



ESNsurvey XV : Mobile Student Satisfaction and Credit Recognition

ESN in Numbers

45 countries are part of our network within the EHEA

517 local associations connected to +**1000** HEIs

15.000 student representatives volunteering in ESN

350.000

International Students join our organisation yearly

28%

Students from outside of Europe

ESN Germany

44 Organisations
1500 Volunteers
20.000 International Students



ESN and Data

ESNsurvey XIV (2021, 10k responses)

ESN SIEM Report (2021, 13k responses)

ESNsurvey XV (2023, 23k responses)



Where does the analysis come from?



Large scale data collection among recent participants and non-mobile students



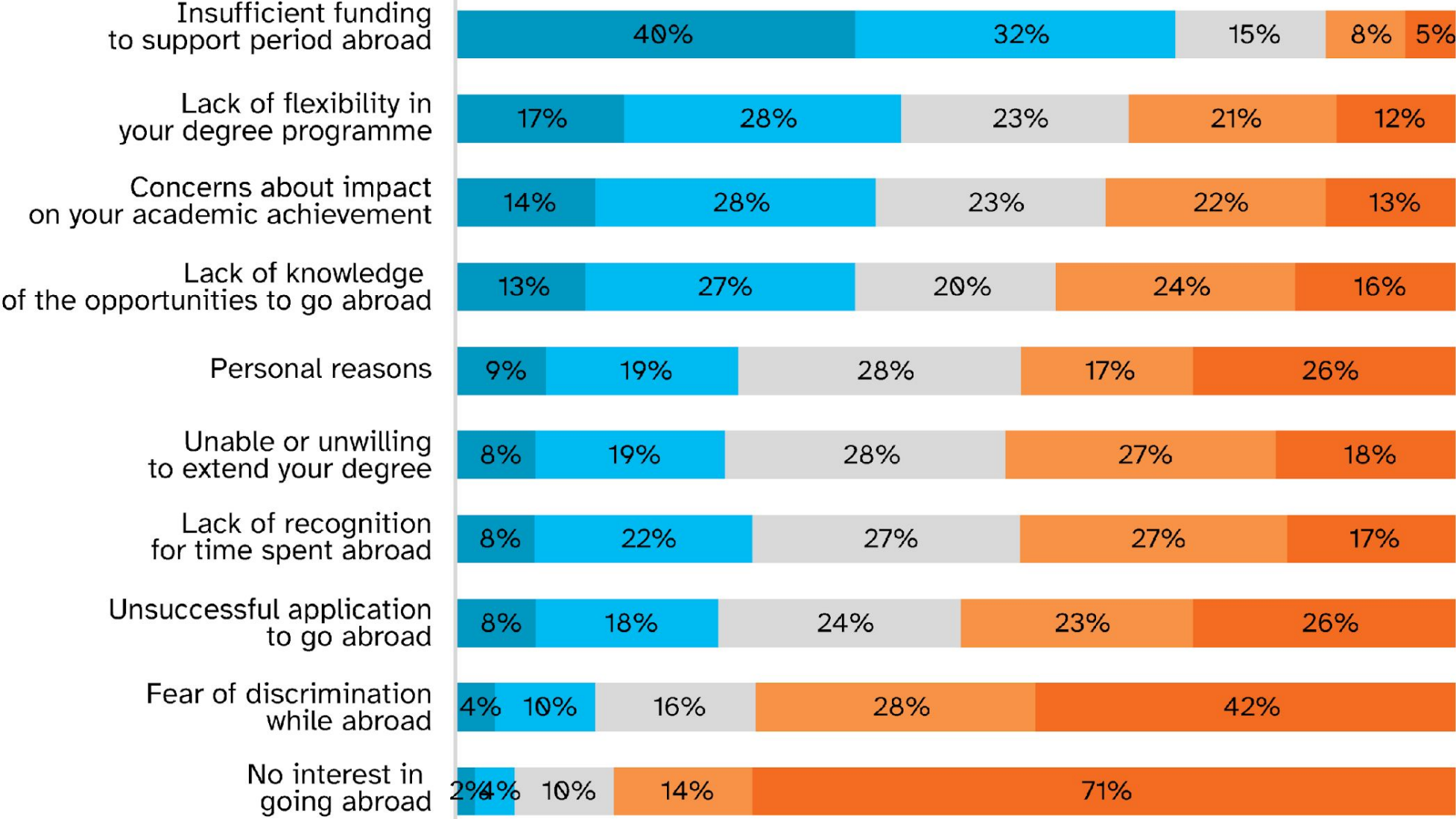
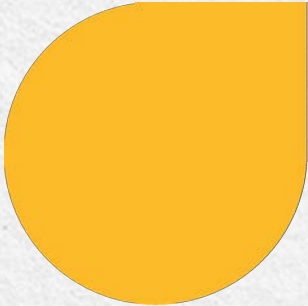
Work on the ground and constant feedback from students and our network



