

Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility (SIEM)

Technical Specifics

Note: This information is preliminary and can be subject to change throughout the development of the project.

Project Title	Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility (SIEM)
Grant Call	<i>Erasmus+ Social Inclusion Call</i>
Agency to Apply	<i>EACEA</i>
Applicant Organisation	<i>ESN</i>
Overall Policy Priority	<i>Social Inclusion</i>
Total Budget	625.000 (Grant 500.000)
Working Days	<i>t.b.c.</i>
Expected Start Date	<i>End 2019</i>
Expected Duration	<i>2 years</i>

Project Description

The project focuses on Social Inclusion of students from **different backgrounds** into the Erasmus+ programme, focusing on underrepresented groups in the programme.

Universities UK International (UUKi) has published a project on the mobility participation of students from disadvantaged groups in the UK. The research focuses on the barriers to mobility for different target groups (student from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, students from low-participation neighbourhoods, black and ethnic minority students, students living with disabilities), and what policies and process could be put in place to encourage more students to undertake a period of mobility. The report and toolkit analysed national datasets, ran focus groups and interviews with students, and collated examples case studies from universities and colleges across the UK.

The **Erasmus Student Network** has been working in the field of Social Inclusion since the start of the SocialErasmus programme in 2009 and the ExchangeAbility project since 2011.

We strongly believe in the social dimension of the Erasmus+ programme as a motor for inclusion and integration. The Erasmus Student Network defines two main objectives in the field of Social Inclusion :

1. Widening participation of underrepresented groups of the Erasmus+ programme in order to make the programme more inclusive.
2. Increase the interaction between International students and local communities in order to increase integration and intercultural exchange.

Social Inclusion is a **priority** in the **next programme**, but very little hard data is available. We believe it is important to gather more hard evidence across Europe, and link this evidence to recommendations for universities to increase their outward mobility. The project would start with a two research components, one focussing on quantitative data analysis (WP1), and the other on Case studies through site visits and focus group interview with students from underrepresented groups that will lead into (WP2). This will be followed up with recommendations and test phases in the Partner Universities, after which a short term mobility for students from underrepresented groups will be organised to create modules around Mobility, Internationalisation, Intercultural learning and diversity to bring back to the local communities (WP2). This will be followed by a wider spread implementation round (WP3), involving Partner Universities, local ESN sections and other local youth organisations to work around previously mentioned topics to instigate interaction between local youth of underrepresented groups and international students with mobility experience. In order to measure the impact of these activities, a Social Impact Measurement tool would be developed (WP3) in order to draw conclusions and recommendations that can be disseminated with further Higher Education and Youth sectors (WP 5).

Additionally, the recommendations from this project could be implemented early on in the new programme as well as answer to the European Court of Auditors claim that **not enough evidence gathering** has been done on **Erasmus+**.

Objectives: Ideas for WP

WP 1: Institutional research

Research will be undertaken both with a students and HEIs to research and assess their level of activity to make Erasmus more inclusive.

This work package will provide the base information and pave the way for the identification and development of best practice guidance and recommendations. It will provide a snapshot outward mobility participation by disadvantaged students in partner countries.

ESN will work with UUKi as an affiliated entity to deliver this package. The Policy Researcher at UUKi will conduct data analysis on the results of a survey (drafted by UUKi) that will be circulated by the ESN to universities in their network. This work package provides data analysis at a national and institutional level. Desk-based research will provide overview of access to education regulations in each country, with the aim of creating summative country profiles.

Key dates

- Research commences November 2019 (Year 1)
- Research completes June 2020 (Year 1)
- Report published August (Year 1)

Targets:

- Expected students answers : target of 2000 students
- Expected HEI : target of 200 universities
- All partners to be involved in dissemination of survey throughout Year 1 (2019 - 2020) to ensure it has a wide circulation and to enable higher completion rate.

WP 2: Student Perspective Methodology

Work Package 2 will focus on the student's perspective. This research will lead to the development of recommendations and guidelines for universities to ensure higher levels of engagement in outward mobility by students from underrepresented groups.

