

Understanding Mobility

What students really think and experience

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Co-funded by
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***ESN**
Erasmus Student Network

What is the Erasmus Student Network?

is a non-profit international student organisation. Our mission is to represent international students, thus providing opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of **Students Helping Students**.



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XVI ESNsurvey

Preliminary findings



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What is the ESNsurvey?

A **student-led** research initiative running since 2005 focused on **mobility** and the **Erasmus+** programme.



This year's edition:

- The XVI edition: 12 May - 31 August
- Took ~25 mins
- Available in multiple languages to ensure accessibility for all students



Who is it for?



- **Exchange students** (Erasmus+ students, trainees, ESC, Youth opportunities)
- **International full-degree students** (Erasmus Mundus, joint programmes)
- **Non-mobile students** to understand motivations and barriers

What makes this edition special?

→ New sections on:

- European Degree
- Improvement of the teaching and learning section
- Improvement of the skills-related questions
- More options fitted for the European University Alliances



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How much responses did we collect?

35,937 valid responses

among which

14.000 full answers!

How much responses did we collect?

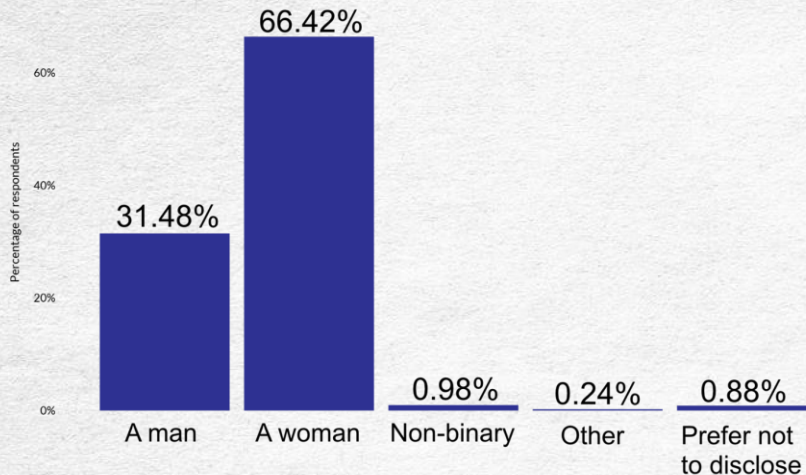
- Mobile students: 22 750 = **63.30%**
- Non mobile students: 9 807 = **27.29%**
- Graduate Students: 3 378 = **9.40%**



