



VENICE 12-15 JUNE 2022

INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION



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International classes: challenges and solutions



Language requirements and intercultural issues

Exchange students often **lack the necessary language requirements.**

Intercultural barriers come up both for exchange and degree seeking students. : many universities organize orientation days/weeks, but the problem persists during the whole year.

How can we build a more inclusive environment?

- **courses of intercultural competences development** for academic and administrative staff (Slovakia)
- **students -led** activities (Valencia)
- **multicultural peer-to-peer tutors** (Florence)
- **psychological guidance and orientation services** by a professional team (Turkish NA)
- **language and socio-cultural** preparation courses before the mobility (Turkish NA)
- **flexibility in the study curricula** to include intercultural issues; buddying activities recognized in the students' diploma supplement (Minho)
- Offer students **programmes which combine research and teaching**

COVID19 managing

During the first phase of the emergency, some international students had no adequate digital tools to access online courses

What to do?

- Some universities have provided a **pc for free or internet** (University of Lorraine)

CRISIS MANAGEMENT: THE UKRAINE CASE

How can we help Ukrainian universities to avoid brain drain?

- Sending **financial support to neighbouring Countries** like Poland and Romania
- **Fee-waivers** for refugee students and **welcoming** refugee staff members
- Listen to **specific needs of Ukrainian HEIs** for a long-term strategy
- All **NAs** should find out what is most needed to organize logistic support, specific programmes, scholarships, and have **long-term strategies for areas in conflict**

ACADEMIC STAFF AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

What can the uni staff do to make students feel more included in classes?

- Raise **self-awareness of local culture**
- Administrative staff should **improve their English language skills (Spanish NA)**
- The **SUCTIA PROJECT**: the online materials aim to change the mindset of teacher and admin staff and provide the tools to disseminate internationalization at home; let's create a **common platform to share best practices** for teaching and non-teaching staff.
- The **ISLO initiative**: international students learning objective (Valencia)
- For instance, collecting **interviews to international students** to better get into the “intercultural dimension” (Bulgaria)

ERASMUS TEACHING MOBILITIES

How do you manage it?

- It should be more organized
- The mobility should include not only teaching but also **further activities** like discussions of specific topics at the **academic level** (i.e. discussing a JD)
- More **flexibility** needed in the **mobility schedule** (Florence)
- A **common platform** should be helpful to discuss best practices and to propose shared guidelines (Karabuk University)
- More **flexibility** regarding the amount of **teaching workload**