accompanying measures		21	8	38
Total		194	65	34

- The number of applications has grown year-on-year. Some **194** applications were submitted in 2010 (up from 178 in 2009). Among these **65** were selected for funding, which represents, on average, a **34 % success rate**.

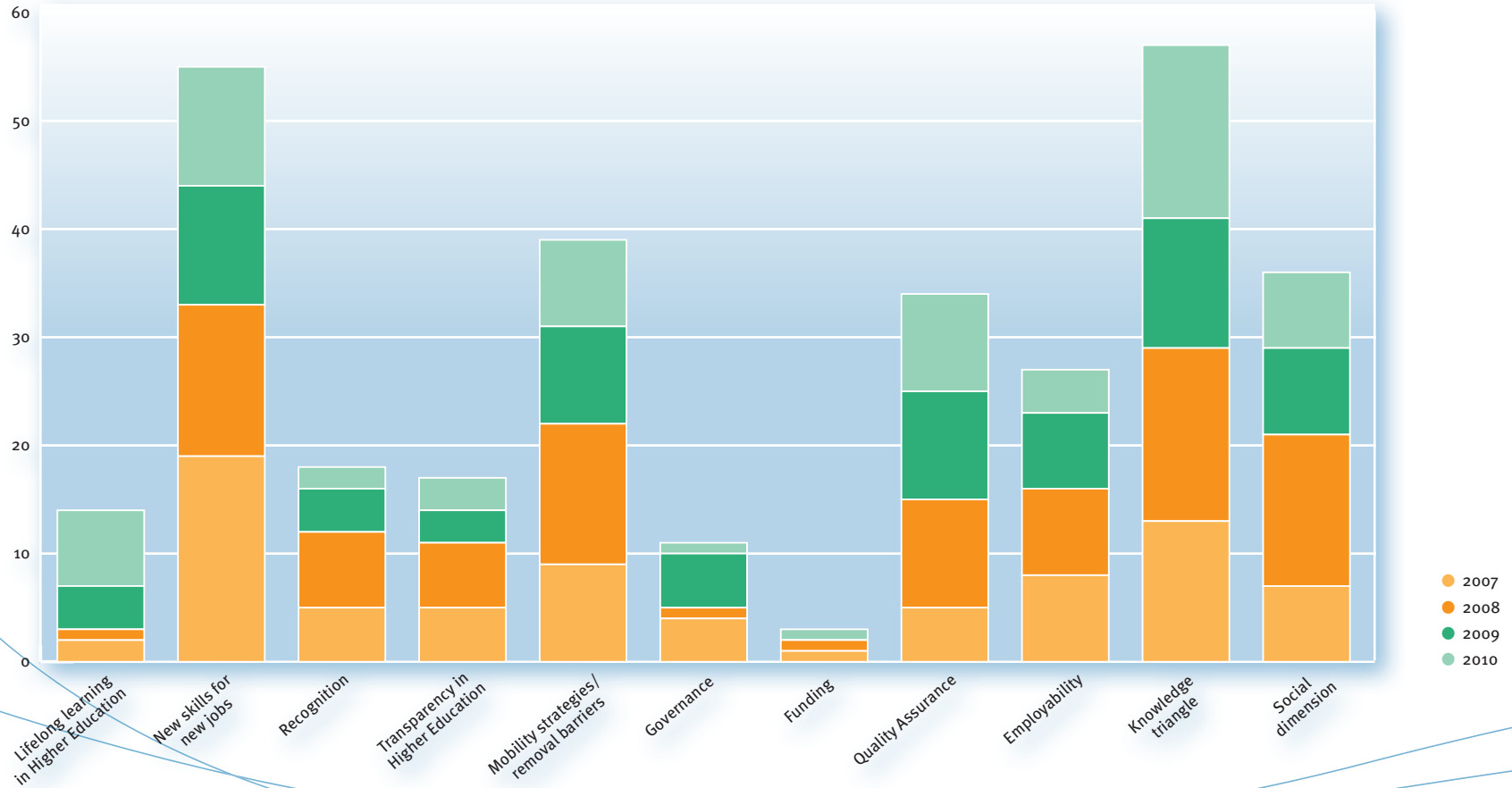
- Most applications were received under the Curriculum Development action (67), followed by the Cooperation between Universities and Enterprises action (33) and the Modernisation of Higher Education action (24).

- Up until 2010, the United Kingdom submitted the highest number of proposals and had the highest number of partners in other proposals. However, in 2010 the countries that submitted the most applications were Belgium (23), followed by Spain (18), Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (with 17 each). Belgium was also the most successful country in terms of applications approved with 12 successfully accepted.

Many of the projects funded under this part of the Erasmus Programme have led to important policy developments. For example, the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) was originally an Erasmus project, before becoming a major tool to foster mobility that is used throughout Europe. The chart on page 18 shows the relevance of Erasmus University Cooperation Projects to EU Higher Education policy areas by illustrating the number of projects that have been funded for each policy area between 2007 and 2010. It is important to note that some of the Erasmus University Cooperation Projects tackle more than one policy area.

