

# ERASMUS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY CONSTANTIN BRÂNCOVEANU

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## **Abstract:**

*This paper is the result of research conducted during the summer in the Higher Institute of Accounting and Administration of Porto. The question that motivated is "How appropriate is an International student mobility for our students?". To answer this question we conducted a questionnaire clear evidence that we apply of young students who participated in an internship or practical studies at a partner university abroad. As such, I used as a method of research, quantitative research. This case study of the whole picture made by us based on research in the field on the benefits and opportunities of Erasmus.*

**Keywords:** *international mobility, Erasmus program, international student, international culture, opportunities.*

**JEL Clasification:** *I23*

## **Introduction**

In the present research we start from this program, which was named after the Dutch philosopher Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, known as an opponent of dogmatism, who lived and has pursued the activity in several places in Europe.

ERASMUS is a backronym, meaning being action Scheme for the mobility of students in the european space.

Thus, "the motivation for starting the Erasmus programme starts at 10% of the reason that young Europeans should have the possibility to benefit from annual cultural exchange and study in another EU country (than theirs)" (Mary, 2010, pp. 41-59).

During the period 1981-1986, the European Commission has supported exchanges of students that marked the period pilot intro. Although, it has been formally adopted only shortly before the start of the 1987-1988 academic year, was nevertheless possible for students to attend 3244 Erasmus in the first year.

Erasmus is an european University program, whose goal is to provide students the intercomunitar Exchange .

In 2006, over 150,000 students ", or almost 1% of the European population of students, took part in this program. The proportion is higher among academics, Erasmus teaching staff mobility because it represents 1,9% of the total number of teachers in Europe, or people "20877 (www.la-croix.com).

In the last twenty years, over two million students have benefited from Erasmus, and the European Commission intends to reach a total of 3 million by 2012.

At present, we can say that less than 2% of the students caught up in the system of european higher education through Erasmus. Basically, the program has generated among friends, countries and universities.

Of these, 200,000 were studied in European Community countries only during the period 2008-2009.

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A reproach that I bring the Erasmus programme is that it "caused, indirectly, an increase in migration from the South to the north drain and from the East to the West" (www.la-croix.com).

In all these years of existence of the programme, already 2 million students were given the opportunity to use this chance.

Erasmus, Erasmus or Plus, is a new program that combines all the current EU schemes for education, training, youth and sport, which was started in January 2014.

Education, training, youth and sport can contribute to major mutual socio-economic changes, key changes in Europe will become much lighter up to the end of the Decade and will support the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy to increase the number of jobs, equity and social inclusion. Many young people leave school too early, thus raising the risk of them becoming unemployed and being marginalized by society. Fight to save young people from the clutches of the macroeconomic imbalance, namely unemployment is an urgent measure to Governments at EU level.

Are subject to the same risk and many poorly qualified adults from professional point of view.

Typically, operating in the way society evolves and we must ensure that young people are continually perfecting. Affairs of the European Union need to become much better success fee for talent and innovation. Thus, the efficiency of education and through the use of practical activities in the system in the labour market will become more advanced.

Other changes in share capital development in recounts, as regards young people, young people's knowledge and their skills to participate actively in society. This program encourages young people to have a democratic participation of European life.

The Erasmus programme is designed with the goal of "supporting the efforts of countries participating in the programme, to effectively use human talent and capital of Europe, confirming at the same time the principle of lifelong learning by linking support for formal learning, non-formal and informal learning in the fields of education, training and youth. The program also enhances the possibilities for cooperation and mobility with partner countries, in particular in the fields of higher education and youth. According to one of the elements introduced in the Lisbon Treaty, Erasmus supports activities aimed at developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting cooperation between bodies responsible for sports. The program promotes the creation and development of European networks, providing opportunities for cooperation between the parties concerned and for Exchange and transfer of knowledge and know-how in different areas relating to sport and physical activity. The enhanced cooperation will have positive effects, in particular, in the development of the potential of human capital in Europe and thereby contributing to reducing social and economic costs of physical inactivity".

Overall, the programme shall support cooperation actions and instruments consistent with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives, such as "youth in motion" and "Agenda for new skills and jobs".

The program also contributes to achieving through open methods of coordination of the objectives of the strategic framework in the field of education and training and the EU strategy for youth.

In Romania, the new EU funding programme for education, training, youth and sport, Erasmus will provide scholarships for 120,000 Romanians who want to study or to attend training courses abroad, volunteering times Romania will receive this year's 52 million euros.