The Project Researcher at UUKi will create a focus group outline which will be distributed to each of the participating institutions. Each university will then deliver focus groups to their students from underrepresented groups and record the results. The aim of the focus groups research will be:

- Gaining an understanding on the existing barriers to participation in mobility;
- Identifying good practice in supporting students to go abroad; and
- Gather suggestions for increasing participation in mobility programmes.

Study Visits will be organised to the five partner universities to observe current practice. During these visits the project team will also conduct interviews with students, deliver focus groups, and develop case studies in partnership with university departments.

The Policy Researcher will analyse the findings of focus groups and draft case studies and interview summaries to create a project report of all qualitative results. This report will be developed into a roadmap that will support universities to effectively recruit and support students onto mobility programmes, making them more inclusive. This piloting phase (Year 2)

will be tracked between the different universities, and the results will be recorded.

Key dates

- Focus Group Outlines - December 2019 (Year 1)
- Study Visits - January - May 2020 (Year 1)
- Analysis - January - June 2020 (Year 1)
- 2.4 Recommendations May - June 2020 (Year 1)
- Each network/university to host an event - September 2020 (Year 1)
- 2.5 Testing changes (September 2020 - September 2021 (Year 2)
- 2.6 Final reporting of results including pilot year feedback - September 2021 (Year 2)
- Call for IPW - January 2020 (Year 1)
- International Project Week - Spring/Summer 2020 (Year 1)
- 3.3 Module development - Summer 2020 (Year 1)
- Publish module manual - Autumn 2020 (Year 2)
- Piloting of Activities - Winter 2020 (Year 2)
- Training in Fall 2020
- **Communication Campaign: Inclusive Mobility**
 - How to communicate about inclusive mobility

Note: all universities should provide primary research (survey responses, focus group notes, university copy) in English. Universities will also be asked to provide confirmation of which student groups are classified as disadvantaged and underrepresented at their institutions.

WP 3 Social Impact Measurement and Implementation

Building further on Impact Measurement tools ESN currently has to support the implementation through a platform, draw learning for the students and measure the impact of different activities that are taking part all over Europe.

- 3.1 Platform Creation Spring 2020
- 3.2 Activity Registration
 - Initial data collection
 - Dashboard of activities (visual representation)
- 3.3 Data Protection and User Privacy (report > Quality Assurance part in this work package >).
- 3.4 Student Questionnaire and Self Assessment (linked to data filled in by the Activity Coordinator)
 - Providing value to students, visualisation of activity
 - Collects big data for reporting
 - Impact measurement for individual and organisation
- 3.5 Automated Analysis of overall impact of activity
- 5.5 Piloting of Impact Measurement (SEM 1) Fall 2020
- 5.6 Revision of Platform () and Upscaling Winter 2020/2021
 - Upload set of data and take the administration of data.
- Event Implementation Spring 2021
- 5.7 Data Analysis (WP 4?) (Summer 2021)

WP 4: Dissemination and Recommendations

- Campaign for Inclusive Mobility (ME and Social Inclusion)
- *Videos following the live of students from the target groups that went on exchange, encouraging others to go as well.*
- Recommendations targeting HEI, Ministries and EU level.
- Results of research

Host and manage the organisation of a full day event in Brussels in the Autumn of 2021 to disseminate information about the project to approximately 100 delegates from across Europe and beyond. Delegates will include senior managers and practitioners from HEIs; representatives of E+ National Agencies; policy makers from the EU and individual Member States; and international delegates e.g. representatives from HE organisations in the USA. ESN, UUKi and University Partners will present the project findings.

In order to achieve value for money, existing fora and networks will be fully utilised to achieve widespread dissemination.

ESN will utilise it's network to raise awareness of the project. University networks and will raise awareness of the research and its outcomes amongst practitioners across the EHEA. The project will be presented at ESN conferences and UUKi annual conference (Year 1 and Year 2).

The project outcomes will be promoted by the ESN and UUKi in all circulars for instance, newsletters and mailers; via websites; via blog, at annual conferences.