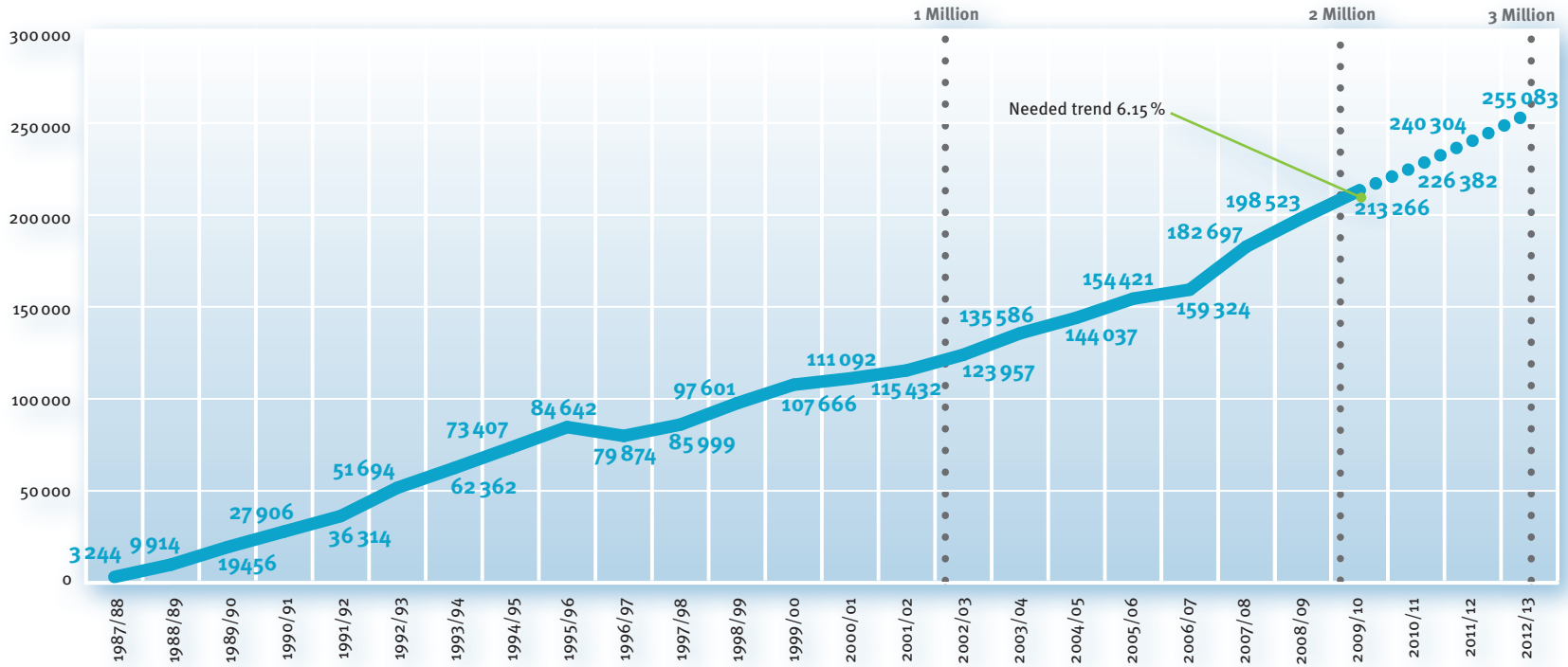


Higher Education policy priorities addressed by Erasmus Cooperation Projects from 2007 to 2010



Annexes

Progress to achieving the 3 million student mobility target



● Reaching the 3 million mobility goal

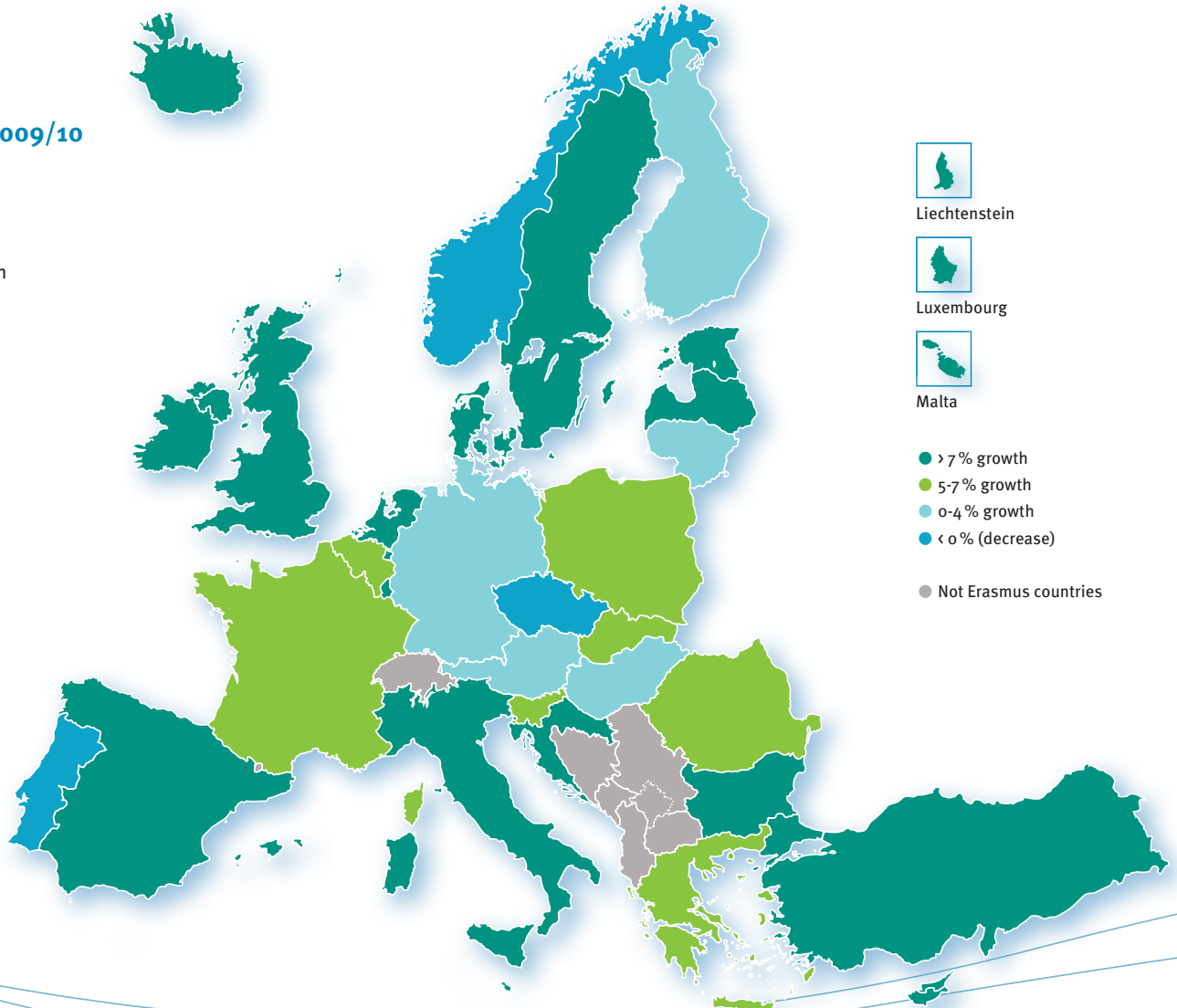
Student mobility growth rates between 2008/09 and 2009/10