This program has already changed the lives of three million people and although the EU budget has been reduced for the first time, Erasmus has increased, to show the importance of formal education and informal learning.

"Human capital is the one that will support the growth of Europe both socially and economically. Investment in education must continue even if they were operating budgets. World Education is becoming ever more global and all actors must be involved. For the young it requires adequate support according to their specific needs. «Soul» deals with mobility program Erasmus because it is a window to the world and, in particular, to the surrounding countries. Even if mobility can not solve all the problems, represents an important tool for developing skills. (...) Erasmus open minds and changing lives ".

Androulla Vassiliou, european Commissioner believes that "the unemployment rate among young people in Romania is very worrying, as in all European countries and represent a waste of human capabilities".

"Our new programme Erasmus grant support of the most vulnerable young people, including young people who are not employed professional and does not follow an educational program or training. Providing mobility opportunities for non-formal learning, for example through the european voluntary service, youth Erasmus will allow to strengthen their self-confidence, will help them to find their way in life and, most important, you will reinforce the powers ".

**The research methodology** consists in comparative analysis of systemic and comprehensive approach of the theme researched, depending on goals and objectives. This research is based on various kinds of databases, and use various methods in an attempt to provide an explanation of the problems to be, from the point of view of theoretical, persuasive. Research of economic phenomena may have resonance, if only we use mathematical and statistical tools, and these are accompanied at all times by a logical, analytical and deductive.

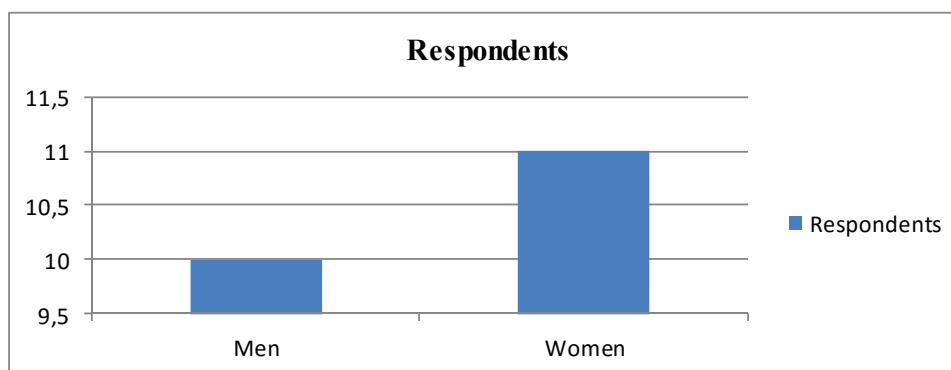
However, the character is the preferred research quantitatively. This layout is given by using the graphs used frequently as in quantitative research methods, their main advantage being that are easy to interpret and understand.

During the research I used the combined techniques of documentary, from the study of literature in the field, the analysis of the legal framework and the different public institutions involved reports.

I created a questionnaire that I applied a number of 21 respondents, all beneficiaries of the Erasmus exchanges in Porto.

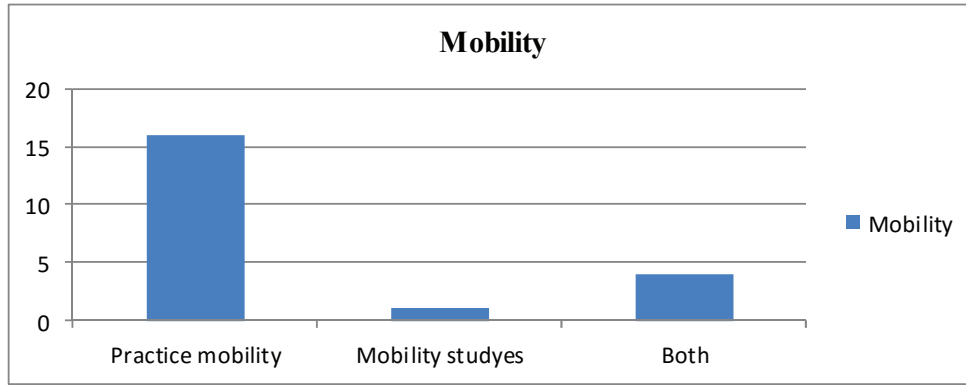
Research results are presented in the following rows.