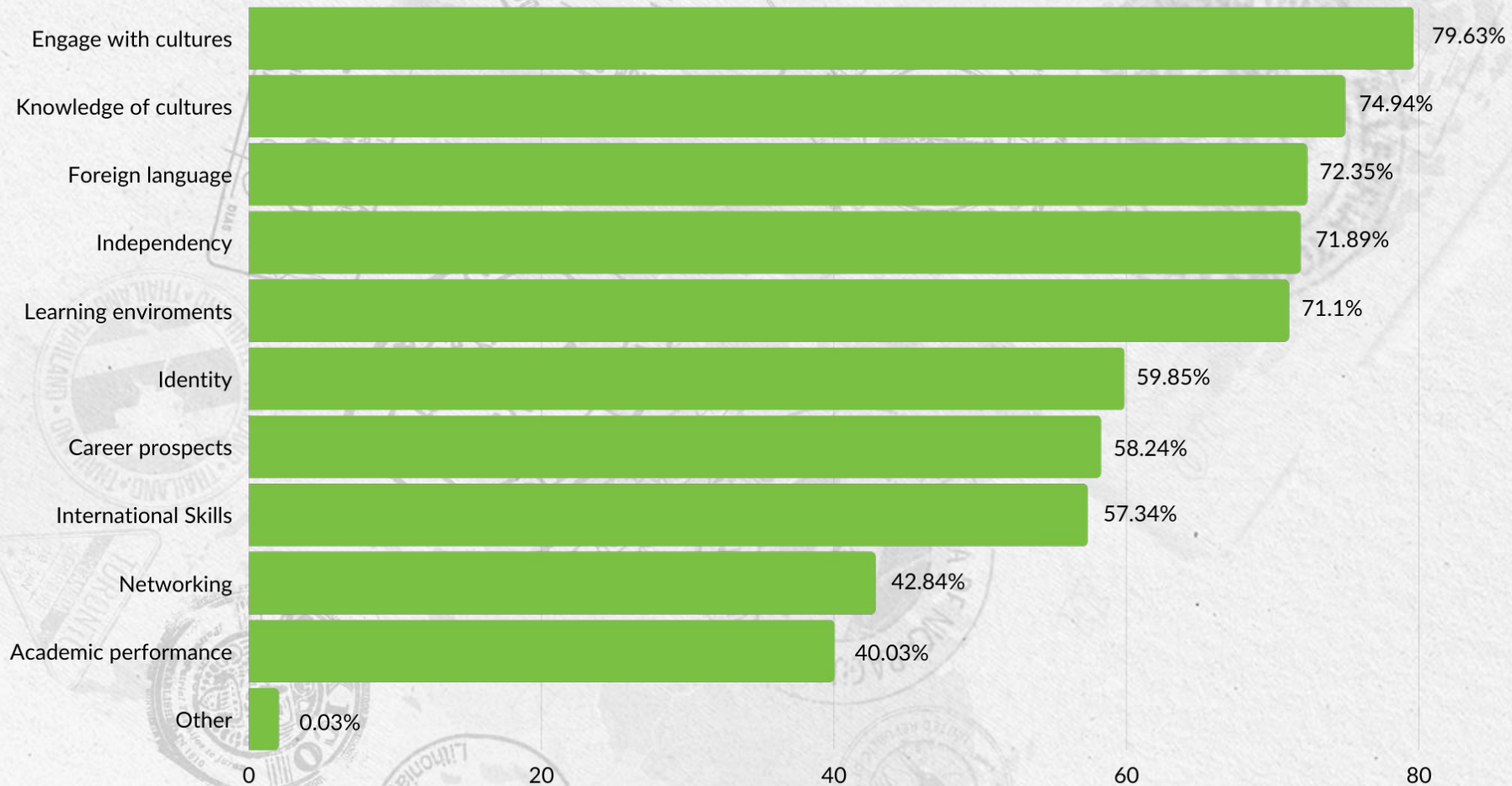
Direct involvement in the programme and work with other stakeholders

Proposals for improvement in the mid-term evaluation of the Programme

Non-mobile students' blocking factors to go abroad



Motivations to go aboard: knowledge of another culture, backgrounds and languages scores the highest



Mobile Student Journey

1

Pre-departure: Students need information about options and funding, and support with curricula

2

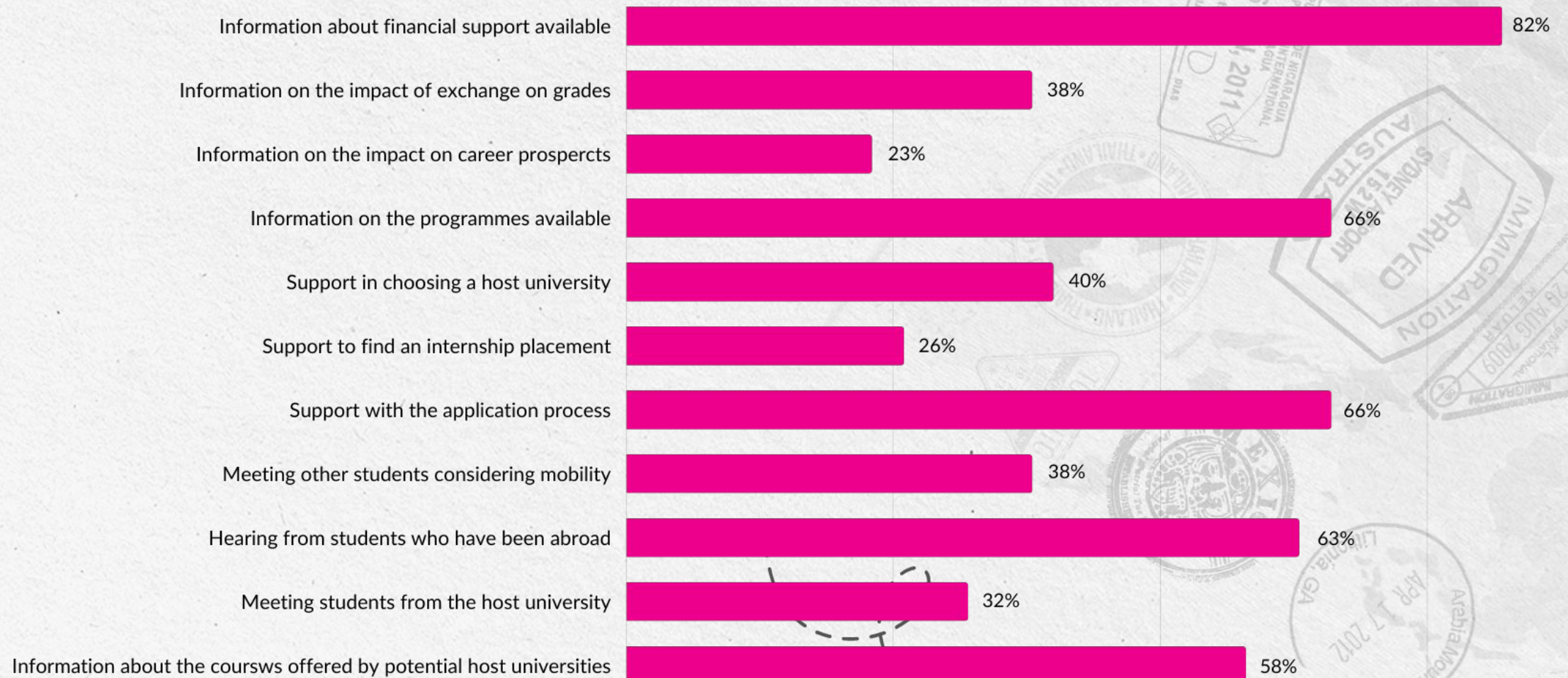
On mobility: Students need engage with the local community and deal with changes to the learning environment

