

Interest in the Erasmus programme for students and universities continues to increase

Established in 1987, Erasmus, the EU's flagship education and training programme for mobility and cooperation in higher education across Europe, continues to expand. Erasmus receives approximately € 450 million per annum under the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013. For the academic year 2006/07, figures show that 3% more students and 10% more university teachers went abroad compared to the previous year. This brought the total participants to almost 160 000 students and 26 000 teachers in that year alone. Central and Eastern European countries, as well as Turkey, have had the biggest growth in the numbers participating in the programme.

Ján Figel', European Commissioner for education, training, culture and youth, stressed that "Europe needs more and better mobility at all levels, and Erasmus is an excellent way forward. Erasmus brings improved knowledge, better cooperation and intercultural skills for its participants, and through them ultimately benefits all Europeans. In particular, I welcome that students in the new member states are increasingly taking up what Erasmus offers them. The European Commission's vision is that participation in the Erasmus programme should be the general rule, rather than the exception, for both students and teachers."

Student and teacher mobility

During the 20-year period from 1987 to 2007, approximately **1.7 million students** benefited from a study period abroad under the Erasmus programme with **159 324 Erasmus students** in the academic year **2006/07**. This represents an annual increase of 3.2% compared to 7.2% in the previous year.

Germany continued to be the **biggest sender** with 23 884 Erasmus students followed by France (22 981), Spain (22 322) and Italy (17 195). **Spain** remained the **most popular destination** for students, receiving 27 464 over the year, with France in second place (20 673), followed by Germany (17 878) and the United Kingdom (16 508).

Student mobility from the **12 EU Member States** which joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 rose by 10%, which is significantly **above the European average**.

While the overall number of mobile students has increased, unfortunately some countries experienced a **decrease** (Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Norway and Spain) or **stagnation** (Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden) in the numbers of **outgoing Erasmus students**. The trend towards falling student numbers, however, appears to have halted in some countries, for example in the United Kingdom.

For the first time, countries such as Germany, Greece, France and the Netherlands had **static or decreasing numbers of incoming students**.

Business studies are still the most popular subject area for Erasmus students. Languages/philological sciences and social sciences occupy the second and third spots. The average duration of an Erasmus student mobility period is 6.5 months.

Efforts had been made to increase the average grant that students get from the Erasmus budget. The European average monthly grant amounted to € 192 in 2006/2007, up by 22% from the previous year, and is expected to further increase in the current year.

The number of teachers that benefited from mobility through Erasmus has been steadily increasing in recent years. In the academic year 2006/07 **25 809 teachers** participated in Erasmus exchanges, a 10% increase compared to the previous year.

Germany, Spain and France **sent** the highest number of teachers and **Germany**, France and Italy are the **biggest recipients** of Erasmus teachers. Most countries experienced a growth in outgoing teacher mobility, which was highest in Turkey followed by Latvia.

Erasmus teachers are most mobile in subject areas such as languages/philological sciences, engineering/technology and business studies.

Despite continued growth in student and teacher mobility in recent years **the rate of growth has slowed**. In order to reach the EU target of 3 million students by 2012, an annual increase of about 9-10 % would be needed.

Background

Erasmus is part of the EU's *Lifelong Learning Programme*, and receives € 450 m funding each year. Currently an estimated **3.5 % of European students receive an Erasmus grant** at some stage of their studies. Erasmus not only caters for the 'classic' student and teacher mobility to one of the 31 participating countries but also offers students the opportunity to undertake **a business placement** as part of their studies. University staff may now go on training abroad, too. Erasmus also supports higher education institutions to work together through intensive programmes, networks, projects and other measures and to reach out to the world of business and to society.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/lfp/erasmus/index_en.html

