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

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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)



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Innovative Crisis Response

Increased number of
questions/queries

New ways of
communication, for
example Zoom drop-in



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Innovative Crisis Response

Stranded
Erasmus trainees

Erasmus
Emergency Fund



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The future of Erasmus mobility

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Funds for Online
staff training,
green travels



Lessons learned

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.