3

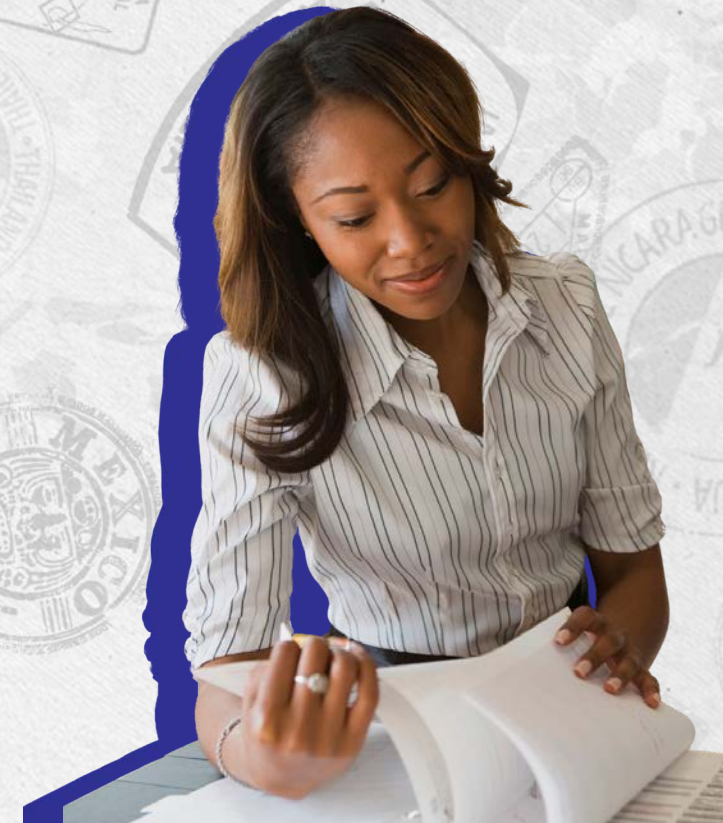
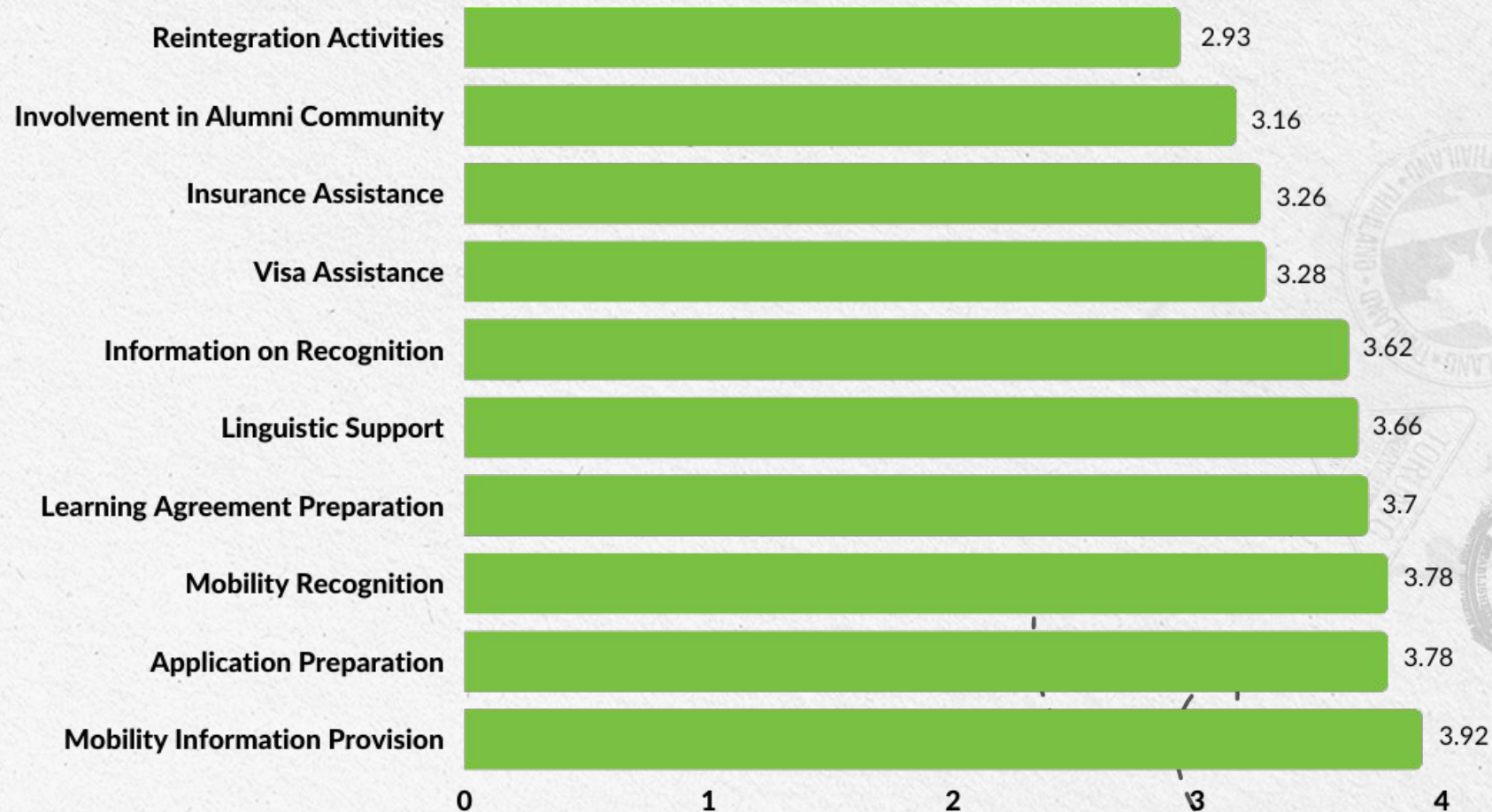
Returning: Students need to reintegrate into life at home and process their academic performances.