Annex 1: Data on outgoing Erasmus students from 1987/1988 to 2006/2007

Annex 2: Data on outgoing and incoming Erasmus students in 2006/2007

Annex 3: Data on outgoing and incoming Erasmus teachers in 2006/2007

Annex 1: Data on outgoing Erasmus students from 1987/1988 to 2006/2007

Country of home institution	Erasmus			Erasmus					Year					SOCRATES I - Erasmus					SOCRATES II - Erasmus					Total	% of the total
	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	99/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07					
BE - België / Belgique	58	404	795	1.154	1.837	2.314	2.809	3.480	3.978	4.101	4.233	4.446	4.404	4.427	4.521	4.620	4.789	4.833	4.971	5.119	67.293	4,00			
BG - Bulgarija													134	398	605	612	751	779	882	938	5.099	0,30			
CZ - Česká republika												879	1.249	2.001	2.533	3.002	3.589	4.178	4.725	5.079	27.235	1,62			
DK - Danmark	57	189	417	729	950	1.282	1.561	1.771	1.930	1.730	1.795	1.751	1.764	1.750	1.752	1.845	1.686	1.793	1.682	1.587	28.021	1,66			
DE - Deutschland	649	1.727	3.744	4.933	6.858	9.011	11.118	12.633	13.638	13.070	13.785	14.693	15.715	15.872	16.626	18.482	20.688	22.427	23.848	23.884	263.401	15,64			
EE - Eesti													183	255	274	304	305	444	511	572	2.848	0,17			
GR - Ellas	39	195	459	566	926	1.266	1.454	1.928	1.897	1.601	1.431	1.765	1.910	1.868	1.974	2.115	2.385	2.491	2.714	2.465	31.449	1,87			
ES - España	95	1.063	2.201	3.442	4.353	5.697	7.043	8.537	10.547	10.841	12.468	14.381	16.297	17.158	17.403	18.258	20.034	20.819	22.891	22.322	235.850	14,01			
FR - France	895	1.785	4.059	5.524	6.360	8.983	8.782	9.844	13.336	12.505	14.821	16.351	16.824	17.161	18.149	19.365	20.981	21.561	22.501	22.981	262.768	15,60			
IE - Éire / Ireland	112	167	351	644	894	1.214	1.493	1.632	1.618	1.584	1.564	1.504	1.689	1.648	1.707	1.627	1.705	1.572	1.567	1.524	25.816	1,53			
IT - Italia	220	1.365	2.295	3.355	4.202	5.308	6.808	7.217	8.969	8.907	9.271	10.875	12.421	13.253	13.950	15.225	16.829	16.440	16.389	17.195	190.494	11,31			
CH - Schweiz / Suisse						223	480	717	1.048												0	2,468	0,15		
CY - Kypros												35	42			72	91	64	93	133	129	659	0,04		
LV - Latvija													166	182	209	232	308	607	681	807	3.192	0,19			
LT - Lietuva													361	624	823	1.002	1.194	1.473	1.910	2.082	9.469	0,56			
LU - Luxembourg		30	13					47	68	61	66	82	87	126	104	119	138	116	146	170	1.373	0,08			
HU - Magyarország												856	1.627	2.001	1.736	1.830	2.058	2.316	2.658	3.028	18.110	1,08			
MT - Malta														92	129	72	119	130	149	125	816	0,05			
NL - Nederland	169	650	1.261	1.969	2.554	3.290	4.387	4.853	5.180	4.132	4.190	4.332	4.418	4.162	4.244	4.241	4.388	4.743	4.491	4.502	72.156	4,28			
AT - Österreich						855	982	1.801	2.301	2.384	2.442	2.711	2.952	3.024	3.024	3.325	3.721	3.809	3.971	4.032	41.334	2,45			
PL - Polska												1.426	2.813	3.691	4.323	5.419	6.276	8.390	9.974	11.219	53.531	3,18			
PT - Portugal	25	158	276	543	760	1.025	1.333	1.903	1.609	1.674	1.834	2.179	2.472	2.569	2.825	3.172	3.782	3.845	4.312	4.424	40.720	2,42			
RO - Romania												1.250	1.699	1.899	1.964	2.701	3.005	2.962	3.261	3.350	22.091	1,31			
SI - Slovenia													170	227	364	422	546	742	879	972	4.322	0,26			
SK - Slovenská republika												59	380	505	578	653	682	979	1.165	1.346	6.347	0,38			
FI - Suomi / Finland					779	976	1.641	2.530	2.538	3.052	3.441	3.486	3.286	3.291	3.402	3.951	3.932	3.851	3.773	43.929	2,61				
SE - Sverige					1.101	1.792	2.302	2.912	2.915	3.264	3.321	3.087	2.726	2.633	2.656	2.667	2.698	2.530	2.532	39.136	2,32				
UK - United Kingdom	925	2.181	3.585	5.047	6.620	8.872	10.519	11.988	11.735	10.537	10.582	9.994	10.056	9.020	8.475	7.973	7.539	7.214	7.131	7.235	157.228	9,34			
IS - Island					33	58	83	103	117	113	147	138	134	147	163	221	199	194	189	189	2.039	0,12			
LI - Liechtenstein								3	3	0	3	2	3	18	17	7	19	26	30	44	175	0,01			
NO - Norge						441	767	980	1.212	1.165	1.071	1.101	1.107	1.007	970	1.010	1.156	1.279	1.412	1.257	15.935	0,95			
TR - Türkiye																		1.142	2.852	4.438	8.432	0,50			
Total	3.244	9.914	19.456	27.906	36.314	51.694	62.362	73.407	84.642	79.874	85.999	97.601	107.666	111.092	115.432	123.957	135.586	144.037	154.421	159.324	1.683.928	100,00			

