Unica Student Conference 2010

Topic 7: Student mobility and the enlargement and consolidation of the European Union

Working Group: Valeria Giannuzzi, Irene Marta Predazzi
INFO, SOURCES AND REFERENCES

3. http://www.sefone.soton.ac.uk
10. Giannuzzi V. European Identity among academic sojourners within EU. Submitted
INTRODUCTION
Does student mobility help in building a European identity?
Does student mobility provide a link between EU’s old and new members?
HYPOTHESIS, QUESTIONS, AIM OF THE WORK

To what extent are we willing (or have been willing) to change, travel and share?
ANALYSIS: Who are we?

A FEW NUMBERS:
~ 3.8 x 10^9 years ago: origin of life
~ 2 x 10^8 years ago: first mammals
~ 6 x 10^7 years ago: first primates
~ 5 x 10^7 years ago: great apes differentiation
~ 2 x 10^5 years ago: H.sapiens appearance in Africa
~ 1 x 10^5 years ago or less: out of Africa expansion

We are primates.
We behave as primates....

... but in an evolved way!
Mobility and Student mobility: yesterday
Mobility and Student mobility: today

Lifelong Learning Programme
- Comenius (secondary school)
- Erasmus (higher education)
- Leonardo da Vinci (vocational education and training)
- Grundtvig (adult education)

Trasversal Programme:
- Political development, Language learning, Information and Communication Technology, Disseminate results

Jean Monnet Programme:
- Jean Monnet Action, European institutions, European associations
Mobility and Student mobility: today

Erasmus Mundus – External Cooperation Window (ECW)

EU “candidates” (Croatia, Turkey)

EFTA Countries (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein)

Third Countries (Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, Russia, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Western Balkans, India, China, Brasil, Argentina)
1945-1959
- A peaceful Europe and beginning of cooperation
1970-1979
- The first enlargement and growth of the community
80's and 90's
- The fall of the Berlin Wall and the new face of Europe (the Shengen Agreement)
Comunications improved in those same years thank to the developments of technology
2000 - today
- Further expansion and join of 10 new countries
Near Future
- Further expansions (?)
European Identity
(Jiménez et al., 2004)

- Cultural hypothesis
- Instrumental hypothesis
- Civic hypothesis

There's a tendency in preferring national rather than European Identity
Sigalas 2009

Could some countries feel the threat of loosing their own traditions?

Can the mobility change this feeling?
Students and European Identity

Drawing on a series of paired sample t-tests I argue that the ERASMUS outcome depends less on students’ original attitudes and more on the choice of the host country. (n = 60 controls, 161 outgoing students from UK, 241 incoming students to UK)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Not Certain</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living in a foreign country has helped me to develop a better understanding of that country, its culture and history</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have become more attached to the host country as a result of having learned about its cultural and historical heritage in depth</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in another European country has reinforced my sense of belonging to my home country</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have learned how similar the cultures of my home country and my host country are</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in another European country has increased my sense of belonging to a European cultural space</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Italian students who go abroad, as a trend, feel more European than Italian students that don't go abroad. Furthermore, they feel also more European than students from other EU countries (n = 71 Italian students vs 77 non Italian students).

King and Ruis-Gelicez 2003

Sigalas 2009

Giannuzzi 2010, in press
Costs and benefits of mobility
(De Villé et al., 1996)

Individual level
(personal insurance, rent, emotional costs etc.)

Host country
(multilateral agreements between countries, prestige, taxes)

Country of origin
(no money invested for human capital, but brain-drain risk)

European level
(Europeization, responsibility at EU or national level? cultural and political issues)
Student Mobility or Brain Drain?

Or human capital flight

HISTORY OF THE BRAIN DRAIN:
- Huguenot exodus from France (17th century)
- Antisemitism in pre-WWII Europe (1933–1943, Albert Einstein, Enrico Fermi, Niels Bohr)
- Eastern Bloc brain drain crisis (1922-1961)

BRAIN DRAIN IN EUROPE:
- Trend 1: from Western Europe mostly to the United States
- Trend 2: from Eastern and Southeastern Europe to Western Europe
RECOMMENDATION TO RECTORS, EU COMMISSIONERS:

- Organize longitudinal studies focused on students
- Peer campaigning about the advantages of working and living in EU
  - Teaching European history at Primary School
- Establish a search engine and quality assessment device at european level
  - Promotion of a European student mobility portal