3 countries experienced a stagnation (NO slight decrease, PT & CZ stagnation).

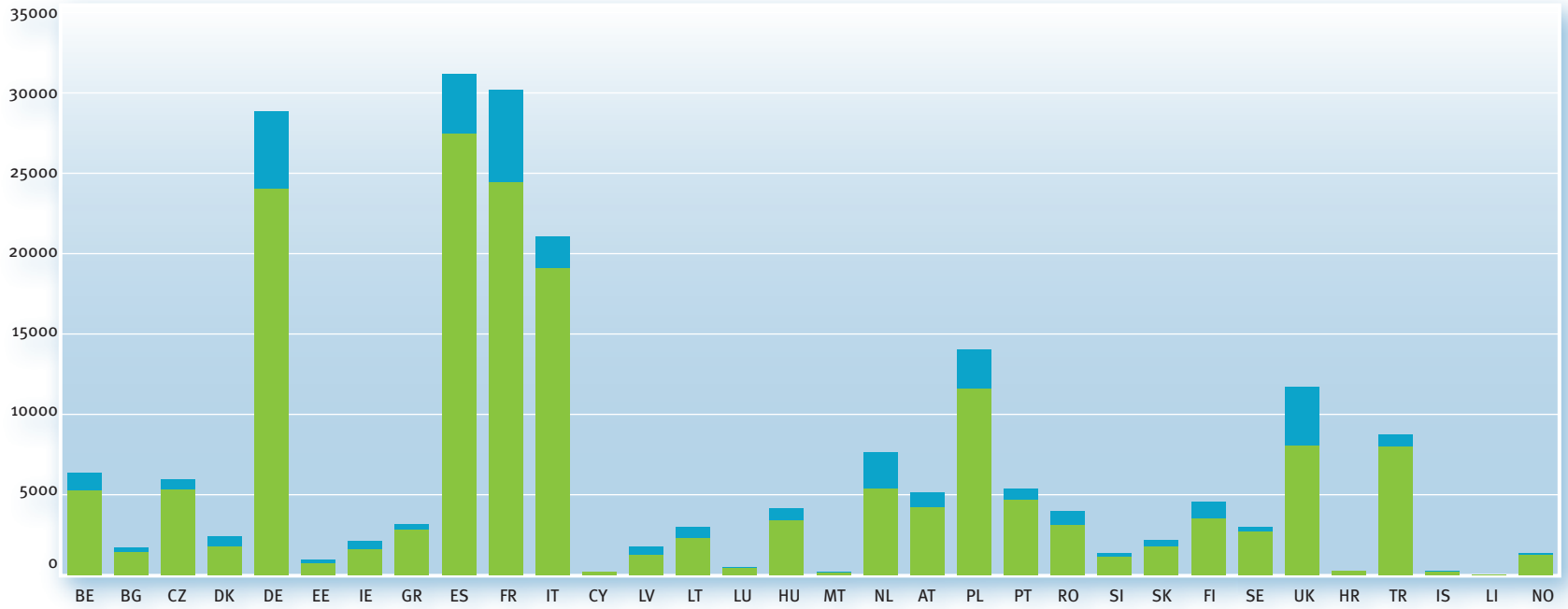
5 countries experienced only small growth (AT, FI, DE, HU, LT).

7 countries experienced a modest growth (BE, FR, GR, PL, RO, SK, SI).

17 countries grew by more than 7 % (BG, CY, HR, DK, EE, IS, IE, IT, LV, LI, LU, MT, NL, ES, SE, TR, UK).

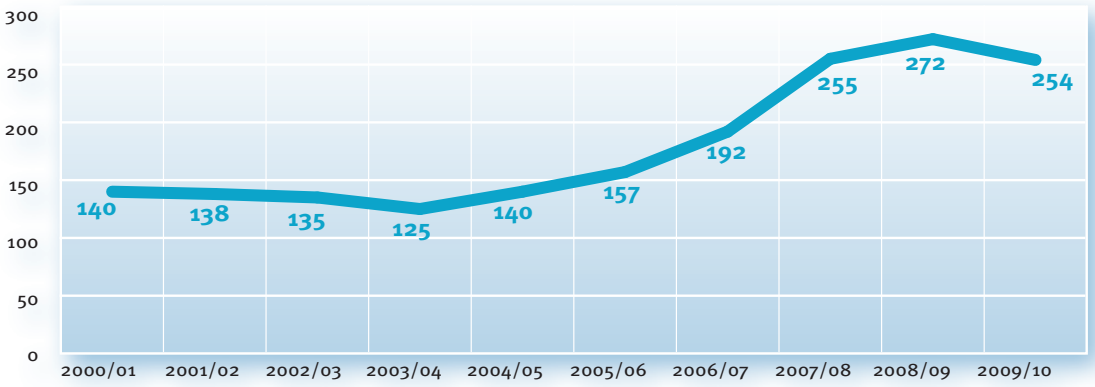


Distribution of outgoing students studying or doing company placements abroad in 2009-2010