Annex 2: Data on outgoing and incoming Erasmus students in 2006/2007

		Host Country																											TOTAL	%				
		BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	GR	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK			IS	LI	NO	TR
Country of home institution	BE(fr)- Belgique		4	26	63	128	5	20	619	171	84	247	10	4	6	0	36	5	170	45	57	72	12	4	0	88	91	186	1	0	24	24	2.202	1,38
	BE(nl) - België		10	55	63	207	10	29	677	544	50	240	3	5	10	0	38	10	161	60	54	151	13	15	9	144	128	141	3	1	45	41	2.917	1,83
	BE - Total		14	81	126	335	15	49	1.296	715	134	487	13	9	16	0	74	15	331	105	111	223	25	19	9	232	219	327	4	1	69	65	5.119	3,21
	BG - Balgarija	79		32	19	190	8	60	85	118	12	69	4	0	13	1	8	0	33	25	39	35	0	6	13	24	21	44	0	0	0	0	938	0,59
	CZ - Česká republika	172	11		180	1.020	20	97	424	606	70	210	2	8	47	2	28	3	283	291	147	233	14	72	96	308	178	409	9	5	88	66	5.079	3,19
	DK - Danmark	36	2	16		309	5	14	226	190	27	87	4	13	5	0	13	8	86	56	23	17	0	4	0	13	25	331	11	0	37	29	1.587	1,00
	DE - Deutschland	326	20	345	575		76	197	5.121	4.319	869	1.824	30	61	66	11	312	41	764	440	669	368	76	71	47	1.106	1.989	3.005	95	9	715	337	23.884	14,99
	EE - Eesti	15	13	12	40	73		14	57	56	4	50	3	5	4	0	8	1	18	15	5	19	2	1	2	83	23	27	2	0	6	14	572	0,36
	GR - Ellas	125	8	134	69	329	4		380	438	12	258	3	2	0	1	25	0	125	73	31	83	10	7	11	95	76	115	4	0	28	19	2.465	1,55
	ES - España	1.250	34	377	619	2.411	24	238		3.230	613	5.124	34	27	64	2	124	27	1.119	365	471	1.214	98	79	55	686	860	2.775	24	4	350	24	22.322	14,01
	FR - France	413	29	346	620	2800	56	217	5454		1241	1638	10	36	88	4	240	61	823	396	514	264	213	84	69	879	1257	4673	47	0	370	139	22.981	14,42
	IE - Eire / Ireland	52	6	30	24	253	1	10	271	439		94	3	0	5	0	6	14	71	39	15	8	2	6	0	38	71	43	1	2	18	2	1.524	0,96
	IT - Italia	600	13	126	363	1.708	54	139	6.350	2.687	261		13	8	50	0	137	89	630	266	269	789	142	23	25	392	468	1.326	22	0	190	55	17.195	10,79
	CY - Kypros	11	0	3	0	3	0	28	12	10	0	12		0	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	10	6	16	0	0	0	7	129	0,08
	LV - Latvija	61	1	9	34	168	7	6	43	61	3	35	4		57	0	4	2	43	27	41	17	8	2	4	74	31	31	5	1	20	8	807	0,51
	LT - Lietuva	101	14	58	206	316	11	34	118	139	22	137	13	45		0	10	1	54	73	111	98	9	17	17	175	118	74	4	0	60	47	2.082	1,31
	LU - Luxembourg	2	0	1	0	82	0	1	16	15	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	7	0	5	0	0	0	6	8	10	0	0	4	0	170	0,11
	HU - Magyarország	167	4	39	97	751	10	54	210	329	13	275	4	12	3	0		0	176	168	51	69	13	18	11	244	64	161	3	3	46	33	3.028	1,90
