



HOW DOES ERASMUS MOBILITY IMPACT PERSONAL GROWTH, PROFESSIONAL CAREER & EMPLOYABILITY?

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UNIZA INTERNATIONAL WEEK

16 MARCH 2017

MY STORY (OF MOBILITY)



- 1977 - Born in Camerino (Italy)
- 1997 – University of Bologna (Italy)
- 2000 – 2001: Erasmus period in Helsinki (Finland)
- 2002: MSc thesis in Helsinki (Finland)
- 2003: graduated at Univ. of Bologna (Italy)
- 2004 – 2011: working & living in Finland (Helsinki + Jyväskylä)
- 2011 – 2016: working & living in Brussels (Belgium)
- 2016 - : working & living in Žilina (Slovakia)



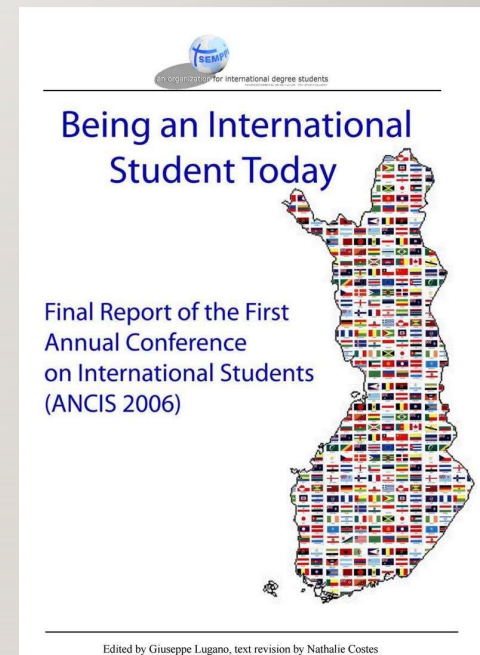
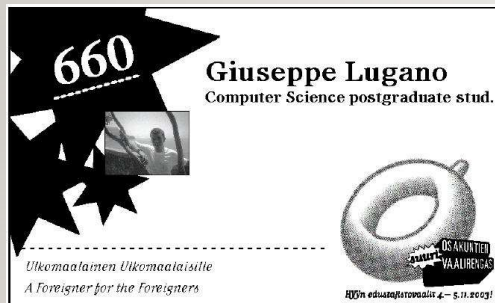
MY MOBILITY STARTED BEFORE MY ERASMUS



- My family encouraged the study of languages (especially English)
- Several study holidays abroad (first one in UK at the age of 15), in colleges and hosted by families
- Although the “fun” part was more prominent than the “study” part, these experiences widened my horizons, both culturally and socially (I made friends from various Italian regions, and from abroad)



ERASMUS IN HELSINKI, A MILESTONE



ERASMUS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS: THE “WEDDING EXAMPLE”



The spread of the network gives an idea of how distributed family and close friends are to us

- Bride: French (Nathalie ☺)
- Wedding Location: France
- Number of participants: ~60 from 9 EU countries
 - France: 26
 - Italy: 15
 - Austria: 5
 - Finland: 3
 - Poland: 2
 - Belgium: 2
 - UK: 2
 - Germany: 1
 - Switzerland: 1

PS: many more people were invited from several countries, but participating to a wedding abroad is much more challenging (and costly) then to a local one

YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS

ERASMUS IS JUST THE BEGINNING...
...OF A LONG JOURNEY WITH SURPRISING DISCOVERIES



- Your vision of the world
- Your Dreams and Ambitions
- Personal & Career objectives



YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS



Accept average job offer, in the place where I was born, and in which I feel good. I have my family, partner and friends here.

Accept job offer of my dreams, even if this would mean managing relationship at distance and see less often my family and friends

- **Decisions**

- are not always easy
- some of them can be reverted
- taking a decision is better than taking no decision

- **You cannot plan everything ahead**

- **In time, things change** (even if sometimes they look the same to you)

YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS: BE...