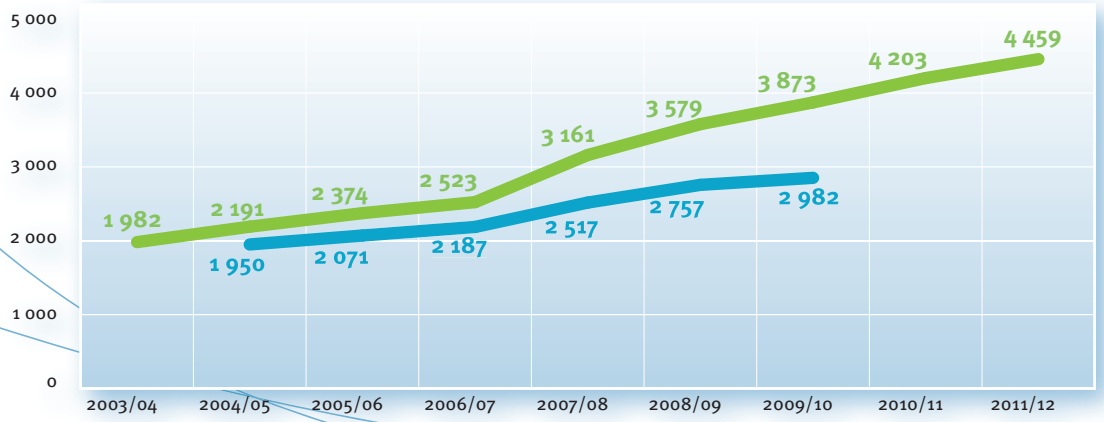
Mobility for studies
Mobility for placements

Average monthly EU grant for student mobility (in EUR) from 2000/01 to 2009/10



● Average monthly EU grant for student mobility (in EUR)

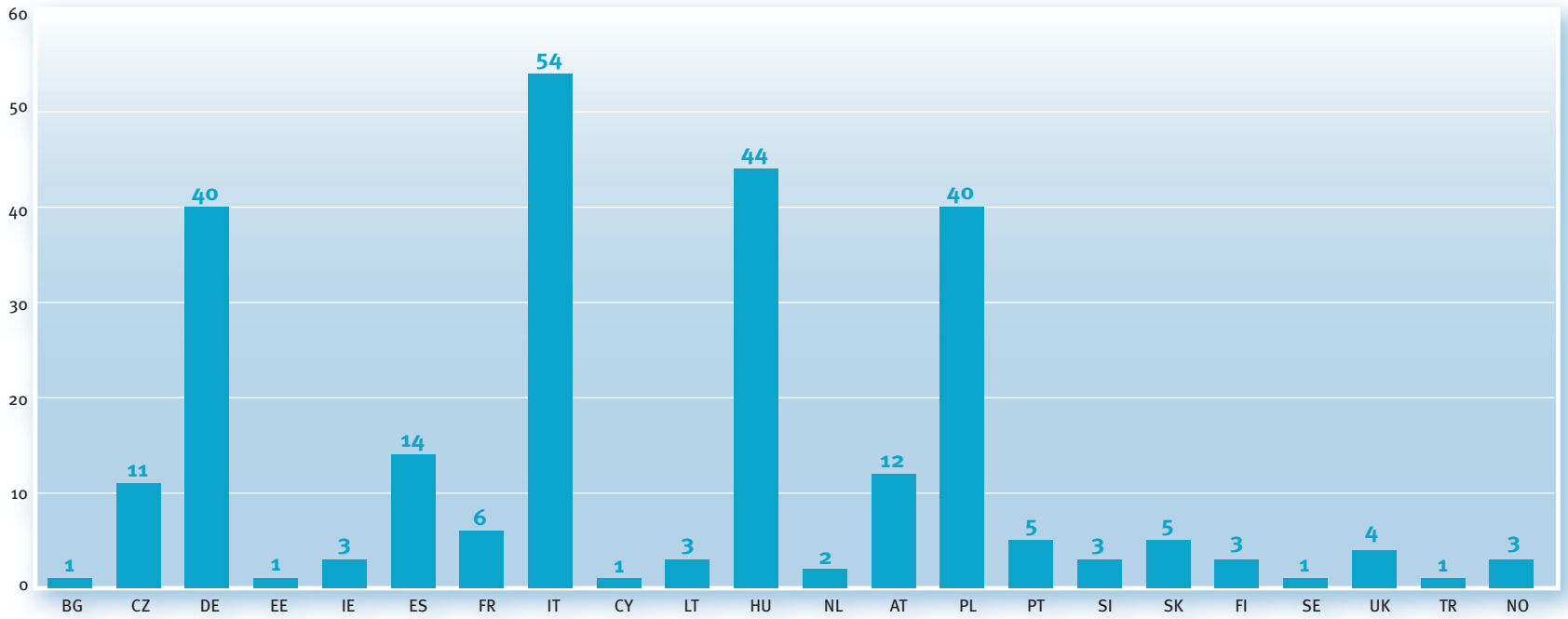
Active and passive Higher Educations Institutions in Erasmus from 2003 to 2011



● Maximum: Number of Erasmus University Charter (EUC) holders

● Minimum: Number of Higher Education Institutions sending out students and staff