	MT - Malta	6	0	2	5	6	0	0	3	13	14	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	6	1	0	0	4	5	16	0	0	0	0	125	0,08
	NL - Nederland	194	10	45	170	375	20	44	818	468	112	269	0	13	15	1	65	5		116	56	98	8	6	0	289	458	554	14	2	139	138	4.502	2,83
	AT - Österreich	80	8	82	130	254	18	42	718	504	144	437	2	8	8	0	44	11	212		73	84	14	40	5	257	349	351	25	0	99	33	4.032	2,53
	PL - Polska	520	66	353	629	2.384	38	184	1.171	1.188	167	881	38	42	120	0	109	9	453	286		478	24	101	160	459	373	627	14	0	154	191	11.219	7,04
	PT - Portugal	217	17	234	72	188	14	58	1.240	230	18	753	0	17	75	0	78	0	207	55	306		96	74	43	118	111	147	0	3	39	14	4.424	2,78
	RO - Romania	184	0	15	50	442	4	81	356	1.140	17	512	0	0	5	0	60	0	77	59	48	131		7	8	45	33	76	0	0	0	0	3.350	2,10
	SI - Slovenia	37	2	41	24	153	5	9	117	73	1	70	1	2	10	0	5	0	52	88	54	76	2		9	47	40	31	2	1	7	13	972	0,61
	SK - Slovenská republika	53	4	159	24	218	1	30	114	155	6	89	2	6	13	2	25	0	39	75	81	71	0	16		70	27	39	2	0	9	16	1.346	0,84
	FI - Suomi / Finland	131	12	116	34	593	46	55	493	435	113	158	8	11	19	0	132	9	306	256	58	77	10	37	16		122	466	20	0	15	25	3.773	2,37
	SE - Sverige	65	1	33	22	394	9	16	283	438	71	154	3	5	4	0	28	7	232	139	47	36	4	2	0	4		478	7	0	18	32	2.532	1,59
	UK - United Kingdom	123	7	122	146	1.010	14	49	1.632	2.159	26	654	15	0	5	0	27	22	323	139	53	86	21	8	10	202	262		12	0	94	14	7.235	4,54
	EUR27 total	5.021	296	2.812	4.278	16.766	460	1.726	27.008	20.155	3.972	14.319	209	330	692	24	1.569	325	6.446	3.565	3.274	4.586	792	700	610	5.860	7.194	16.153	327	31	2.575	1.321	153.396	96,28
	IS - Island	7	0	11	50	16	2	6	23	8	1	15	0	9	0	0	4	0	7	4	0	0	0	2	0	3	7	14					189	0,12
	LI - Liechtenstein	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	7	4	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	2	6					44	0,03
	NO - Norge	18	0	17	69	191	7	12	177	199	28	75	0	9	1	0	12	2	108	37	20	33	0	4	0	10	23	205					1.257	0,79
EFTA - EEA total	28	0	28	125	207	9	18	207	211	31	92	2	20	1	0	16	2	115	41	22	33	0	6	0	19	32	225					1.490	0,94	
TR - Türkiye	259	0	219	142	905	20	97	249	307	9	368	0	23	115	0	123	4	353	170	434	168	0	46	45	119	133	130					4.438	2,79	
TOTAL	5.308	296	3.059	4.545	17.878	489	1.841	27.464	20.673	4.012	14.779	211	373	808	24	1.708	331	6.914	3.776	3.730	4.787	792	752	655	5.998	7.359	16.508	327	31	2.575	1.321	159.324	100,00	
%	3,33	0,19	1,92	2,85	11,22	0,31	1,16	17,24	12,98	2,52	9,28	0,13	0,23	0,51	0,02	1,07	0,21	4,34	2,37	2,34	3,00	0,50	0,47	0,41	3,76	4,62	10,36	0,21	0,02	1,62	0,83	100,00		