- **Self-Confident**
- **Proactive**
- **Curious**
- **Open**
- **Social, not only on Facebook 😊**



**ONCE
ERASMUS

ALWAYS
ERASMUS**



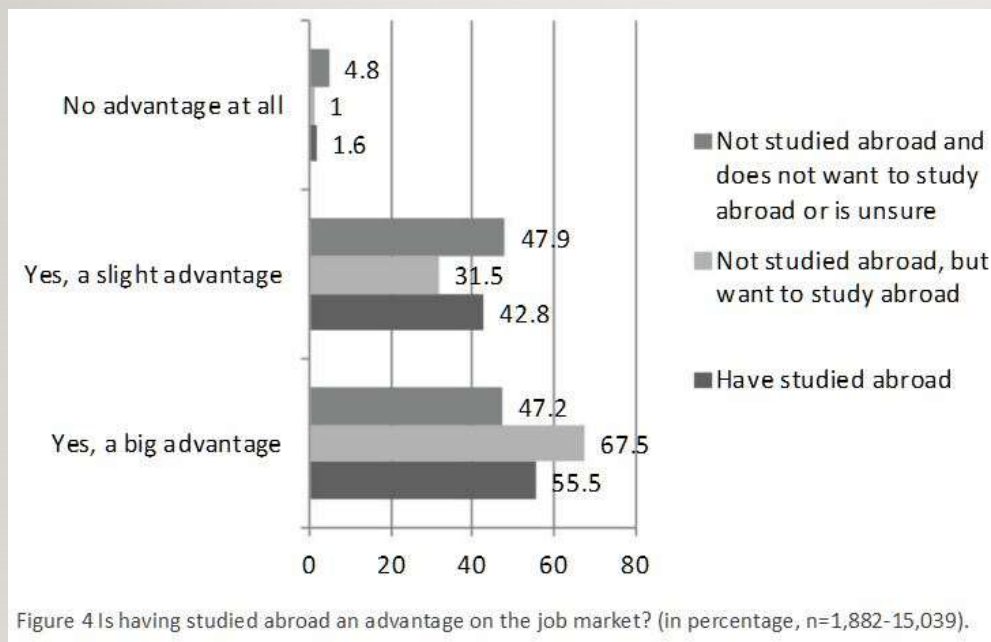
ESN SURVEY 2011 ON “EXCHANGE, EMPLOYMENT AND ADDED VALUE”



<https://esn.org/ESNSurvey/2011>

- Evaluating added value of mobility for employment
- ~21.000 participants from 20 EU countries
- Recommendations for
 - National governments and EU decision makers
 - Higher education institutions
 - Organisations providing services to international students

STUDY ABROAD, AN ADVANTAGE TO THE JOB MARKET?



Even who has not studied abroad believes that this experience represents an advantage on the job market

ERASMUS IS, ABOVE ALL, ABOUT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

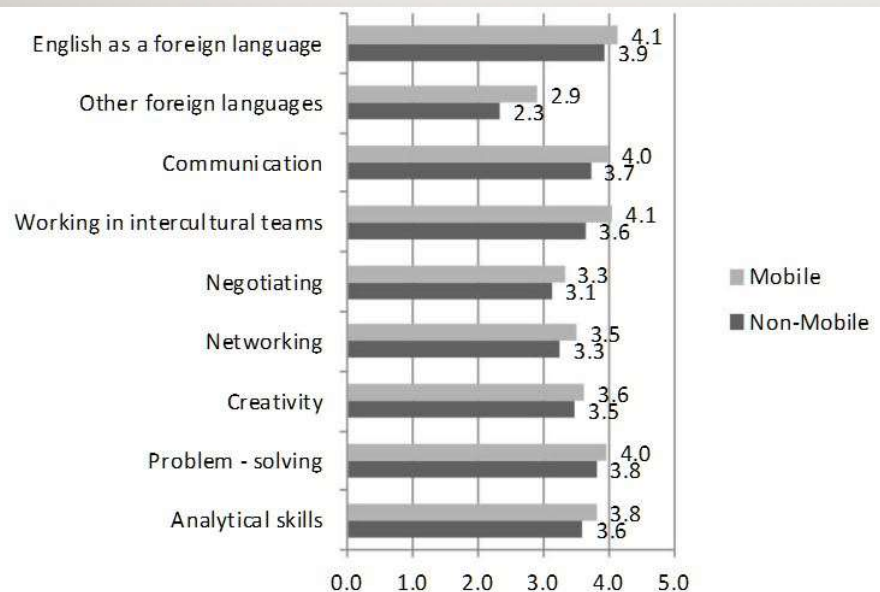


Figure 7 Average self-evaluation of various skills (On a scale from 1 (Very Low) to 5 (Very High), n=5,994-14,996).