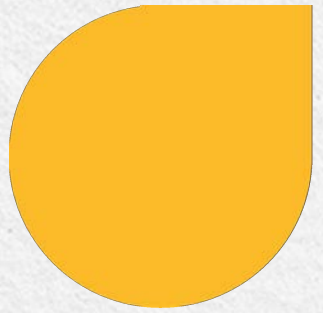
Pre-departure support: Accessibility of information and peer-to-peer support are essential for students



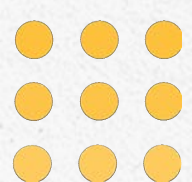
Reintegration activities and **involvement in alumni communities** have the lowest levels of satisfaction among the services provided by sending institutions, while **application preparation** and **mobility information provision** score the best results.



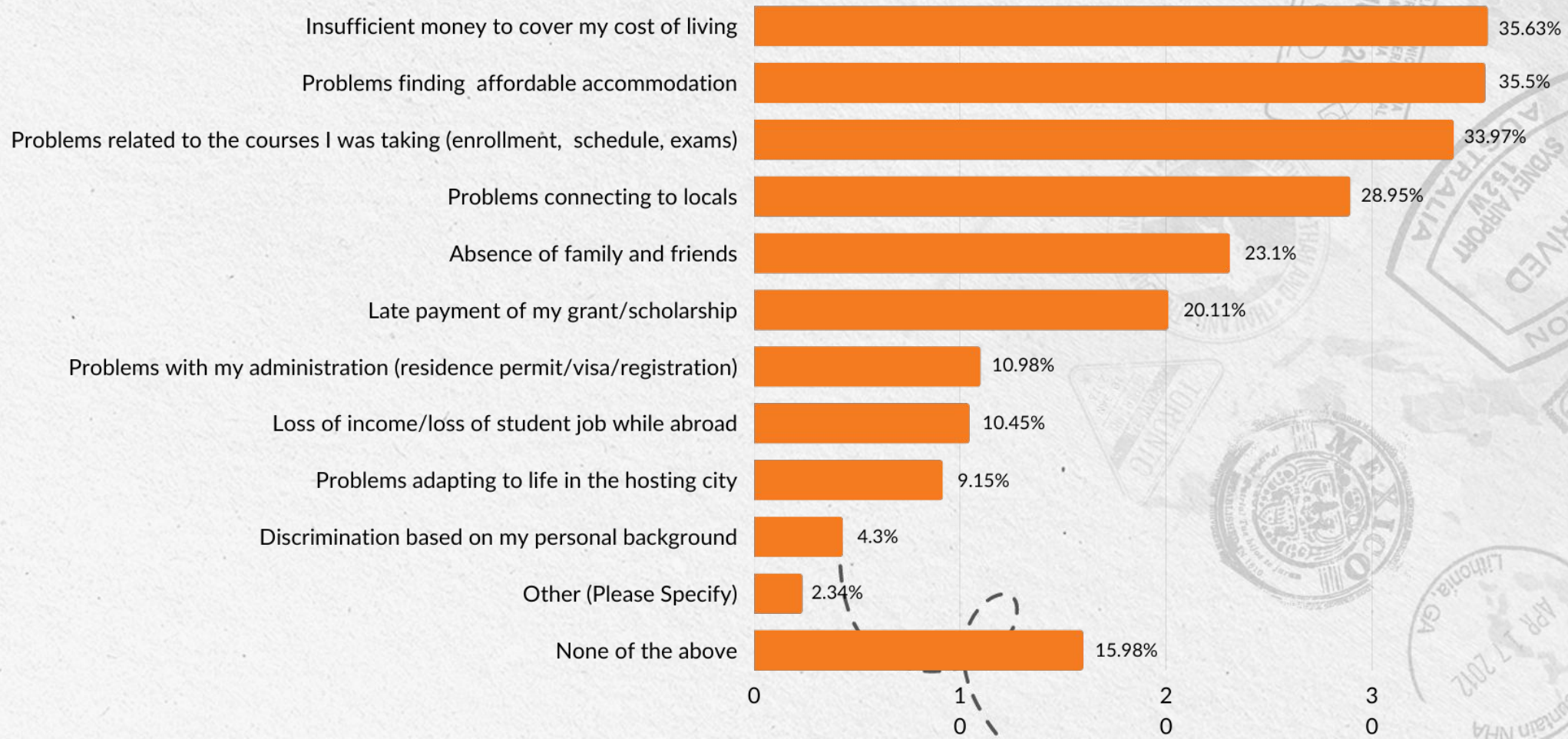
Reintegration Activities & Alumni Communities



- Inform students about credit recognition
- Use feedback to improve own curriculum
- Teach students to recognise their newfound knowledge and skills
- Use the potential of motivated students
- Think outside the box, more than just a report