Age and gender distribution

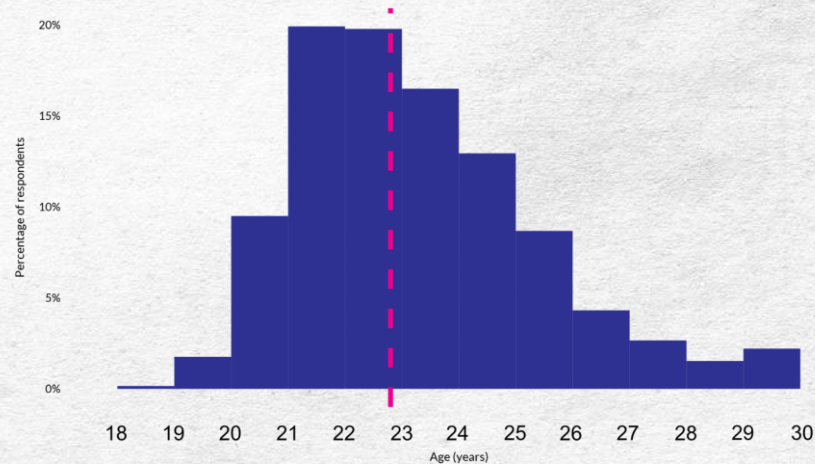
Gender distribution

n = 5890



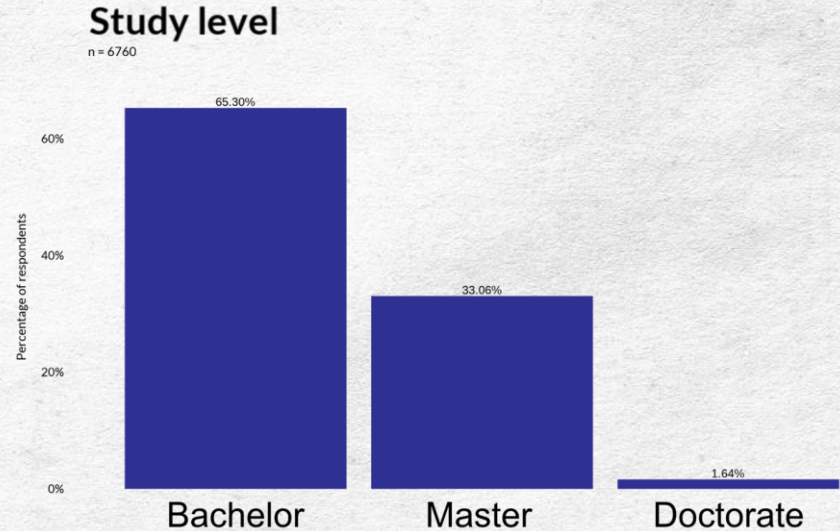
Age distribution

n = 5745, mean = 22.80 (SD = 2.18), median = 22.00



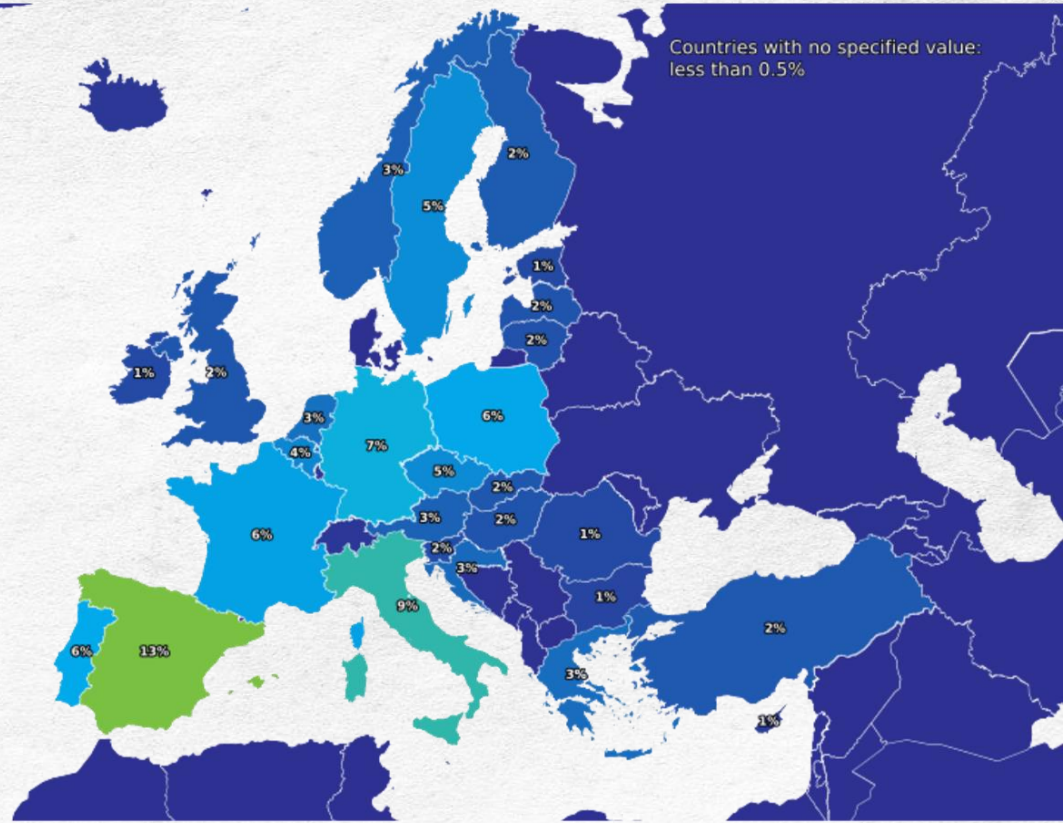
Study level of the respondents

- 65% of respondents are studying for the **bachelor's degree**.
- 33% of respondents are studying for the **master's degree**.
- Only 1.6% of respondents are studying at the **PhD level**.



Which country is the Erasmus destination?