**Research results** as can be seen in the following chart we had 21 respondents, of whom 11 were female and 10 male.



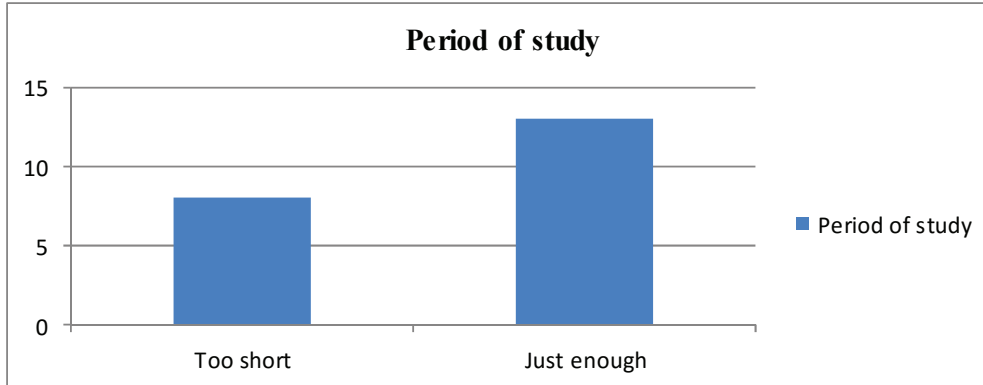
**Graph no 1**

Another question in the framework of the questionnaire was about the type of mobility which it applied, so we note that about 80% of those polled were at practice, as can observe in the following chart:



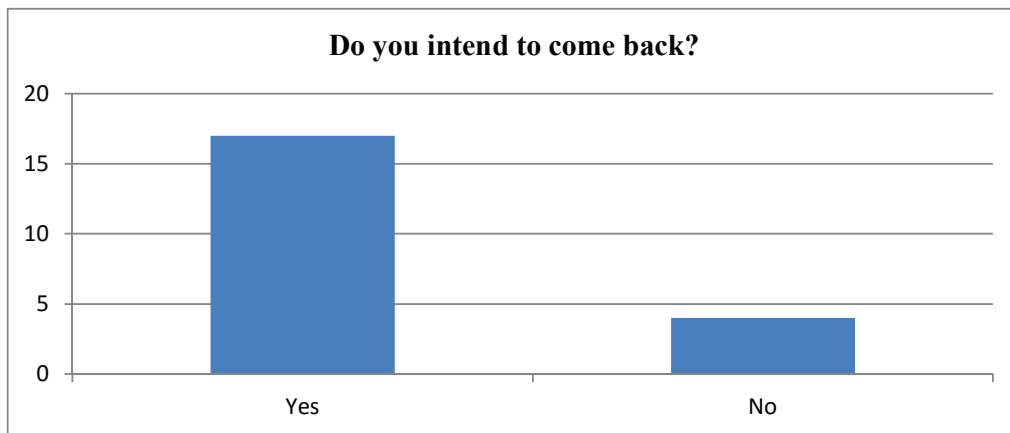
**Graph no 2**

All those to whom we applied the questionnaire were in Porto at ISCAP. As regards the period of mobility, I noticed that most of those polled had conducted a three-month internship.



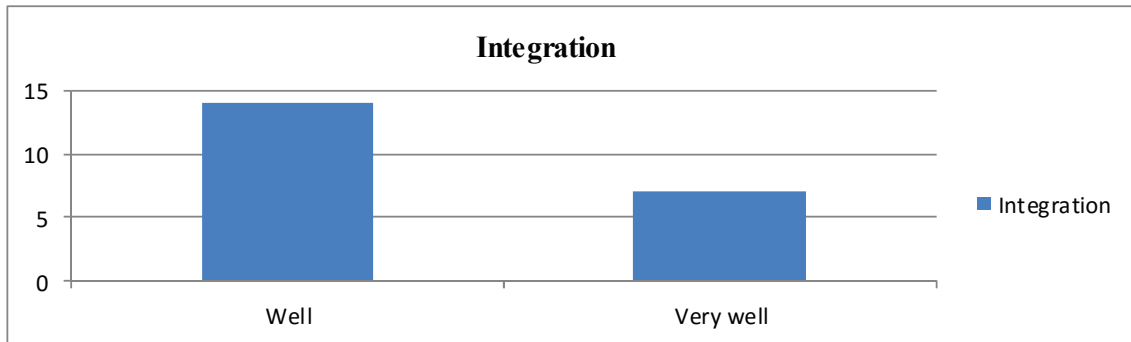
**Graph no 3**

As can be seen in the chart above are students who believes that the internship was too short, are students who want to repeat the experience. This we can observe in the graph below:



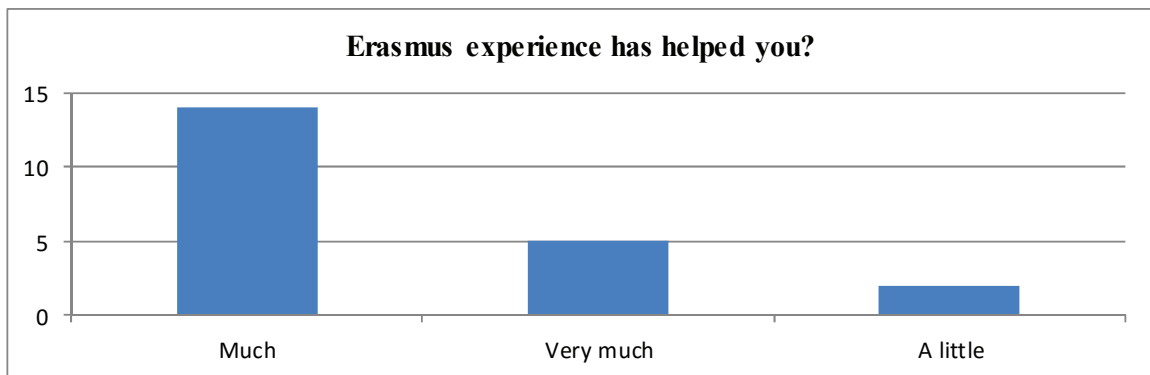
**Graph no 4**

Note also that the integration of the partner University students was done very well.



**Graph no 5**

We cannot omit the fact that the Erasmus experience helps young people in easier integration in the labour market. As can be seen in the following graph.



**Graph no 6**

The results of the experience for young people comes down to following phrases: "I learned new things, I met people I interacted with new people, we visited beautiful places", "Details very well developed. Information mode. The program easily within the mobility ", "the fact that I was independent, I had the opportunity to learn new things and to work in a new medium, "" nothing particularly bearing in mind that I've been two years ago. Portugal are normal and I feel at home. However kept to mention that I also liked people, as civilization ", "the teachers trained, sympathetic .... ", "experience in and of itself I liked it very much, "" City, culture of these people, the atmosphere created by these sections, in a Word, you really need to get into this wonderful place, Porto ".

The students have enjoyed from the stage of practice:-deepening a foreign language;

- the opportunity to travel in a European country;
- total support of the University;
- the opportunity to make new friends;
- the opportunity to study up a notch as well as networking with students of different nationalities;
- the opportunity to learn the Portuguese language;
- ability to interact with people from different cultures and to achieve a beautiful collaboration;
- cultural diversity;
- the discovery of a new style is totally different from life, at.

## **Conclusions**

As I mentioned above, Erasmus is a full schedule of benefits in the first place that you get, European studies, secondly that visit new countries, know different cultures and people, in the third you rich level of foreign language knowledge, and, last but not least, you learn to overcome your own limits.

Erasmus experience opens new horizons for youth knowledge of foreign cultures, countries no longer are unknown, people know us, link, etc.

The most important thing is that the program, under the auspices of the European experience incredible offers a grant to complete maintenance expenses in another country. This means that not always the sum of money received covers entirely the expenditure during the period of the traineeship and that the personal contribution is mandatory (for download, dorm room or host, daily expenses and travels along with the other Erasmus students).

ERASMUS mobility Plus is the chance any student of European space to study in another European University.

Such an experience so positive evolution marked academic and professional alike, especially personal.

Among the benefits we can mention: ERASMUS-the financial support received from the ERASMUS programme is close enough to a student for a decent living in a European country;

- a large part of the partner universities offer accommodation to foreign students in university campuses, at convenient rates;

- International Relations Offices of the partner universities offer permanent communication and support to those who opt for such scholarship;

- formalities for traveling abroad are significantly simplified after Romania's entry into the EU;

- young people have the opportunity to travel to countries which may not have never seen;

- young new crops may have had knowledge, new people, friends, he can tie the refine language, have the opportunity to participate in conferences, symposia and other activities; have the opportunity to learn another foreign language, etc.

Apart from the benefits that I've mentioned above is sure there are a lot of young beneficiaries of the project that you can complete those presented by me.

I believe that every couple must capitalize on all the opportunities and will see that later will reap the fruits of his labor.

ERASMUS is more than an academic experience. Is a possibility of looking at the world with different eyes, to feel and to discover new emotions. Erasmus scholarships are among the best known worldwide, representing international mobility programmes, whereby a student, master or doctor can learn at a University abroad, receiving a monthly allowance in euros, subject to your chosen destination.

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