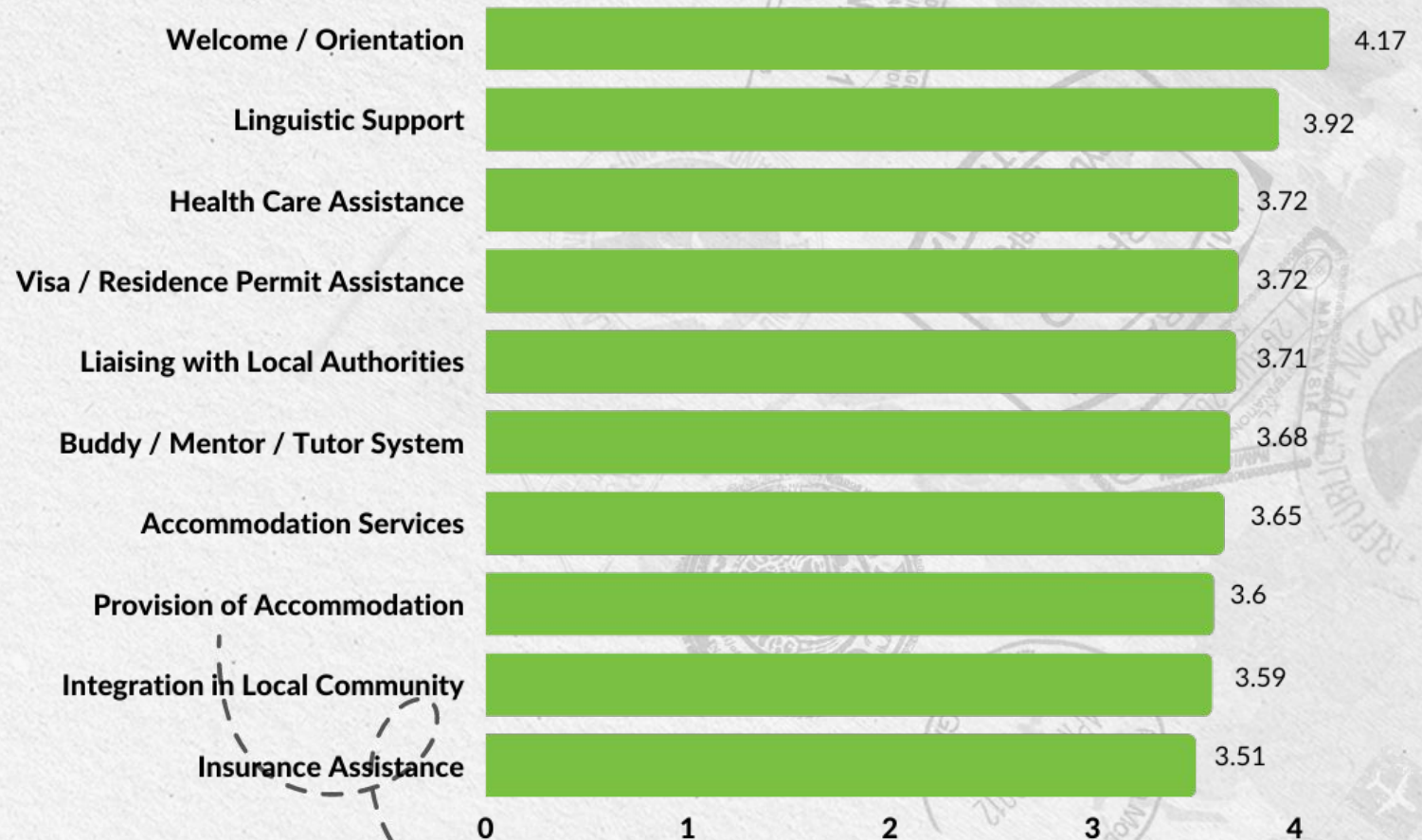
Challenges faced by students: Lack of funding, affordable accommodation and problems with courses remain challenging



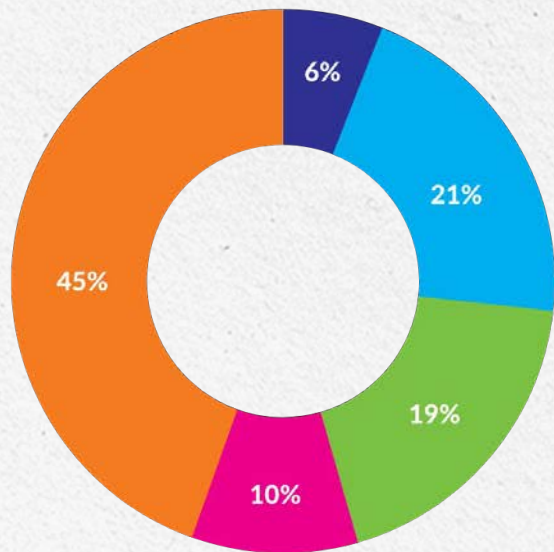
Among the services provided by host institutions, **insurance assistance**, **integration in the local community** and **Accommodation** receive the lowest levels of satisfaction.

Welcome activities and **linguistic support** receive the highest satisfaction rates.

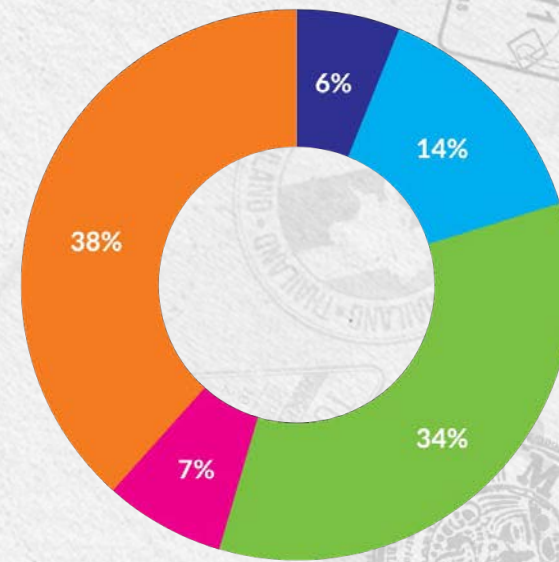
The **services provided by student organisations** in the host institution also stand out for the level of satisfaction.



