# BARRIERS OF MOBILITY: VISA ISSUES FOR NON-EU STUDENTS SURVEY

# REPORT

PASSPORT

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

In today's world, there is a growing interest among international students in pursuing education and cultural experiences at universities abroad. However, one of the greatest obstacles faced by these students is the challenges encountered in visa processes. Particularly for non-EU students aspiring to study in Europe, visa procedures can pose a significant barrier to realizing their educational aspirations.

This study is designed to help non-EU students overcome visa issues and facilitate their access to educational goals. The research conducted through the "Barriers of Mobility: Visa Issues for Non-EU Students" survey aims to analyze the experiences of students participating in Erasmus+, ESC, ESN events and other mobility programs, as well as the difficulties they encounter in visa processes.

This analysis provides a foundational investigation into the origins of visa problems and the challenges faced by non-EU students in this process. The data obtained through the survey shed light on the diversity of difficulties experienced by students and the reasons behind these challenges. Additionally, important insights are provided regarding the experiences of students participating in Erasmus+ and other mobility programs, as well as the support offered by ESNers.

This report addresses the barriers encountered by non-EU students in visa processes and proposes solutions to overcome these barriers. Furthermore, it focuses on the importance of Erasmus+ and other mobility programs for non-EU students, discussing steps that can contribute to the educational and cultural experiences of international students. The findings of this study can serve as a valuable resource for understanding visa issues and facilitating non-EU students' access to educational opportunities.

## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION
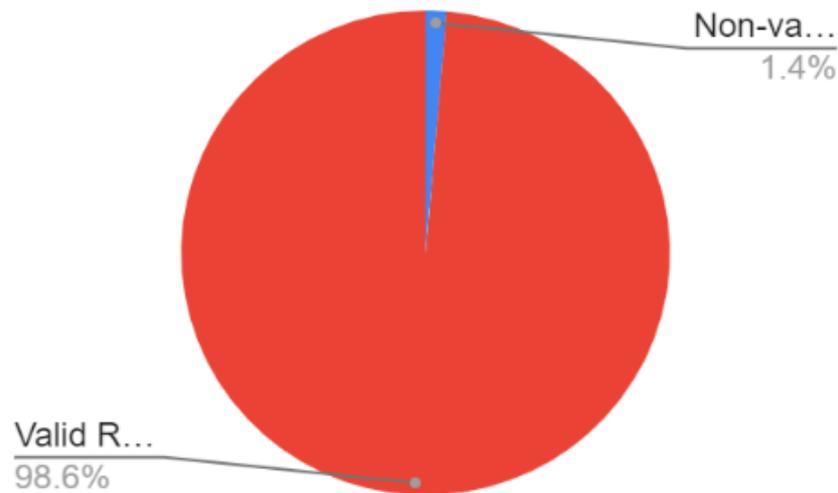


The graph showing that 98.6% of the responses obtained from the form are valid indicates that the study is built on a solid foundation and that the majority of participants provided evaluable answers. This high validity percentage demonstrates that respondents understood the questions and provided accurate responses. Furthermore, the high validity percentage enhances the reliability of the findings.

The rate of invalid responses is determined to be 1.4%. This implies that some participants either did not respond to specific questions or provided incomplete or nonsensical answers. However, this low rate does not significantly affect the overall validity of the study.