Annex 3: Data on outgoing and incoming Erasmus teachers in 2006/2007

		Host Country																																
Country of home institution		BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	UK	IS	LI	NO	TR	TOTAL	% OF THE TOTAL
		BE(fr)- Belgique			9	4	4	2	1	8	39	74	2	21	2	2	3	0	2	0	2	4	13	23	30	0	2	4	1	2	1	0	1	4
BE(nl) - België			8	13	23	24	12	19	82	49	13	30	7	10	11	0	20	2	70	20	29	50	20	9	6	86	32	22	0	0	19	31	717	2.78
BE - Total			17	17	27	26	13	27	121	123	15	51	9	12	14	0	22	2	72	24	42	73	50	9	8	90	33	24	1	0	20	35	977	3.79
BG - Balgarija		28		27	3	89	3	29	31	51	2	29	3	2	9	0	11	0	11	14	21	13	0	3	4	6	12	27	0	0	0	0	428	1.66
CZ - Česká republika		51	19		14	275	9	30	115	138	5	83	2	12	28		21	4	36	78	137	78	11	31	246	78	32	105	0	0	14	85	1,737	6.73
DK - Danmark		10	2	10		43	8	4	37	17	5	13	0	12	22	0	2	0	13	8	13	19	4	3	2	13	16	51	10	0	11	9	357	1.38
DE - Deutschland		33	67	145	32		26	66	268	260	38	227	6	55	70	1	129	6	62	135	230	58	120	32	29	177	69	196	5	1	44	133	2,720	10.54
EE - Eesti		7	5	9	9	21		5	10	9	0	16	0	13	18	0	4	0	4	6	7	7	1	3	0	92	5	20	0	0	4	6	281	1.09
GR - Ellas		23	21	11	3	55	6		29	77	0	39	28	2	6	0	11	1	9	17	16	15	40	1	6	19	7	32	0	0	13	18	505	1.96
ES - España		109	11	57	40	278	10	55		368	31	683	2	2	11	0	32	3	49	55	70	261	47	14	14	88	33	154	2	3	32	23	2,537	9.83
FR - France		67	51	103	21	164	9	72	319		37	323	5	12	32	0	95	13	22	36	189	84	331	10	21	47	26	142	4	2	14	42	2,293	8.88
IE - Eire / Ireland		6	3	7	2	34	0	1	11	29		7	0	2	3	0	2	0	5	13	7	4	7	0	1	13	5	9	1	0	3	1	176	0.68
IT - Italia		38	8	40	10	164	5	28	314	245	3		2	8	11	0	48	13	22	35	99	67	60	8	14	37	25	81	7	0	3	33	1,428	5.53
CY - Kypros		6	2	1	2	4	0	8	2	3	0	6		1	4	0	1	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	1	5	0	6	0	0	0	0	59	0.23
LV - Latvija		12	0	9	6	42	24	4	8	17	0	4	3		67	0	0	0	14	9	30	7	3	1	6	22	9	9	2	0	12	6	326	1.26
LT - Lietuva		31	17	21	25	103	14	9	43	34	1	34	0	56		0	16	2	15	26	60	57	4	6	8	64	32	30	1	0	13	33	755	2.93
LU - Luxembourg		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
HU - Magyarorszag		24	2	7	6	161	3	8	22	71	1	66	1	1	7	0		3	31	42	16	23	42	10	15	51	7	24	0	0	11	21	676	2.62