Exploitation of the outcomes of the project will target practitioners and will be achieved by:-

1. Workshops on the research findings and effective use of the toolkit will form part of:-

- The SocialErasmus Training Days;
- The Mobility Module Manual
- The UUKi national mobility network
- The University partners institutional networks
- The University networks

2. The project findings will be available in digital format to download for free.

Furthermore, the Project Manager and Project Coordinator will be required to pursue opportunities to showcase the toolkit and outcomes of the research at other relevant European and International events planned to take place during and beyond the lifetime of the project. For instance:-

- European Association for International Education 2020/1
- European University Association Annual Conference 2020/1
- International Higher Education Forum 2020/1
- British Councils' Going Global Conference 2020/1
- EURIE 2020/1

WP 5 Management and Quality Assurance

The project will establish an Advisory Group (AG) that will meet at least 4 times during the 24

month project. The AG will be hosted by the ESN, and Chaired by a representative of the ESN. It will approve a work programme for the project; identify milestones and reporting schedules; and establish monitoring procedures to ensure both project deliverables and spend are kept on track.

On a day-to-day basis the SocialErasmus Project Coordinator at ESN will be responsible for managing the project (Project Manager). The Project Manager will report to both the Advisory Group and the ESN Management Team. The Project Manager will be supported by the Policy Researcher at UUKi (Project Coordinator) who will lead on WP 1 and WP 2 activities.

The five university partners will each identify a Project Officer who will work with the Project Manager and the Project Coordinator to develop and conduct research in their own Institution. During the research phase of the project (WP 1 and 2), Project Officers will be required to report on progress to the Project Manager and Project Coordinator at 2 monthly intervals.

The Project Manager will be responsible for monitoring and reporting spend on the project. Numbers of staff days allocated to each work package will be recorded and monitored and the ESN Finance Team will support in the provision of accurate and timely financial reports. A financial progress report will be presented at each meeting of the SG and in the Project Manager's interim 6 monthly reports.

Ultimate responsibility for financial and progress reporting to the EACEA lies with ESN. However, the Project Coordinator and Project Officers will have best working knowledge of their institutions spend and will ensure accurate financial reporting.

Overall the project Advisory board will provide ongoing evaluation of the work being undertaken. The Advisory Board will, for instance, review methodologies; validate surveys and comment on findings. However, given the practical, solutions based approach of this project it is important to seek out views and test the outcomes on practitioners in the field. A peer review approach to evaluation will, therefore, be adopted.

Research findings and the toolkit will be tested out by universities in the Implementation Phase. Universities will provide regular and in depth peer review.

Testing of the relevance and transferability of the materials on a transnational basis will be ensured by :-

- the involvement of universities across the EHEA representing the five european regions.
- presenting the outcomes to relevant outward mobility networks and at conferences.

Overall the success of the project will be measured in terms of:-

- numbers and geographical spread of people attending European level dissemination events;
- numbers and geographical spread of toolkit downloads;
- numbers and geographical spread of website portal access;
- implementation of good practice in institutions (including geographical location of institutions);
- increase in the numbers of disadvantaged and underrepresented students who go abroad;
- invitations to the project team to present findings/toolkit to practitioner events and

policy conferences.

Annual trends in participation by specific student profiles will be monitored through the Erasmus+ data. Ultimately, the effectiveness of the project will be measured in terms of growth in participation in outward mobility by students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

The implementation phase of the project is scheduled for Year 2. The online platform will enable universities to track progress that they have made toward more inclusive mobility programmes.

Partners

Coordinating Partner : ESN

Research Partner:

- UUKi

University Partners:

- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)
- University of Vigo (Spain)
- Masaryk University (Czech Republic)
- University of Latvia (Latvia)

European University Foundation (LU)

National Youth Organisations:

- ESN Spain (Spain)
- ESN France (France)

Expert on Inclusion

- YES Forum (DE)

Associate Partners :

- SIHO
- EDF
- Irish Higher Education Association