Satisfaction with HEIs: The satisfaction levels remain high but have decreased compared to the last ESNsurvey and Erasmus+ programme edition!



Sending Institution



Host Institution



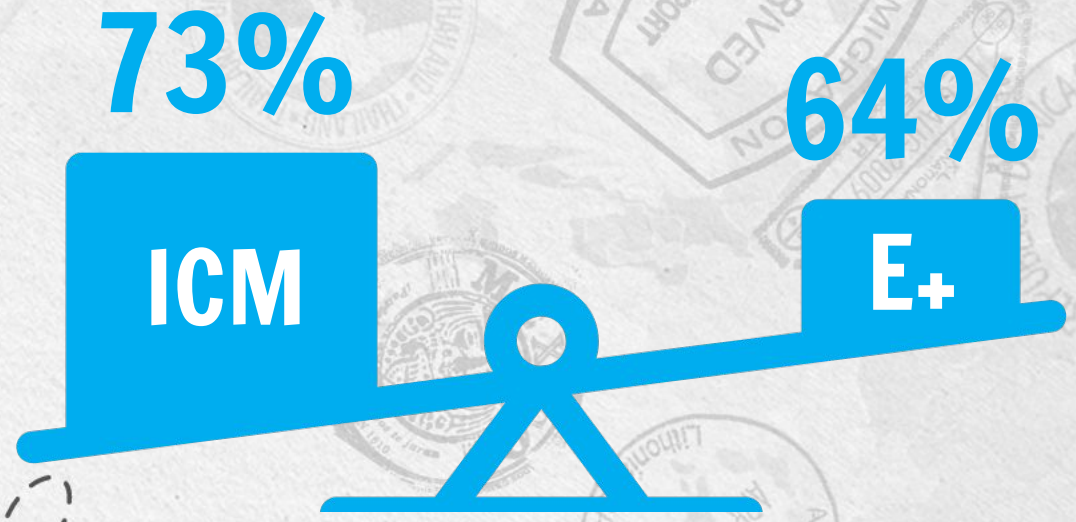
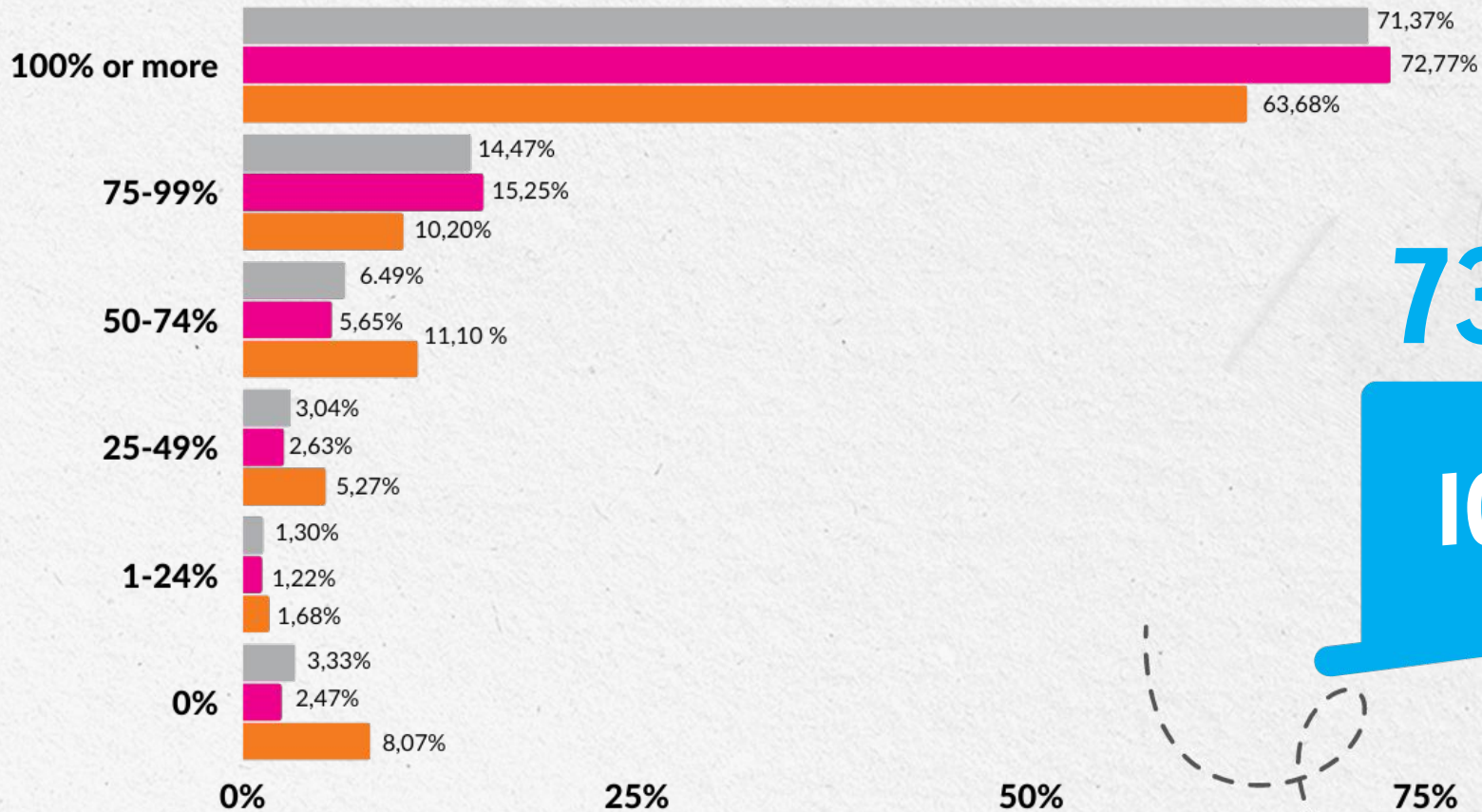
Credit Recognition and Learning Agreement