- Spain (13%)
- Italy (9%)
- Germany (7%)
- Poland, France and Portugal (each 6%)



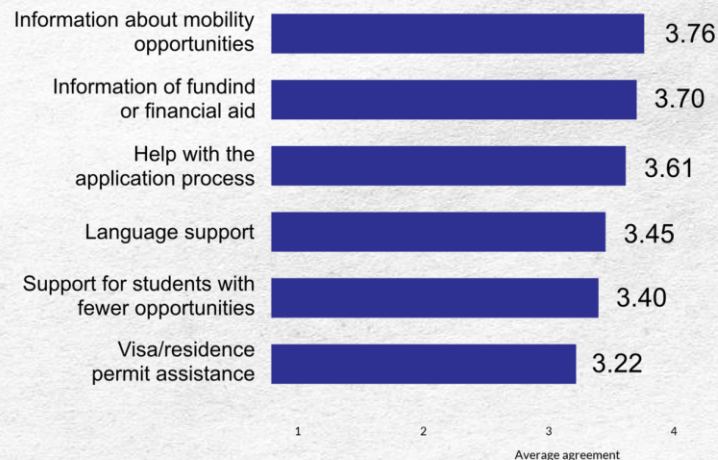
Horizontal priorities

Inclusion and diversity

- Erasmus+ is seen as **inclusive** (4.16/5).
- **Stronger satisfaction** with information on opportunities and funding.
- **Lower satisfaction** with language, support for fewer-opportunity students, and visa assistance.

Satisfaction with support from sending institution before departure

Means (1–5 scale)



Inclusion and diversity

The most common challenges reported by were:

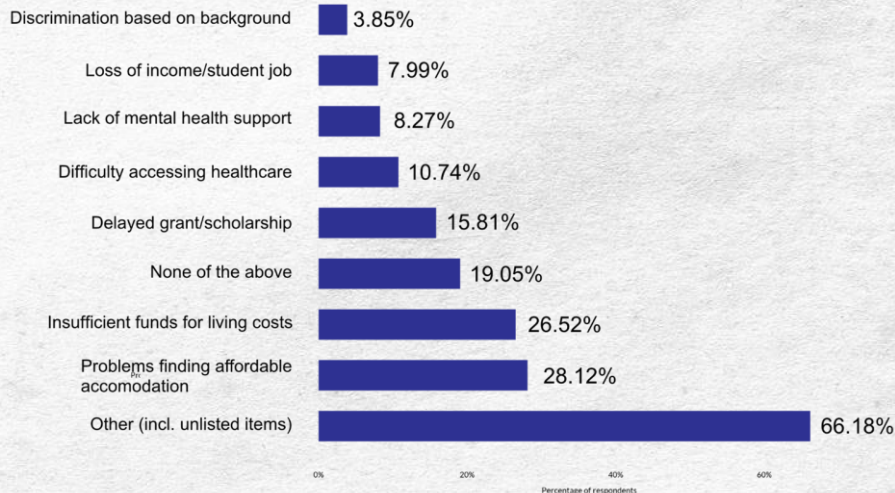
- **finding affordable accommodation** (28.12%)
- **insufficient funds for living costs** (26.52%).

Other notable issues included:

- **delays in grants payments** (15.81%),
- **accessing healthcare** (10.74%),

Issues faced during study abroad

Percent 'Yes'. Base: respondents with ≥1 'Yes' in C28 (SQ002–SQ016); n = 6395. 'Other' combines SQ016 and any unlisted items.