This graph underscores the reliability and validity of the study, indicating that the analysis of the data is based on a robust foundation. Therefore, we can have confidence that the findings presented in the subsequent sections of the report reflect the real experiences of non-EU students in dealing with visa issues.
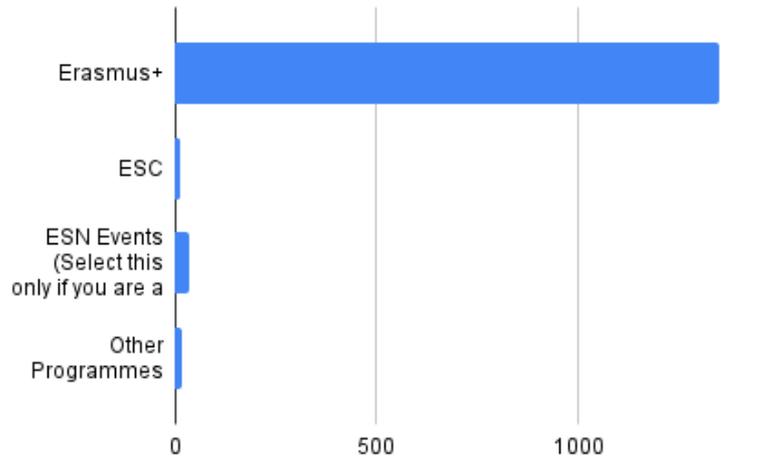
According to the responses obtained from the form, a total of 96.7% of participants (1351 individuals) filled out the Erasmus+ program, while 1% (14 individuals) completed the ESC program, 2.3% (33 individuals) attended ESN events, and 1.1% (16 individuals) selected other programs. These data indicate the distribution of participation in various mobility programs and reveal which programs students are more inclined towards.
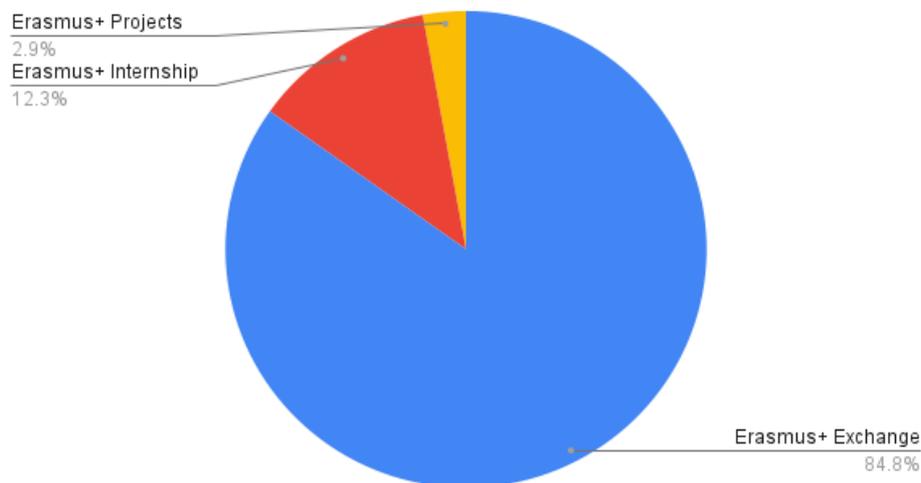


According to the responses obtained from the form, 96.7% of the total participants opted for the Erasmus+ program. Through detailed research to determine the specific types of Erasmus+ programs in which these participants were involved, it was found that 2.9% participated in Erasmus+ projects, 12.3% in Erasmus+ internships, and 84.8% in Erasmus+ exchange programs.

These data indicate that students predominantly prefer the Erasmus+ program and participate in various types of it. Particularly noteworthy is the significant majority of participants engaging in Erasmus+ exchange programs, reflecting a keen interest among students in international exchange opportunities.

## 2.1    PASSPORT TYPES
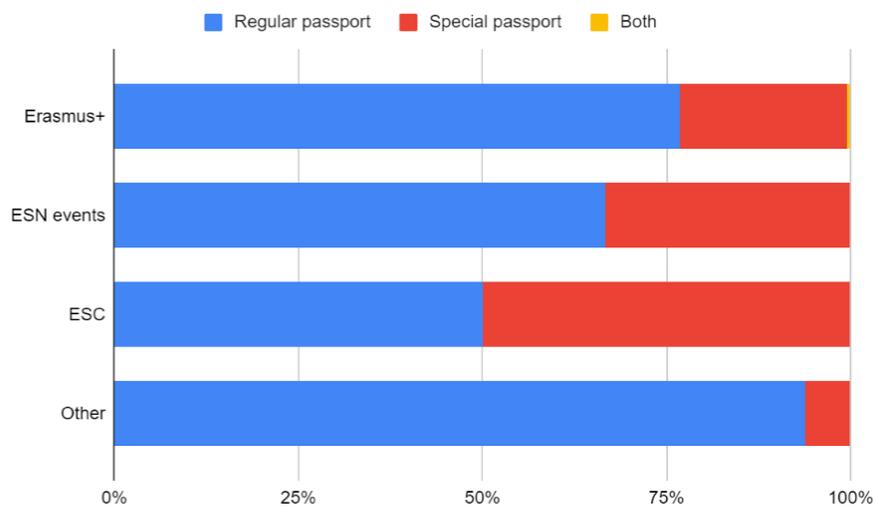


According to the responses obtained from the form, in terms of participants holding regular passports in the Erasmus+ program, the number stands at %76.8 (1038 individuals), while %22.6 (305 individuals) hold special passports, and %0.6 (8 individuals) possess both types of passports. For the ESC program, %50 (7 individuals) participants hold regular passports, and %50 (7 individuals) holds special passports. Regarding attendance at ESN events, %66.7 (22 individuals) hold regular passports, and %33.3 (11 individuals) hold special passports. Furthermore, for other programs, %93.8 (15 individuals) hold regular passports, while %6.3 (1 individual) holds a special passport.