- Those who have study experience abroad assessed themselves higher on all skills than those who did not study abroad -> Higher self-confidence
- It is not only about completing courses, but especially about developing a broad range of skills that are very valuable for the job market (and life)

FACTORS ENCOURAGING WORKING ABROAD

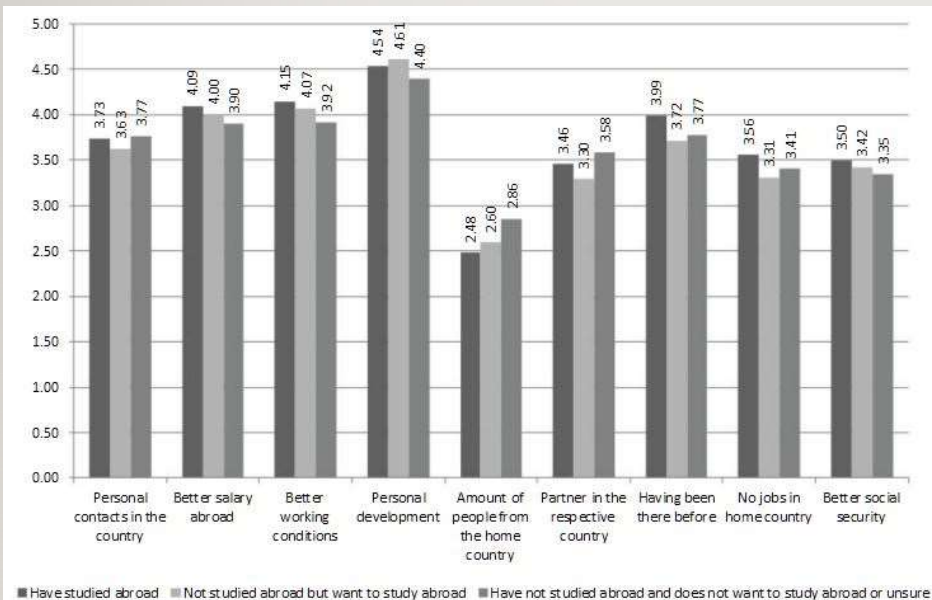
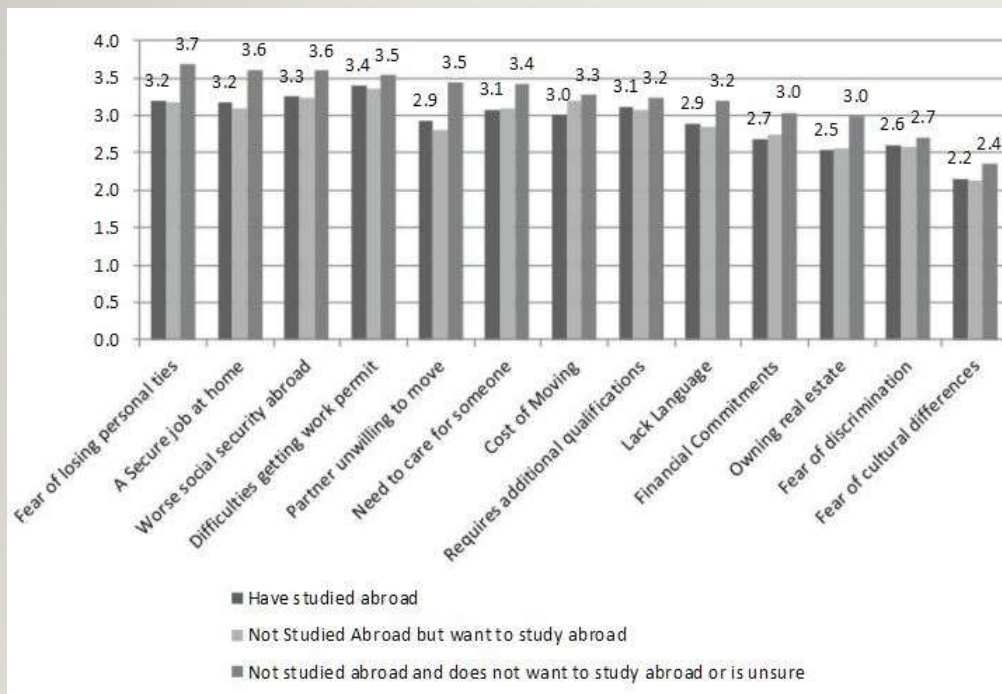


Figure 12 Comparison of factors encouraging respondents from working abroad (On a scale from 1 (totally disagree) to 5 (totally agree), n=1,378-20,925).