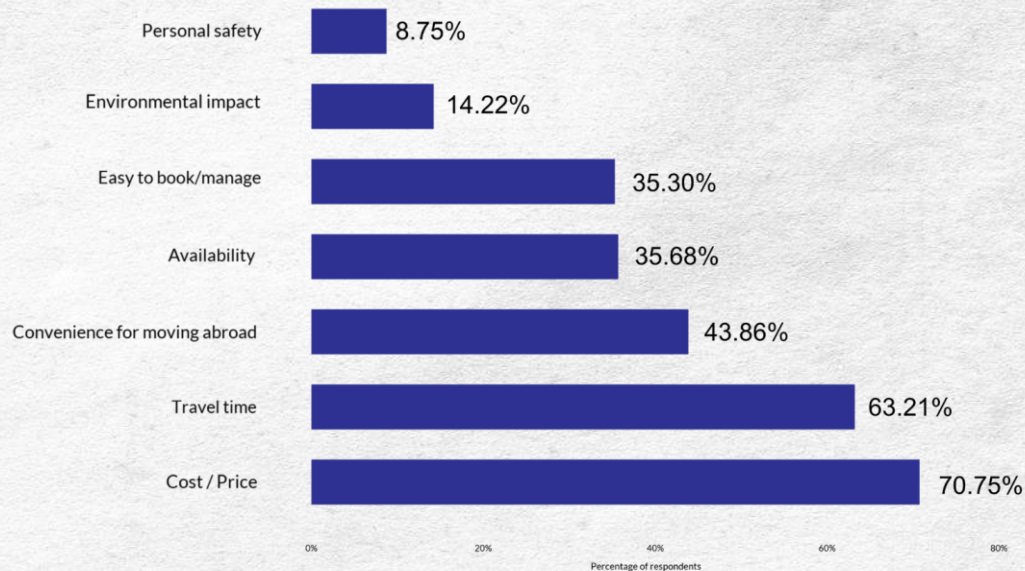
Environment

The main identified factors influencing students' choice of transportation were

- **cost (70.75%)**
- **travel time (63.21%).**

Reasons for choosing transport mode

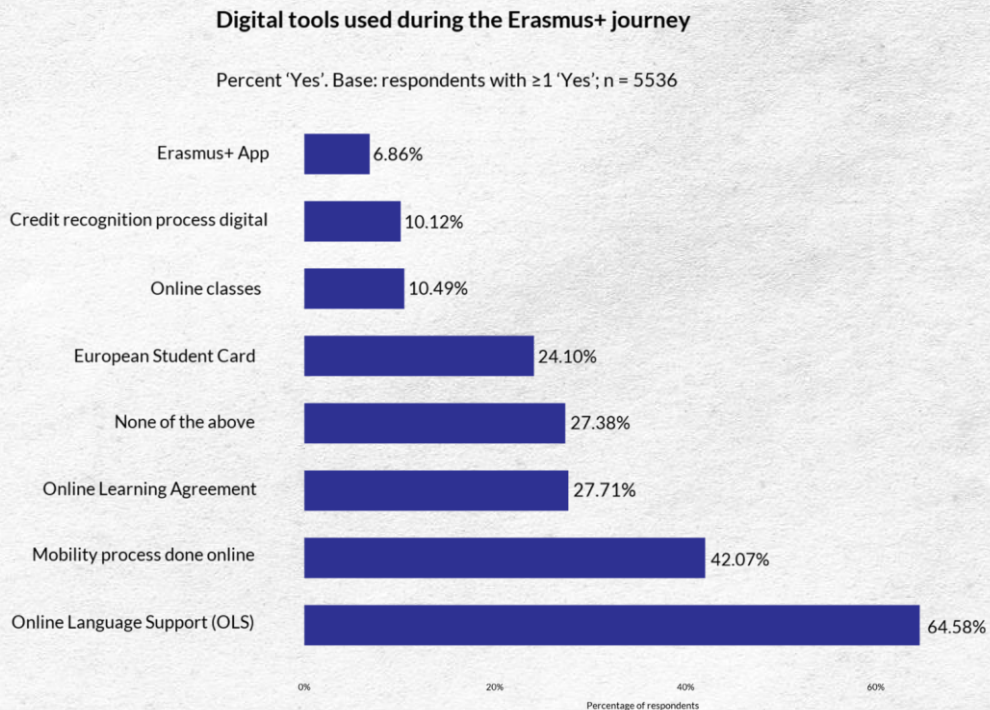
Percent 'Yes'. Base: respondents with ≥ 1 'Yes'; n = 6266



Digital transformation

The most frequently used digital tool was the **OLS** (64.58%),

Other tools mentioned included the **OLA** (27.71%), **ESC** (24.10%), **online classes** (10.49%),