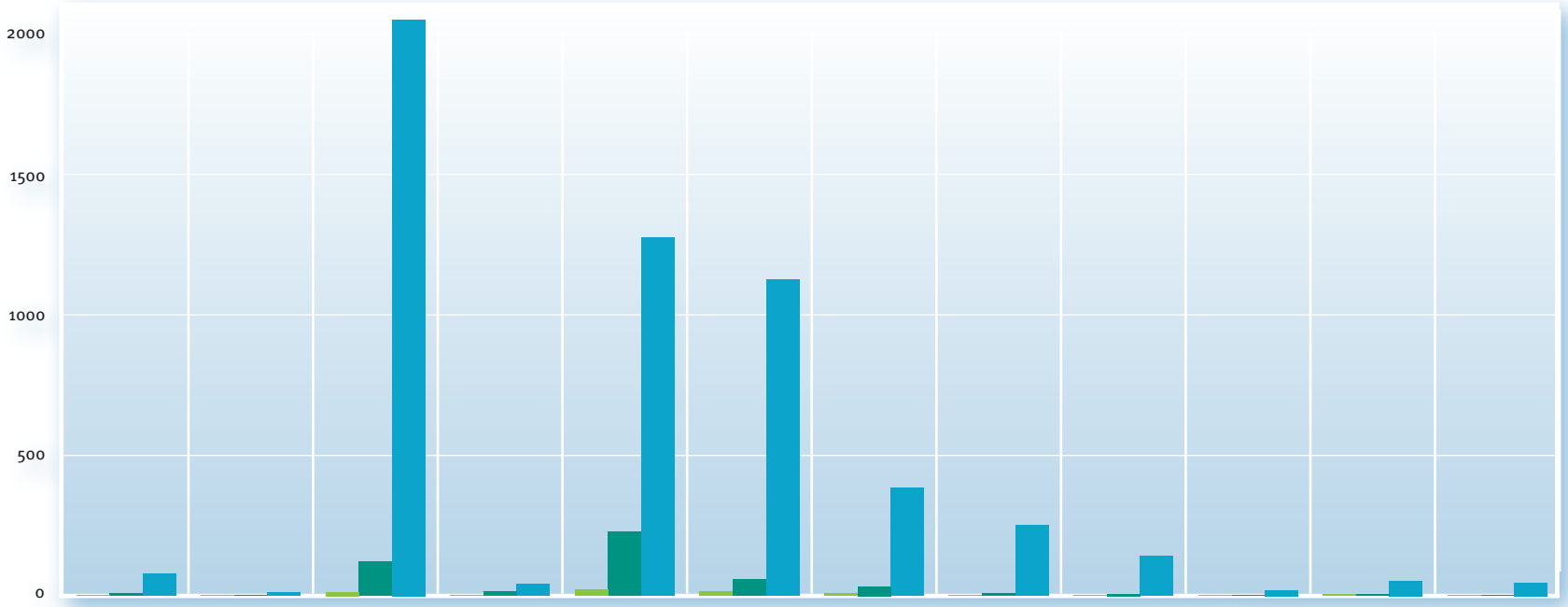
Number of students with special needs participating in student mobility in 2009-2010



● Number of special needs students

Note: only countries with at least one student with special needs are displayed in the chart.

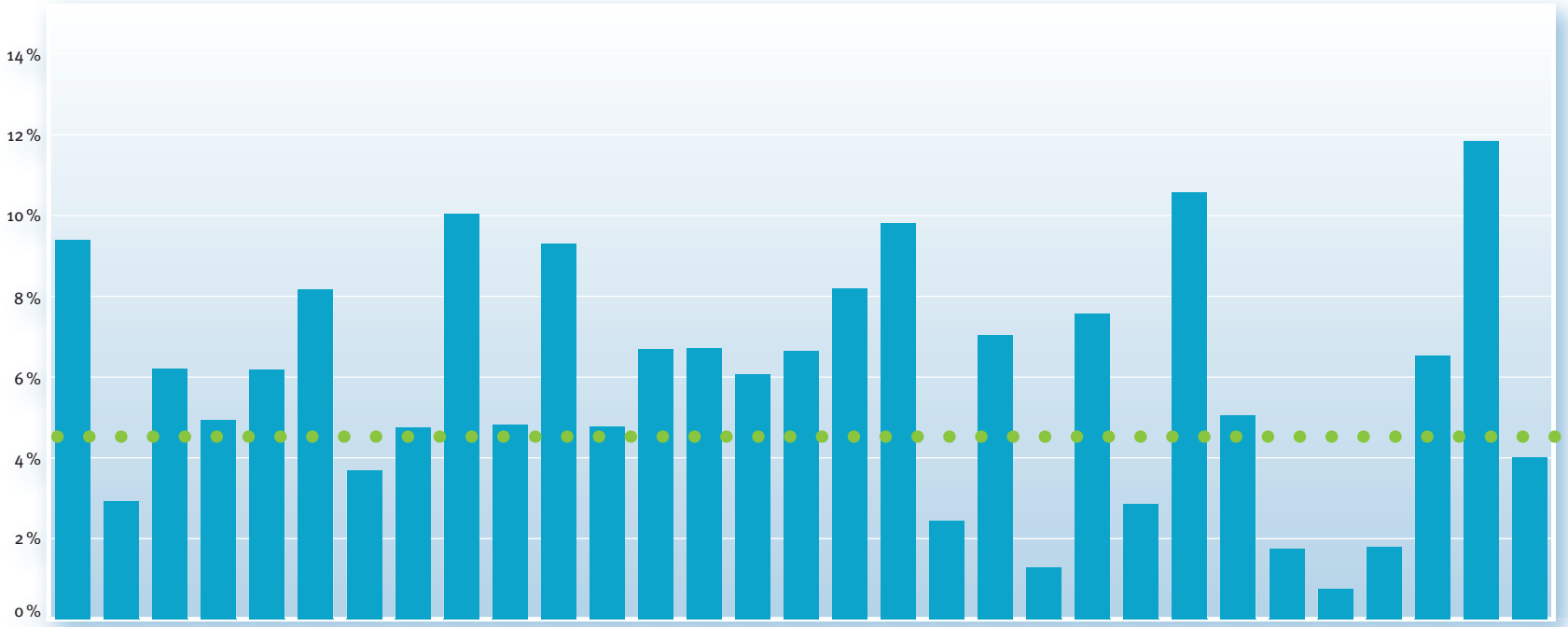
Consortia for company placements per country in 2009-2010



