

20.12.2025

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Title

Challenges of student mobility in a cosmopolitan Europe / Janine Wulz and Florian Rainer

Publication year

2015

Source/Footnote

In: The European Higher education area : between critical reflections and future policies / Adrian Curaj ; Liviu Matei ; Remus Pricopie ; Jamil Salmi ; Peter Scott (Editors). - Cham [u.a.] : Springer International Publishing, 2015. - S. 43 - 58, Volltext:

https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-3-319-20877-0_4.pdf

Inventory number

46806

Keywords

Mobilität ; Ausland : Österreich : Studium, Studenten, Lehre ; Ausland : Slowakei : Studenten, Studium, Lehre

Abstract

This paper shows the preliminary outcomes of the CoSMiCE – Challenges of Student Mobility in a Cosmopolitan Europe - project by the Austrian Students' Union (ÖH) in cooperation with the Slovakian Students' Union (SRVS). Mobility of students is one of the outstanding aims of the EHEA. At the European, national and institutional level, measures have been developed to support student mobility and enable students to choose among thousands of higher education institutions. Students and higher education institutions find themselves involved in internationalization- facing the opportunities of international cooperation as well as challenging issues like competition, brain drain and the inclusion of certain underrepresented groups of students. At the same time, mobility flows within the EHEA are diverse: while some countries face brain drain, others feel overwhelmed by the

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amount of incoming students. By a European-wide study among students organisations and 10 in-depth country studies in Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands and Poland the CoSMiCE project provides an insight in European students degree mobility from a student perspective. Six main factors that have an impact on student mobility itself and the perception of student mobility in the national context have been isolated. Those impact factors (Recognition, Tuition Fees and Restrictions, Financial Support, Social Support, Public and Media Perception, Brain Gain and Brain Drain) explain the diverse perceptions of European countries regarding student mobility, as well as the diversity of concepts dealing with incoming students. While some countries argue incoming students as economically challenging and tend to build obstacles for them, others aim to develop a culture of equality. Moreover, the results of the research will be discussed in matters of asymmetric degree mobility flows within the EHEA. This paper provides an overview of the findings of the CoSMiCE project and suggests further policy developments on European, national and institutional level for further enhancement of student mobility in Europe.(HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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