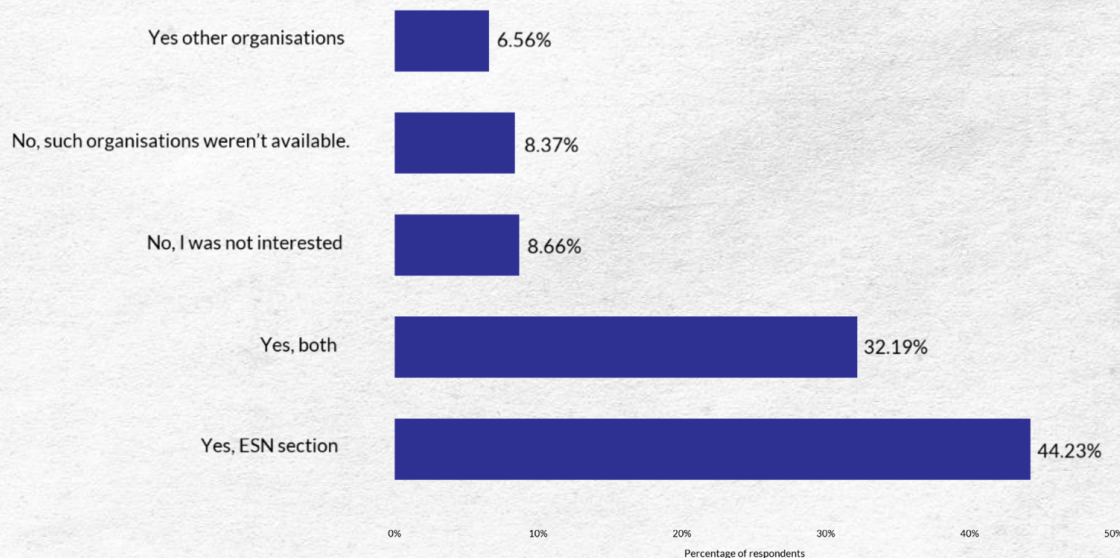


Participation in democratic life

- **44.23%** attended activities organised by their **local ESN section**,
- **32.19%** participated in events organised by **ESN** or other **international student organisations**.

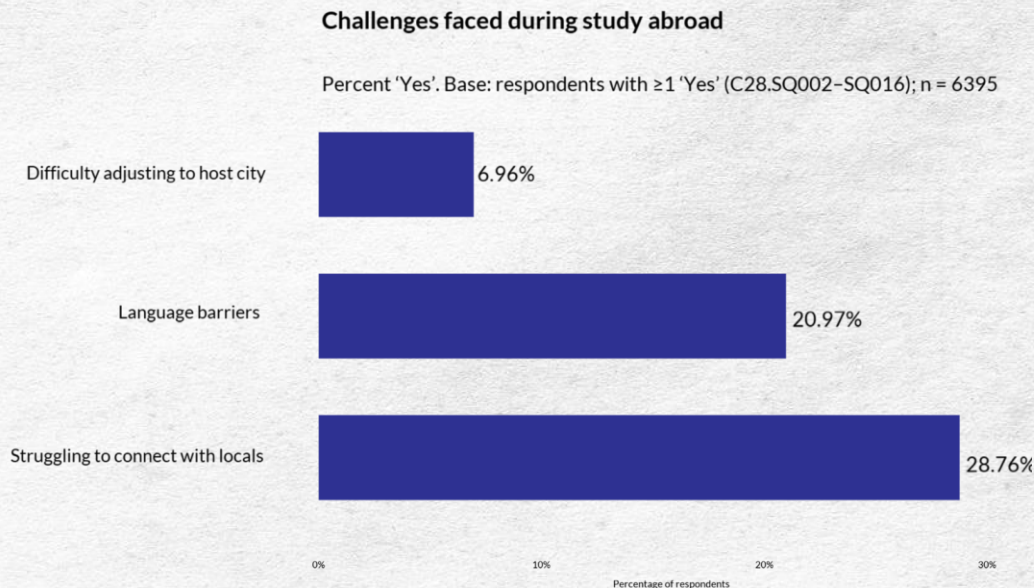
Attendance at ESN or other international student activities

n = 6096



Participation in democratic life

- Nearly one in three students (28.76%) reported **difficulties connecting with local residents**,
- 20.97% struggled with **language barriers**,
- 6.96% experienced **challenges adjusting to the host city**.



Impact of Erasmus+

Skills Developed While Abroad

Students reported developing a wide range of competencies during their Erasmus+ mobility. The most frequently mentioned were:

- **intercultural learning** (78.56%),
- **cultural awareness and expression** (70.40%),
- **multilingualism** (69.77%).

While lower percentages were recorded for **financial literacy** (27.73%), **negotiation** (20.25%), and **digital-related skills** (16.82% to 7.66%).

Participation in Mobility as a Reinforcer of European Identity

- Identification with **Europe** rises by + 0.32
- Sense of belonging to the **world** increases by + 0.13
- **National** and **Local identity** remains stable



Overall results

- **Horizontal priorities not fully implemented** (inclusion, sustainability, digitalisation still uneven).
- **Students confirm strong skill development**, supporting the vision of a **European Union of Skills**.
- Erasmus+ shows a **dual DNA**:
 - **Skills & competencies** for a competitive, sustainable, digital Europe.
 - **Democratic participation & EU belonging**, reinforcing shared values and engagement.



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