	BG	CZ	DE	GR	ES	FR	IT	NL	AT	PL	PT	FI
Number of consortia	1	1	14	1	21	15	8	2	2	2	5	1
Number of Higher Education Institutions in Consortia	8	2	122	15	229	59	34	8	7	2	5	2
Number of placements organised	79	12	2 051	43	1 275	1 125	384	251	141	20	54	47

- Number of consortia
- Number of Higher Education Institutions in Consortia
- Number of placements organised

Erasmus students as proportion of the graduates in 2009 (in %)



BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	GR	ES	FR	IT	CY	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	HR	TR	IS	LI	NO
9.39	2.92	6.21	4.94	6.19	8.17	3.68	4.75	10.04	4.81	9.31	4.78	6.68	6.72	6.07	6.65	8.19	9.8	2.44	7.04	1.28	7.56	2.85	10.58	5.05	1.74	0.74	1.79	6.52	11.85	4.00

● 2009/2010
● Average: 4.51 %

Data from Eurostat 2009 except Greece (Eurostat 2008). Data for Luxembourg is not included as it is not comparable.

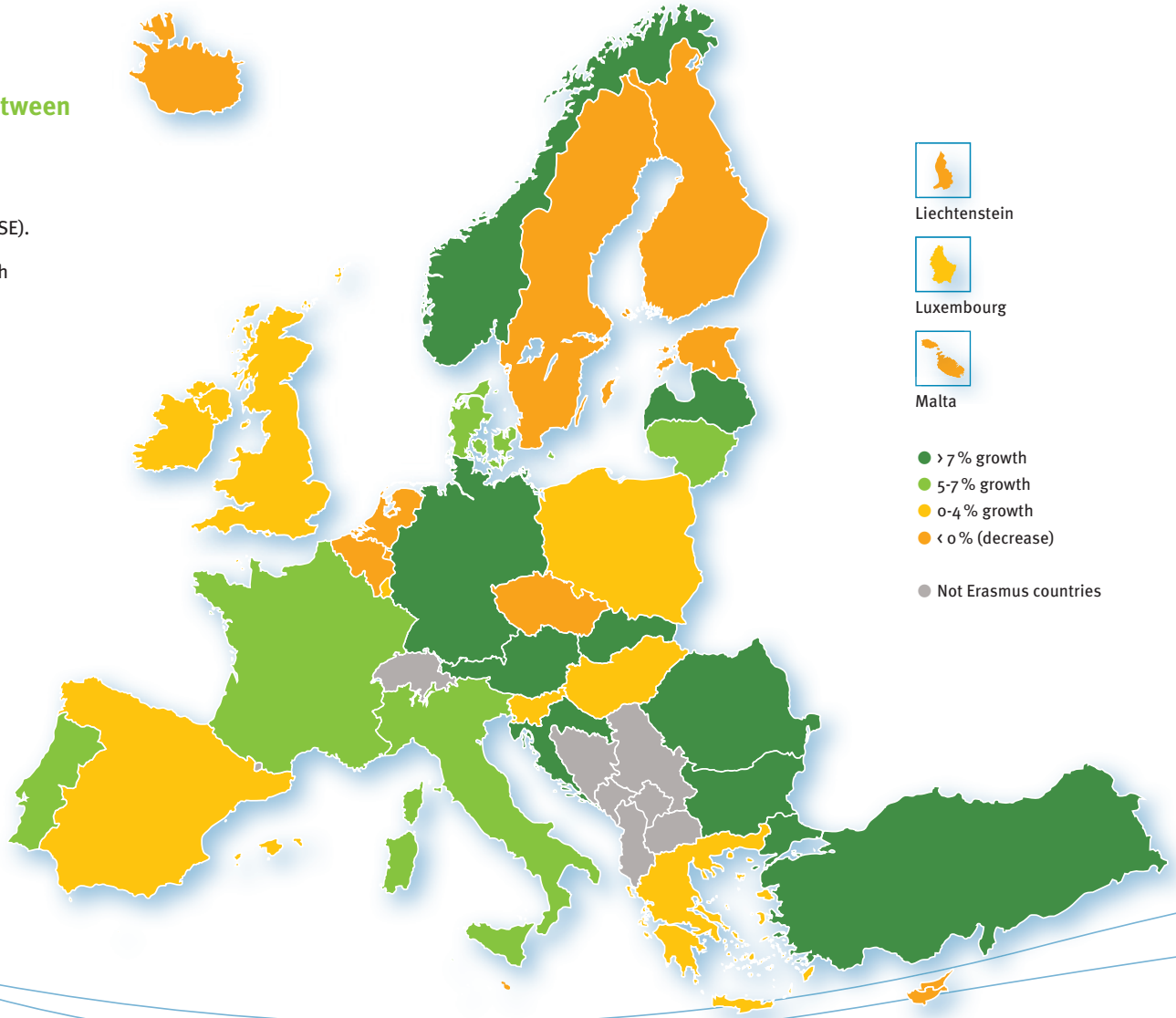
Staff mobility growth rates between 2008/09 and 2009/10

10 countries experienced a decrease in mobility (BE, CY, CZ, EE, FI, IS, LI, MT, NL, SE).