- **Top-ranked factors**
 1. Personal development
 2. Better working conditions
 3. Better salary abroad
- **Social Relationships Matter**
 - Personal contacts in the country
 - Partner in the respective country

FACTORS DISCOURAGING WORKING ABROAD



- **Top-Ranked factors for those who have not studied abroad**
 1. Fear of losing personal ties (3.7 / 4)
 2. A secure job at home (3.6 / 4)
 3. Worse social security abroad (3.6 / 4)

N.B. Partner unwilling to move (3.5 / 4)
- Lack of language skills and fear of cultural differences do not represent barriers

ERASMUS IMPACT STUDY (ESN, 2013) <https://esn.org/erasmus-impact-study>



EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ERASMUS STUDENTS



of Erasmus students study or train abroad to enhance their employability abroad



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Young people who study or train abroad are half as likely to face long-term unemployment

5 years after graduation the unemployment rate of Erasmus students is

23% LOWER

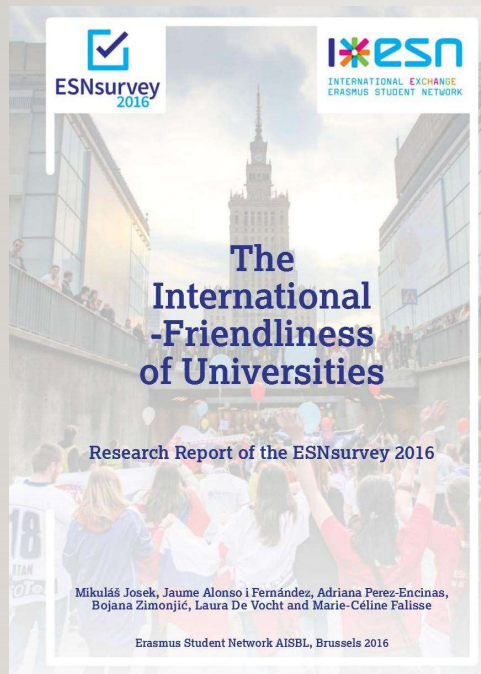


EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT





ESN SURVEY 2016 ON INTERNATIONAL-FRIENDLINESS OF UNIVERSITIES



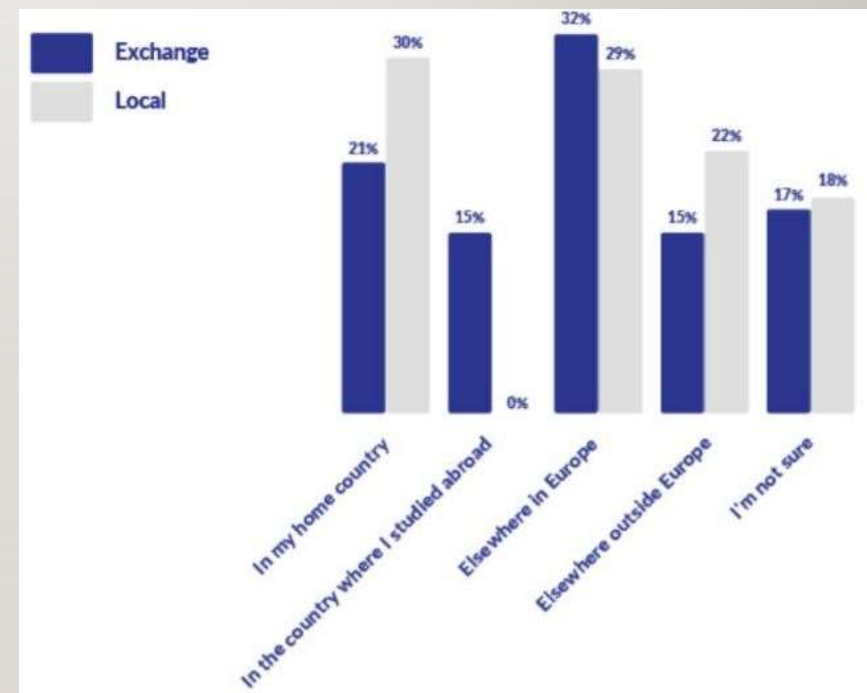
- **University Services for Foreign Students can improve their Employability**
 - It is more about the quantity and quality of services than the prestige of the university (Waters and Brooks, 2010)*
- **The longer the stay, the higher the improvements**
 - language skills
 - knowledge of the host country's culture
 - stronger integration and employability.
- **However, the majority of exchanges (69%) are 3-6 month long**

* Waters, J. and Brooks, R. (2010) Accidental achievers? International higher education, class reproduction and privilege in the experiences of UK students overseas. *British journal of sociology of education*, 31 (2), pp. 217-228.

