

The SPHERE report 2020

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ERASMUS+ International Credit Mobility - a study of the mobility of disadvantaged students from Partner Countries

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**The
SPHERE
report**

https://supporthere.org/sites/default/files/sphere_icm_report_final.pdf

The report on ICM

- Survey of **ICM participation by disadvantaged students** from 20 Partner Countries in Eastern Partnership, South-Mediterranean and Western Balkans, undertaken in 2019 (E+ 14-20)
- Context: only 2% of outgoing ICM students were 'disadvantaged' (as against 6% of intra-European)
- Survey of 702 students, 14 HEREs, 10 IROs, 18 NEOs and 5 NAs backed up by interview; analysis of 191 NEO monitoring reports

Main findings

- Legal definitions of ‘disadvantage’ in PCs varied; many did not fully align with the E+ indicative list 2014-21
- Affirmative action in the PCs was limited to access to HE and did not extend to participation in ICM
- Local custom and practice tended to inhibit students’ self-identification as ‘disadvantaged’
- Financial assistance for ‘disadvantaged’ students rarely covered extraneous mobility expenses
- OS funds rarely reached PC HEIs and almost never supported mobility of the ‘disadvantaged’

Main recommendations

- Targeted publicity by all stakeholders
- Staff development for ministry officials, administrative and academic staff in the HEIs
- PCs to consider how to align with EU values and implement E+ policy
- EC to promote dialogue between NAs and NEOs on selection of mobile students, IIAs, OS
- EC to cover additional costs incurred
- Prog C HEIs to produce relevant strategic plans

From E+ 14-20 to E+ 21-27

- From ‘disadvantaged students’ to ‘students with fewer opportunities’
- The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy
- Greater stress on promotion and publicity by NAs and NEOs, but no structured NA-NEO dialogue
- At consortium level: indicative targets and shared strategy
- At regional level: minima for Eastern Partnership (40% of budget) and Southern Neighbourhood (50% of students)
- Sharing of OS funds ‘strongly recommended’
- From discretionary top-up to Inclusion Support

Thank you for your attention

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