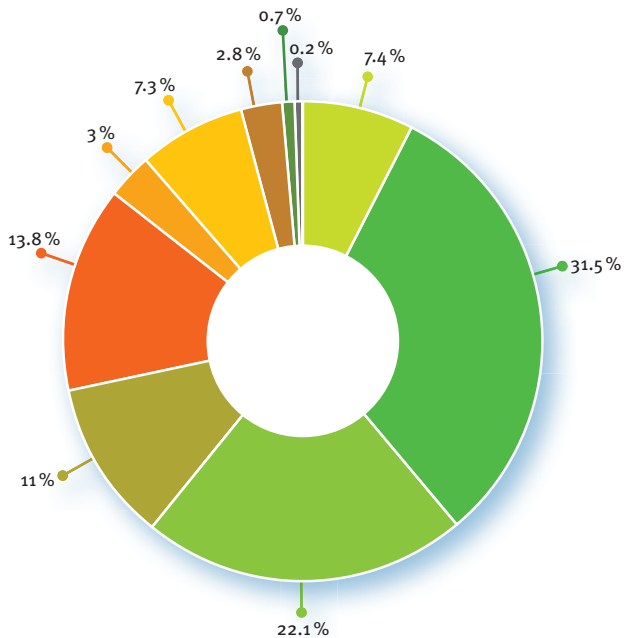
8 countries experienced only small growth (GR, HU, IE, LU, PL, SI, ES, UK).

5 countries experienced a modest growth (DK, FR, IT, LT, PT).

9 countries grew by more than 7 % (AT, BG, HR, DE, LV, NO, RO, SK, TR).

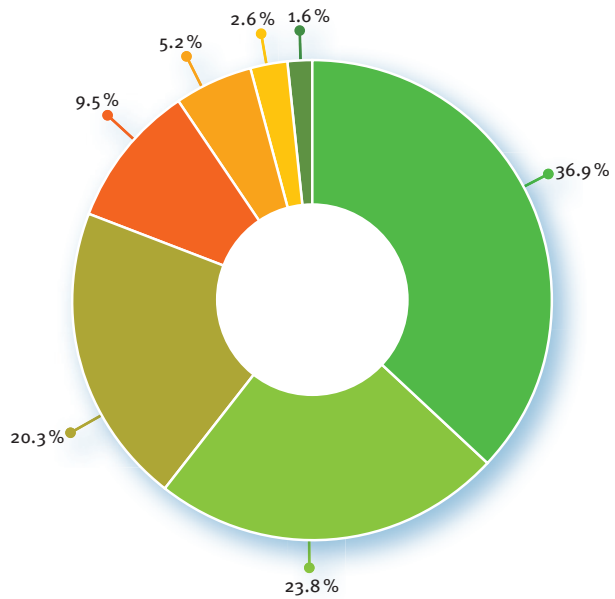


Subject areas in staff mobility for teaching assignments

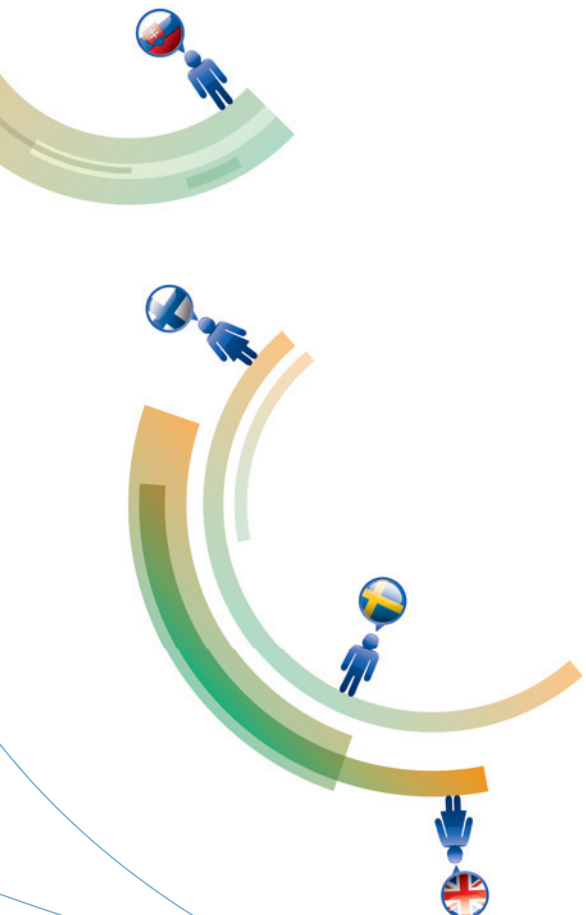


- General Programmes
- Education
- Humanities and Arts
- Social sciences, Business and Law
- Science, Mathematics and Computing
- Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction
- Agriculture and Veterinary
- Health and Welfare
- Services
- Not known or unspecified