Let's focus on a thematic part of the results

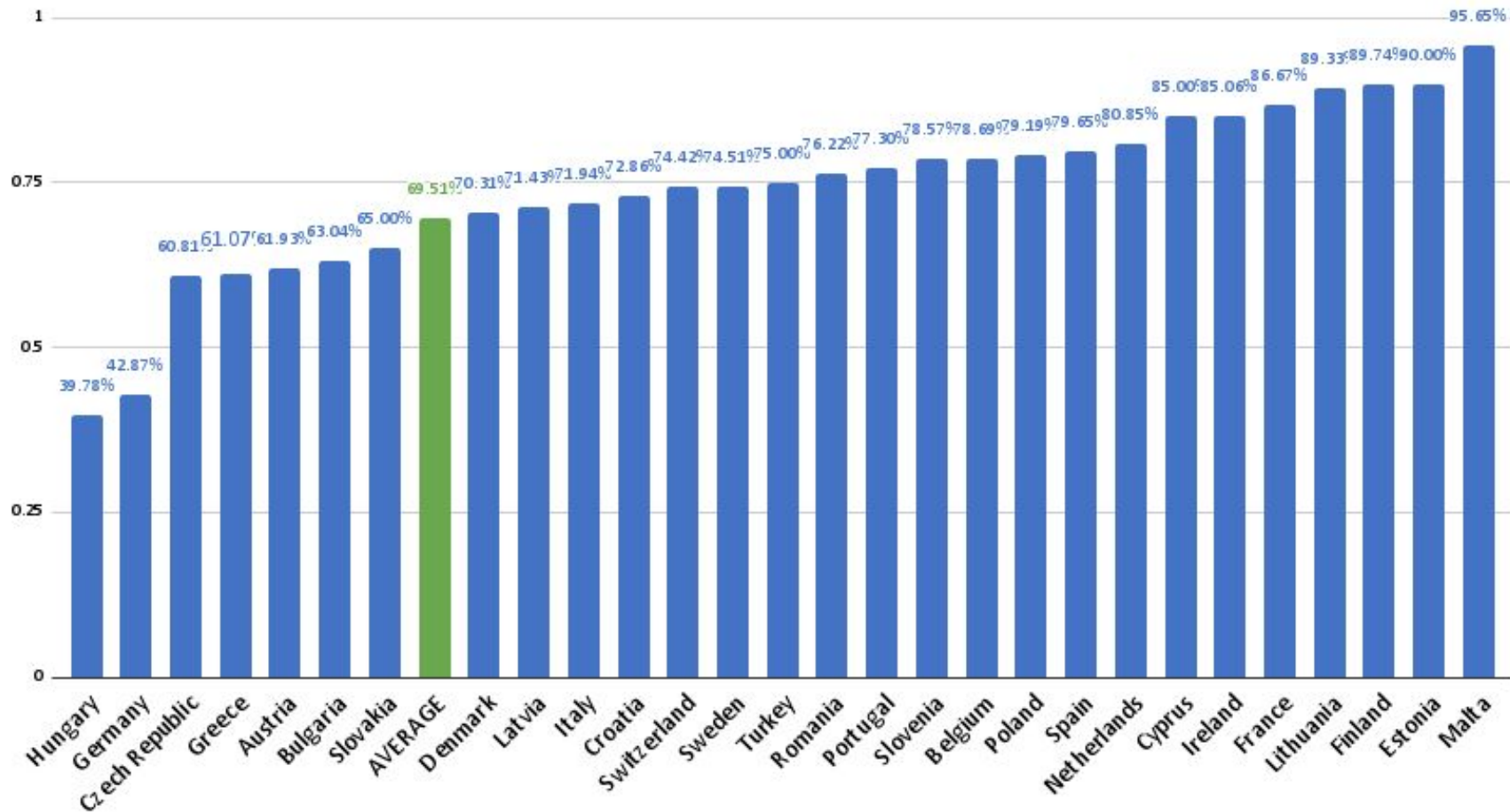


- Overall**
5791 responses
- ICM**
892 responses
- Programme**
4899 responses

1/3 of reported **not receiving full credit recognition**, far from the objectives laid out in the ECHE