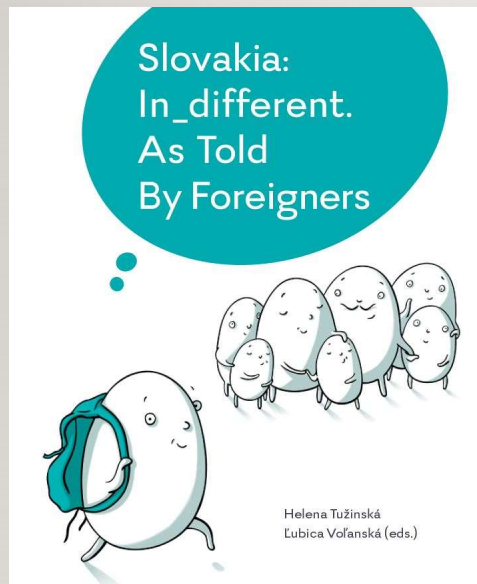
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? RE-INTEGRATION AT HOME UNIVERSITY AFTER MOBILITY EXPERIENCE



- An often forgotten but not less important aspect is the post-mobility experience, in which the “added value” of mobility should be realized.
 - “Career consulting” service offered by universities or organisations (e.g. SAIA)
- Those who have studied/worked abroad are more likely to move abroad again for professional reasons



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION IS KEY



Published by Centre for Research of
Ethnicity and Culture, 2016. [Available online](#)

- **Tips to get socially and culturally integrated. This enhances chances of career and employability**
 1. **Find a “door opener”:** someone who’ll help you get into the community.
 2. **Build and develop social relationships** through common interests and activities (e.g. sport clubs, music, associations such as ESN 😊).
 3. **Learn the local language** (even if it’s a difficult one!).
 4. **Learn the history of the country** where you move. It helps understanding culture, values, attitudes and habits.
 5. **Forget about all the prejudices and stereotypes** you heard about a country. Learn by experience.
- **These tips could be also generalised to any other country where you may want to go to study and work.**

INTERNATIONALISATION IN ZILINA



- ERAdiate: project on “Intelligent Transport Systems” at the University of Žilina. Team of international experts. Welcome to Visit us at the University Science Park Building B (4th floor).
- ESN UNIZA: one of the 529 ESN sections in 40 countries. ESN mission provide opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of “*Students Helping Students*”.
- SAIA: Slovak Academy Information Agency, since 1990 it assists in internationalization of education and research in Slovakia by means of several mobility programs.

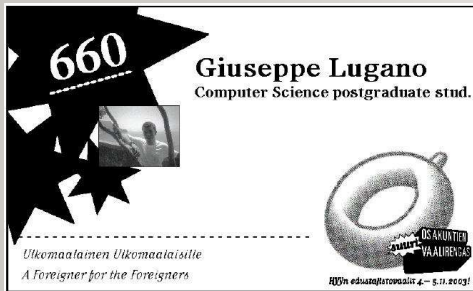


ERASMUS OF ROTTERDAM (1466-1536)



- *“Fortune favors the audacious”*
- *“There are some people who live in the dream world, and there are some who face reality; and there are those who turn one into the other”*
- *“I am a citizen of the world, known to all and to all a stranger”.*





Maailmantalvi 9. elokuuta 2010
VERKOSSA
 Vanhemmat ikäpolvet eivät ole aikaisemmin. Jo kymmenen vuoden päästä tilanne on vaihtunut.

Digitaaliset yhteisöt muokkaavat yhteiskuntaa

Kulttuuriset väit ovat italialaisen tietokirjailijan paljastamassa luomassa. Juuri viikkotyö Giuseppe Lugano onko digitaalisten yhteisöjen ja sosiaalisten verkkojen muuttamassa yhteiskuntaa.

Kun Italianen valtio on... Giuseppe Lugano... digitaalisten yhteisöjen... muuttamassa yhteiskuntaa...

Kommentti
 Yhteisö... digitaalisten yhteisöjen... muuttamassa yhteiskuntaa...

Uutiset
 Viikkotyö... digitaalisten yhteisöjen... muuttamassa yhteiskuntaa...

Uutiset
 Viikkotyö... digitaalisten yhteisöjen... muuttamassa yhteiskuntaa...

an organization for international degree students

Being an International Student Today

Final Report of the First Annual Conference on International Students (ANCIS 2006)

Edited by Giuseppe Lugano, text revision by Nathalie Costes

MOST OF MY PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS
 WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN POSSIBLE
 WITHOUT MY ERASMUS EXCHANGE
 THANK YOU!

“FORTUNE FAVORS THE AUDACIOUS”