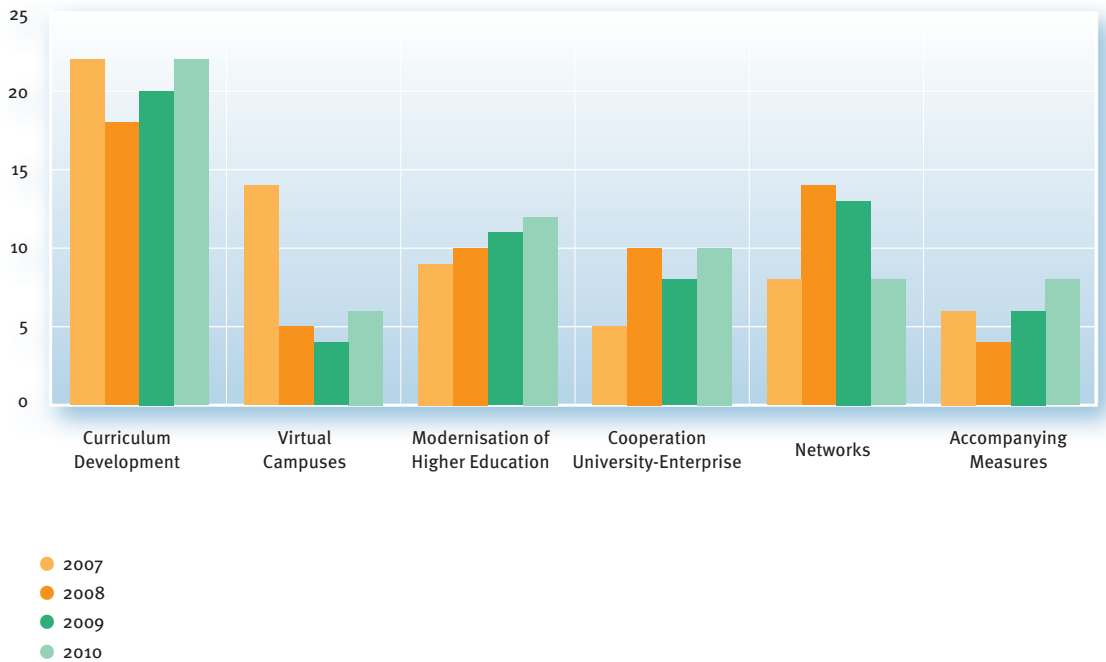
Field of work of staff going on training abroad



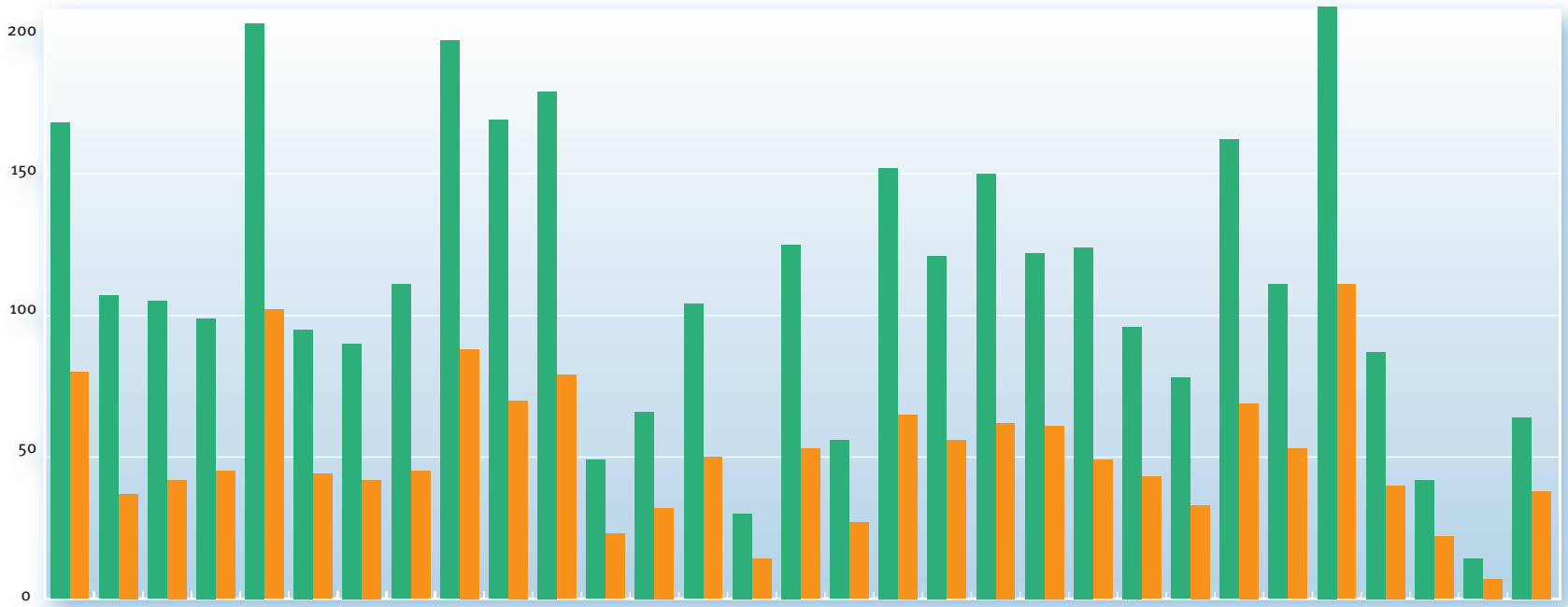
- Academia
- General administration & technical matters
- International Office
- Other
- Student Information
- Finance
- Continuing Education



Policy area of selected Erasmus University Cooperation projects from 2007 to 2010



Number of Erasmus University Cooperation project applications submitted and selected per coordinating country from 2007 to 2010



	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	GR	ES	FR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	TR	IS	LI	NO
●	168	107	105	99	203	95	90	111	197	169	179	49	66	104	30	125	56	152	121	150	122	124	96	78	162	111	209	87	42	14	64
●	80	37	42	45	102	44	42	45	88	70	79	23	32	50	14	53	27	65	56	62	61	49	43	33	69	53	111	40	22	7	38

● Proposals submitted
● Proposals selected

Acronyms for country names

Iso Code	*Country Name*		
AT	Austria	IT	Italy
BE	Belgium	LI	Liechtenstein
BG	Bulgaria	LT	Lithuania
CY	Cyprus	LU	Luxembourg
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia
DE	Germany	MT	Malta
DK	Denmark	NL	Netherlands
EE	Estonia	NO	Norway
ES	Spain	PL	Poland
FI	Finland	PT	Portugal
FR	France	RO	Romania
GR	Greece	SE	Sweden
HR	Croatia	SI	Slovenia
HU	Hungary	SK	Slovakia
IE	Ireland	UK	United Kingdom
IS	Iceland	TR	Turkey

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