Reaction to long-term changes for mobility posed by the pandemic

Sara Laginder, Institutional Erasmus Coordinator, Uppsala University, Sweden
Background – Erasmus mobility numbers in round figures

A regular academic year – outgoing mobility on average:
450 Erasmus students
150 Erasmus trainees
100-150 Erasmus staff mobilities

2020/21 so far:
Approx. 160 Erasmus students
Approx. 70 Erasmus trainees
Approx. 10 Erasmus staff mobilities (all carried out digitally/online)
Innovative Crisis Response

Increased number of questions/queries

New ways of communication, for example Zoom drop-in
Innovative Crisis Response

Stranded Erasmus trainees

Erasmus Emergency Fund
The future of Erasmus mobility

- Funds for Online staff training, green travels
- ?
Resources (both human and financial) are key in responding to a crisis and enabling flexibility.

Resources are needed for:

• Crisis response
• Meeting the new needs of mobile students and staff
• Rapid changes to rules and regulations
• Forward looking initiatives are needed to continue to make Erasmus mobility attractive to students and staff
Recommendations for HEIs

• Use a system to keep track of mobility
• Ensure input from mobile participants by remaining in close contact
• Allocate time and money for crisis management, and plan ahead
• Know your team
• Be flexible and adapt to new circumstances
Recommendations for the European Commission:

• Support HEIs to respond to the crisis and the new needs of mobile participants by ensuring the rules and regulations for the so called Organisational Support are generous and flexible.

• Ensure funding rules are flexible for new innovative initiatives within the Erasmus programme, for example to promote green practices by digital initiatives.

• Ensure same rules and apply to Erasmus students regardless if they travel within or beyond Europe to ensure equal treatment of Erasmus students.