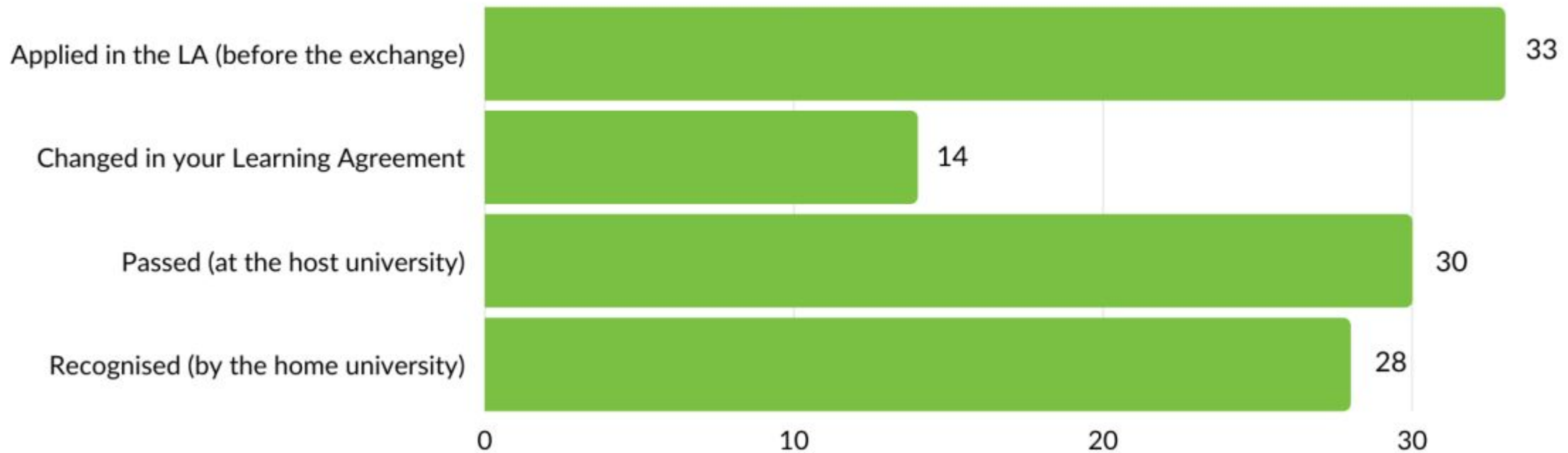


Challenges in credit recognition persisted until the end of the previous Erasmus+



Remarkable national difference point to the importance of the implementation of Bologna tools and the Automatic Recognition Council Recommendation

Recognition of Credits: 42% of respondents reported courses needed to be changed during exchange



The stories behind the data: A diversity of issues with recognition pose a challenge to inclusive mobility

My home university says that some **subjects don't match** (with the ones I have in my home university) and they didn't accept them even though I studied them. I **also had to take all the exams from the home university** from the semester I missed. So it was like I'm studying two degrees at the same time.

- Outgoing student from Bulgaria

Courses **did not correspond** to the courses of my home institution. Especially during the second semester of my mobility.

- Outgoing student from Germany

I was told before my mobility that I would probably not be able to get any ECTS recognised. **So I never tried.**

- Outgoing student from Germany

The stories behind the data: A diversity of issues with recognition pose a challenge to inclusive mobility

There was a different credit system between my home university and the host one and also it was quite **hard to find professors that would accept and allowed me to take courses abroad** without doing an exam at home institution as well. That makes no sense I think.

- Outgoing student from Czech republic

Due to differences in class contents, **professors at my faculty often don't agree to recognition.** As this makes the recognition process very complicated, **it was easier for me to not plan on any recognition at all.**

- Outgoing student from Germany

Everything was recognised as extra credits - **I had to take the mandatory courses at home university anyway**

- Outgoing student from Czech republic

The stories behind the data: A diversity of issues with recognition pose a challenge to inclusive mobility

There was no courses in my home university that could count as equal in terms of content etc.

They didn't recognise most of my subjects, because the coordinator of the faculty in my HOME University said that the tittle of the subjects for the HOST University weren't the same as the HOME University, regardless the content of the subject.

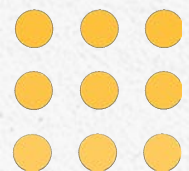
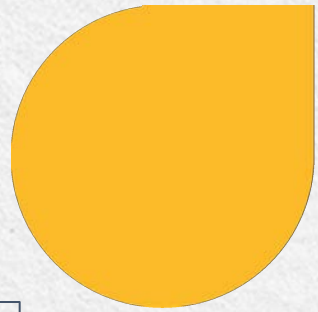
"Italy is less serious". This is the response from my university (17/20 in Italy, 14/20 in France).

because "this grade is way to high for us to consider" and the other one was an internship

Language courses were not included in the recognition agreement, but they were compulsory for my program. The double degree program needed 1.5 years abroad (90 credits), even though there were just 60 credits left at the home university

Because it was not recognized by my home institution. I took gap year to go for exchange and when I returned - it was not counted. It is obligatory to pass the exams at home uni even if you did the same classes abroad, sadly

Some ECTS were not recognised because we don't have some disciplines from the host institution in my home university. But there is a possibility that they will be written in my bachelor diploma separately. For now, I don't know for sure.



Major challenges with recognition

Flexibility of degree programmes

Trust issues between partnering institutions

Bologna tools not being fully implemented in all countries

Lack of understanding of how credit recognition works among students

Access to information about available courses, support in LA preparation

Data and monitoring

Proposals and possible solutions

Quality support during the application process

At the time of application students should be provided with comprehensive **information about the grading systems** of the host institutions and **how the ECTS system works** in practice.

Support in **choosing the host university**, Information about **offered courses** and support in **preparing the Learning Agreement** are essential for quality learning mobility experience.

Learning outcomes over specific courses

HEIs should **prioritise learning outcomes** and learning experiences over specific courses, showing as much flexibility as possible when implementing recognition procedures.

Problems related to **lack of flexibility** affect more directly students from fewer opportunities backgrounds.

Data collection

HEIs should **track data on recognition procedures** and outcomes to ensure consistency.

Incorporate **qualitative components** in the participants' report to better understand the problems and challenges with recognition faced by students.

More **data from monitoring** should be **made public**, allowing for better comparison and analysis.

Embedding mobility windows in the learning programmes

Will contribute to internationalisation of HE, easier credit recognition and transfer process, less stressful student experience.



How to ensure Automatic Mutual Recognition of Learning Periods Abroad for all students?

Policy brief by the Erasmus Student Network



Authors: Policy coordinator of ESN - Neli Kalinova and President of ESN - Juan Rayón González.
Policy Department of the Erasmus Student Network AISBL.
Editor: Joana Campinas | Contact us at: policy@esn.org

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Policy brief by Erasmus Student Network



ESNsurvey Timeline

What are the next steps ?



ESNsurvey Timeline

1

Preliminary Report- September 2023

2

Final Report-February 2023

3

Conference after launch - February 2024





Thank you for your time

Gavin Pelan - president@esn-germany.de

Rita Dias - president@esn.org

Neli Kalinova - policy@esn.org