These observations reveal the distribution of passport types among participants in different mobility programs. When represented as percentages, it illustrates the predominant use of regular passports across various programs, with varying proportions of individuals holding special passports. This data provides valuable insights into the passport preferences among participants in mobility programs.

## 2.2  NATIONALITY DISTRIBUTION

### 2.2.1  Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The Erasmus+ Programme
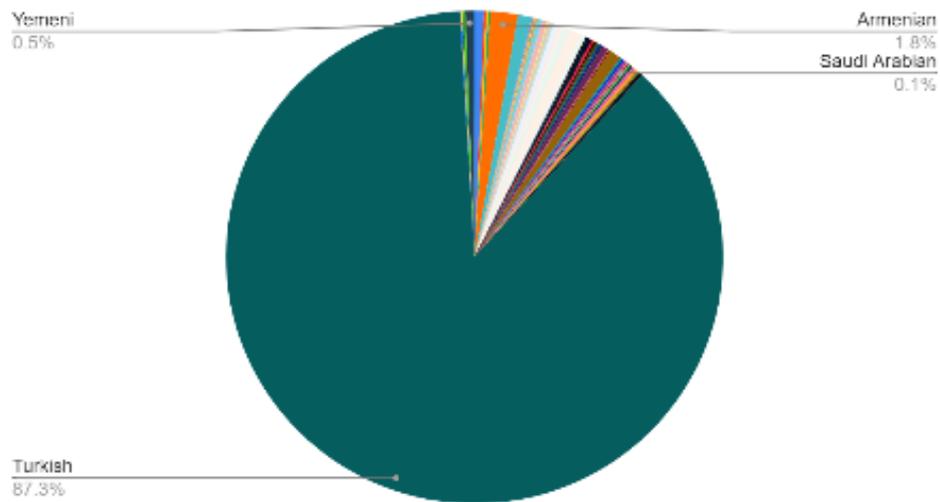


According to the responses obtained from the survey, the nationality distribution of individuals participating in the Erasmus+ program is as follows: Afghan: 8 (0.6%), Albanian:2 (0.1%), Algerian: 2 (0.1%), American: 2 (0.1%), Armenian: 24 (1.8%), Azerbaijani: 12 (0.9%), Bissau-Guinean: 1 (0.1%), Brazilian: 1 (0.1%), British: 1 (0.1%), Burundi: 1 (0.1%), Chadian: 1 (0.1%), Colombian: 4 (0.3%), Czech: 1 (0.1%), Egyptian: 4 (0.3%), Ethiopian: 1 (0.1%), Filipino: 1 (0.1%), Gambian: 2 (0.1%), Georgian: 2 (0.1%), German: 4 (0.3%), Ghanaian: 3 (0.2%), Indian: 1 (0.1%), Indonesian: 7 (0.5%), Iranian: 11 (0.8%), Iraqi: 4 (0.3%), Italian: 1 (0.1%), Japanese: 1 (0.1%), Jordanian: 3 (0.2%), Kenyan: 1 (0.1%), Kyrgyz: 2 (0.1%), Lebanese: 2 (0.1%), Liberian: 2 (0.1%), Libyan: 2 (0.1%), Mauritanian: 2 (0.1%), Moroccan: 6 (0.4%), Namibian: 1 (0.1%), Nigerian: 1 (0.1%), Pakistani: 11 (0.8%), Palestinian: 2 (0.1%), Polish: 2 (0.1%), Russian: 3 (0.2%), Rwandan: 1 (0.1%), Saudi Arabian: 1 (0.1%), Senegalese: 1 (0.1%), Slovak: 1 (0.1%), Somali: 2 (0.1%), Sudanese: 3 (0.2%), Syrian: 3 (0.2%), Thai: 1 (0.1%), Togolese: 1 (0.1%), Tunisian: 3 (0.2%), Turkish: 1179 (87.3%), Turkish - British: 1 (0.1%), Turkish - German: 1 (0.1%), Ugandan: 1 (0.1%), Uzbekistan: 2 (0.1%), Yemeni: 7 (0.5%), Zimbabwean: 1 (0.1%).

