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Abstract

Information on the international mobility of persons in charge of teaching and/or research at institutions of higher education is by no means abundant. Most official statistics provide only information on their current citizenship. A closer look reveals that international mobility can be enormously varied – for example, migration initiated by their parents or other factors, periods of training and short-term employment abroad, short visits, and last but not least long-term or permanent professional mobility. Surveys have been undertaken addressing modes and sequences of international mobility during the life-course. They suggest that more than a quarter of academics in Europe have spent a substantial period of their life in other countries than that of their current employment and more than half at least short periods abroad. This seems to have some beneficial effects on their international views and activities as well as beyond their academic life. However, in some respects the effects are small, and a relatively large proportion of academics believe that international mobility have not boosted their academic employment situation and career in general. Future research might

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show whether internationality of academic life is on the way to become so much common that career advantages cannot be expected anymore. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)