MT - Malta		6	0	3	0	6	0	0	4	8	1	7	0	0	0	0	0		1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	9	0	0	1	1	55	0.21
NL - Nederland		56	7	15	6	50	6	9	49	56	7	25	1	7	9	0	23	0		26	38	19	16	2	14	63	15	34	1	0	21	46	621	2.41
AT - Österreich		20	15	40	11	93	8	18	74	32	15	57	2	8	31	3	24	1	20		30	31	31	29	18	58	22	36	4	0	22	20	773	3.00
PL - Polska		68	37	123	38	383	8	30	210	185	15	220	5	36	64	0	21	0	38	47		86	12	27	105	61	44	85	0	0	15	67	2,030	7.87
PT - Portugal		33	9	33	14	34	8	8	180	64	5	69	1	3	23	0	11	2	17	6	39		13	12	2	31	10	22	0	0	6	12	667	2.58
RO - Romania		44	0	11	9	115	0	61	69	376	2	141	1	1	2	0	42	0	20	26	18	36		2	4	20	3	32	0	0	0	0	1,035	4.01
SI - Slovenia		2	1	12	3	30	2	2	12	10	1	10	0	0	3	0	10	0	4	16	11	10	1		4	16	1	7	0	0	2	3	173	0.67
SK - Slovenská republika		17	8	159	7	43	2	2	16	28	3	11	1	3	3	0	33	2	16	7	59	10	3	6		20	3	15	0	0	4	7	488	1.89
FI - Suomi / Finland		69	2	56	10	148	81	25	97	58	12	57	6	14	36	1	64	2	61	66	34	27	6	16	10		17	89	8	0	8	15	1,095	4.24
SE - Sverige		19	7	21	11	45	7	13	32	35	16	44	2	3	22	0	22	5	29	26	26	12	8	4	3	25		53	1	0	11	20	522	2.02
UK - United Kingdom		26	25	41	36	199	7	47	145	146	6	113	8	12	13	0	27	14	67	29	58	31	28	15	12	119	70		4	0	37	30	1,365	5.29
EUR27 total		805	336	978	345	2,608	259	561	2,218	2,441	221	2,335	88	277	508	5	671	73	638	752	1,251	1,032	838	244	548	1,215	500	1,293	51	6	321	666	24,084	93.32
IS - Island		3	0	0	8	8	0	1	2	7	0	8	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2					48	0.19
LI - Liechtenstein		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.02
NO - Norge		15	0	10	23	38	9	1	29	12	4	6	0	19	6	0	11	1	7	17	11	15	0	0	2	10	12	35					293	1.14
EFTA - EEA total		18	0	10	31	47	9	2	32	20	4	14	0	21	6	0	12	1	7	20	11	16	0	0	2	12	13	39					347	1.34
TR - Türkiye		90	5	108	47	254	14	49	69	59	0	104	0	14	63	0	50	0	59	38	144	27	13	20	19	40	31	61					1,378	5.34
TOTAL		913	341	1,096	423	2,909	282	612	2,319	2,520	225	2,453	88	312	577	5	733	74	704	810	1,406	1,075	851	264	569	1,267	544	1,393	51	6	321	666	25,809	100.00
%		3.54	1.32	4.25	1.64	11.27	1.09	2.37	8.99	9.76	0.87	9.50	0.34	1.21	2.24	0.02	2.84	0.29	2.73	3.14	5.45	4.17	3.30	1.02	2.20	4.91	2.11	5.40	0.20	0.02	1.24	2.58	100.00	