Workshop

Management of Erasmus+ student mobility

&

"SocialErasmus"

Part I:

Management of Erasmus+ student mobility

Why this workshop?

We chose this topic for a workshop since the student mobility is an issue that concerns all the Universities involved with the Erasmus+ Programme & dealing with student exchange, namely we wanted:

- To explore the common challenges & problematic areas

- To exchange our experiences with student mobility

- To share possible "good practices" we may have developed to cope with the challenges

- To suggest 'solutions' to difficulties

How did we work ?

❑ A short **presentation** from the representatives of DEEP

❑ The participants were given **two sets of papers** where they were asked to record the challenges they face in their everyday work with the students, as well as any good practices they may have adopted

❑ **Discussion**, **questions** & **comments** (focused on pros and cons, problems, good practices, possible solutions)

Our discussion focused on

☐ **Challenges:**

- Language knowledge level
- Difficulties in the communication both with students & Partner Universities
- Curriculum (learning agreement, changes)
- Course compatibility & recognition/ Transcript of Records
- Accommodation (victims of scam)
- Difficulties in finding a host (Traineeship)

Our discussion resulted in

- 4 colleagues reported having problems with the level of language

- 4 with the curriculum

- 5 colleagues reported problems with their students' accommodation

- 5 colleagues reported need for an IT- tool

- 3 colleagues reported disaffection of the paperwork needed

- 2 facing challenges with the course recognition but mostly it seems that this is not an issue

- Problems with the VISA process were mentioned both by DEEP & few participants

We also focused on

❑ **Good Practices**

  – Moebius (mobility management system)

  – Good Cooperation with the Erasmus Students' Network (ESN)

  – Selection process-Evaluation of students' applications

  – List of former Erasmus students & past mobilities

  – Informative material/ Appointments system

  – Organizing informative events with participation of students from past mobilities

We also focused on

❑ Good Practices

- Electronic applications' & paperwork processing (LA, LoA etc), online nomination connected with Bilateral Agreements & partners' info

- Website with Traineeship announcements

- 3 colleagues suggested the buddy system and ideas to encourage it

Part II:

"SocialErasmus"

Why this workshop?

This topic was chosen in order to identify to what extend is the "SocialErasmus" Programme known and implemented in the Partner Universities, as well as the actions taken towards its implementation, namely we wanted:

- To explore extend of knowledge around the subject

- To share experiences around its implementation

- To share possible "good practices" that may have been developed

- To suggest possible future actions & collaborations

How did we work ?

❑ A **representative of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN)** presented the initiatives, actions & events organized, as well as the desired outcomes of the above

❑ The participants were asked to complete a **questionnaire** to identify the areas mentioned before, record the challenges they face in the implementation, as well as any good practices they may have adopted

❑ Two members of the Teaching Staff informed us about the social programmes & the possibilities of recognition of the voluntary training & work

❑ **Discussion**, **questions** & **comments** (focused on future actions)

The questionnaire focused around the following areas:

❑ **Familiarity with the "SocialErasmus" Programme**
- YES - 8 participants
- NO – 5 participants

❑ **Implemented Actions**
- Social Actions within the local society (10 ppl)
- Training on sensitive social issues - local (3 ppl)
- Training on sensitive social issues – global (1 p)
- Actions within the "Erasmus in Schools" initiative (7 ppl)
- Actions towards the integration of exchange students (13 ppl)
- Actions for the intercultural awareness (10 ppl)
- Others: Walking with dogs, Children University, University of 3rd Age

The questionnaire focused around the following areas:

❑ **Recognition of the students' voluntary activities and/or training generally or within the "SocialErasmus+" Programme**

- YES - 4 participants
- NO – 8 participants

❑ **Recognition through the ways below:**

- As a selective course/ within the curriculum (1p)
- In the Diploma Supplement (none)
- As a Traineeship (2 ppl)
- Other:
  - ➢ Through the Students Voluntary Office
  - ➢ Volunteering Certificate issued by the University

The questionnaire focused around the following areas:

❑ **ECTS Credits awarded for any of the actions above**

- YES - 1 participant
- NO – 11 participants

❑ **Possible implementation of the actions through "blended mobility"**

- YES - 10 participants
- NO – 1 participants

Further discussion around

❑ Recognition options were mentioned by Professor Maghioros, with attention to interdisciplinarity

❑ Proposed Traineeship in dealing with vulnerable social groups (students with special needs) – Recommendation to National Agencies

❑ Better preparation and special attention in dealing with sensitive issues and/or groups, especially during fieldwork was proposed by Professor Tsironis through his experience with similar work (https://strapac.eu/)

The workshop Leaders would like to

Thank all the participants for their wonderful input, feedback & work!