



The European Commission's response to COVID-19 challenges on student mobility

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The people of Europe are watching what happens next. And we all know what is at stake. What we do now matters – for today as well as for the future.

*Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Commission, 26 March 2020*



Coordination at EU Level



Establishment of an online collaboration space with Member States to share good practices



EU Member States' answers to the COVID19 challenges in education



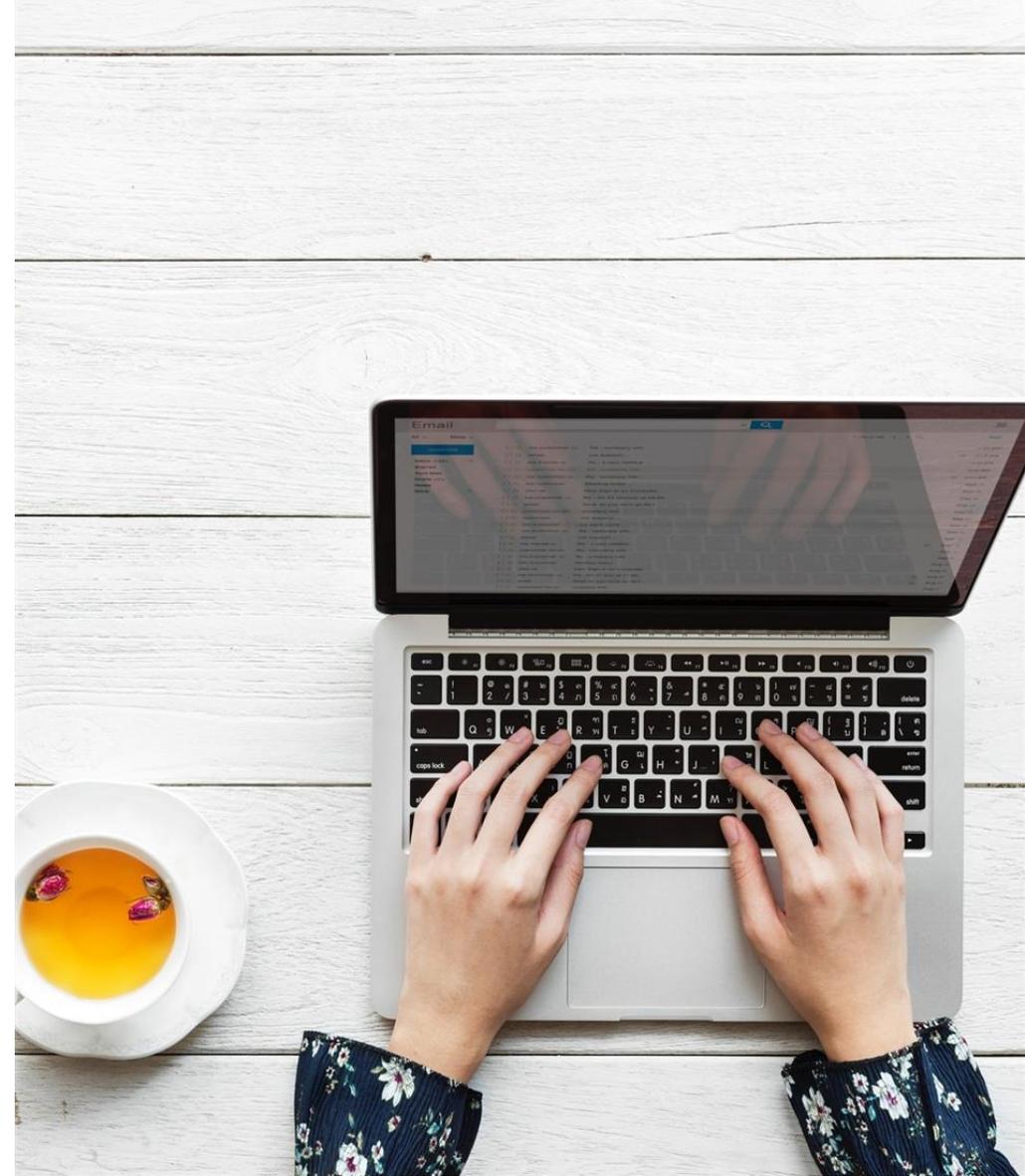
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- **Informal videoconferences of ministers of education**
14 April, 18 May
 - **Directors General Meeting, 24 March**

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- **Regular webinars with Erasmus+ NAs and Programme Committee**
 - **Webinars with student organisations (European Student Union and ESN) & Universities Networks**

State of Play in Higher Education

- Switch to online education on a massive scale
- Digital repositories are being developed and shared among teachers
- Targeted teacher training on e-learning methodologies and techniques
- Enhanced cooperation between teachers and increased peer support
- Support to students
- Additional funding to institutions and to individual students

Source: ©Pulse of Europe



Key Challenges for Students and European Commission's actions



“Almost two-thirds of the students' mobility periods continued. A quarter of them were cancelled” (ESN report on COVID-19).



Key Challenge – Uncertainty of mobility periods abroad



European Commission's response:

- Invoking “force majeure” clause on Erasmus+ mobility
- Facilitating online learning and recognition of credits gained during virtual mobility
- Asking for full flexibility on mobility arrangements in favour of the student
- Coordinated survey to follow on detail regarding status of mobilities



“37.5% of the students experienced at least one major problem related to their exchange.” (ESN report on COVID-19).



Key Challenge – Students in need of more support



European Commission's response:

- Constant cooperation with students and student organisations on real needs on the ground
- Offering full flexibility on Erasmus+ grants to cover unforeseen expenses (e.g. in relation to accommodation or repatriation costs)
- Calling on National Authorities, Erasmus+ National Agencies and Higher Education Institutions to offer flexibility and full support to students





“7% of the students reported that they will not get any grant at all for their studies. 24% reported that they will keep the grant, partially or fully. The majority of students do not know what will happen to their grants.” (ESN report).



Key Challenge – Confusion regarding Erasmus+ grants



European Commission’s response:

- Full flexibility on Erasmus+ grants in favour of the student
- Coordinated answers at DG EAC level via regular webinars with NAs, & webinars with student organisations and HEIs on Commission stance on grants
- [Q&As](#) for Erasmus+ participants



“Half of students whose mobility continued have moved to online classes. 34% have moved to partial online or partially postponed classes.” (ESN Report)



Key Challenge – Need for Digital Learning



European Commission’s response:

- Recognition of digital learning mobility components
- Launch of the [‘coronavirus: online learning resources’](#) website
- Digital Education Action Plan
- Continuous work on blended mobility opportunities under the new Erasmus Programme
- Micro-credentials expert group setting



Additional measures to support the Higher Education sector:



Extended deadlines for
Erasmus and EU Solidarity
calls



Erasmus COVID-19
recovery Plan



Follow-up survey with
Erasmus participants
&
organisations





**Thank you
for your
attention!**

