

Students from less advantaged backgrounds and from underrepresented groups that go abroad tend to get better degree results, have lower unemployment rates, are more likely to start their career in graduate-level jobs and have a higher starting salary than their non-mobile peers. However, while they stand to gain from this experience, these students are underrepresented in mobility, with only 7% of Erasmus students coming from a disadvantaged or underrepresented group.

Social inclusion is a priority for the next Erasmus programme, but very little hard data is available on the accessibility of the current programme and what measures could be put in place to improve access and participation.

In response to this, ESN has launched the 'Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility' project.

The project has two global objectives:

- Widening participation of underrepresented groups of the Erasmus+ programme in order to make the programme more inclusive;
- Increase the interaction between international students and local communities with fewer opportunities in order to increase integration and intercultural exchange.

The project is a collaborative cross-European partnership between <u>ESN</u>, <u>UUKi</u> and the <u>European University Foundation</u>, <u>YES Forum</u>, <u>Vrije Universiteit Brussel</u> (BE), <u>University of Vigo</u> (ES), <u>Masaryk University</u> (CZ), <u>University of Latvia</u> (LV) and <u>ESN Spain</u> (ES) and <u>ESN France</u> (FR).