These statistics provide insight into the diversity of nationalities among participants in the Erasmus+ program. The majority of participants are Turkish, comprising 87.3% of the total respondents, followed by various other nationalities, each representing a smaller proportion of the total.

## 2.2.2 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The ESC Programme
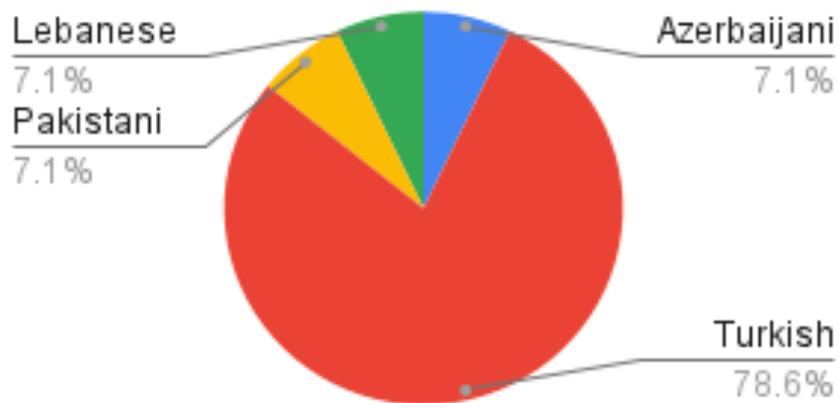


According to the responses obtained from the survey, the nationality distribution of individuals participating in the ESC program is as follows: Lebanese: 7.1%, Pakistani: 7.1%, Turkish: 78.6%, Azerbaijani: 7.1%.

These observations indicate that the majority of participants in the ESC program are Turkish, comprising 78.6% of the total respondents. Lebanese, Pakistani, and Azerbaijani nationals each constitute 7.1% of the participants. This data sheds light on the diverse nationalities represented among participants in the ESC program, with Turkish nationals being the predominant group.

## 2.2.3 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The Other Programs
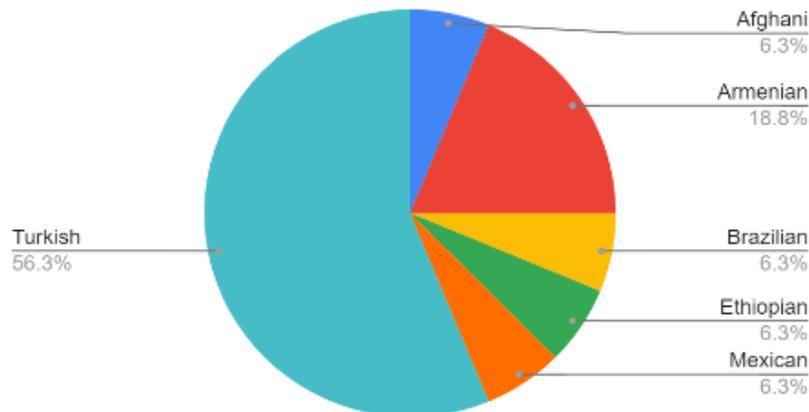


According to the responses obtained from the survey, the nationality distribution of individuals participating in other mobility programs is as follows: Turkish: 56.3%, Afghani: 6.3%, Armenian: 18.8%, Brazilian: 6.3%, Ethiopian: 6.3%, Mexican: 6.3%.

These observations reveal that the majority of participants in other mobility programs are Turkish, comprising 56.3% of the total respondents. Additionally, Afghan, Armenian, Brazilian, Ethiopian, and Mexican nationals each constitute smaller proportions of the participants, with percentages ranging from 6.3% to 18.8%. This data provides insights into the diverse nationalities represented among participants in other mobility programs, with Turkish nationals being the most prevalent group.

## 2.2.4 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The ESN Events
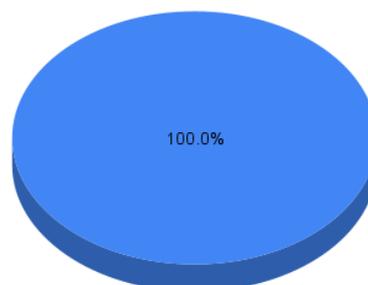


Analyzed responses from the survey indicate that all participants in ESN Events are of Turkish nationality. This observation underscores the homogeneous composition of

nationalities among individuals engaging in ESN Events, with Turkish nationals representing the entire cohort. This data highlights the strong involvement of Turkish students in ESN Events, suggesting a significant level of participation and interest within this demographic.

## 2.3 Time Scale of Participation in Programs
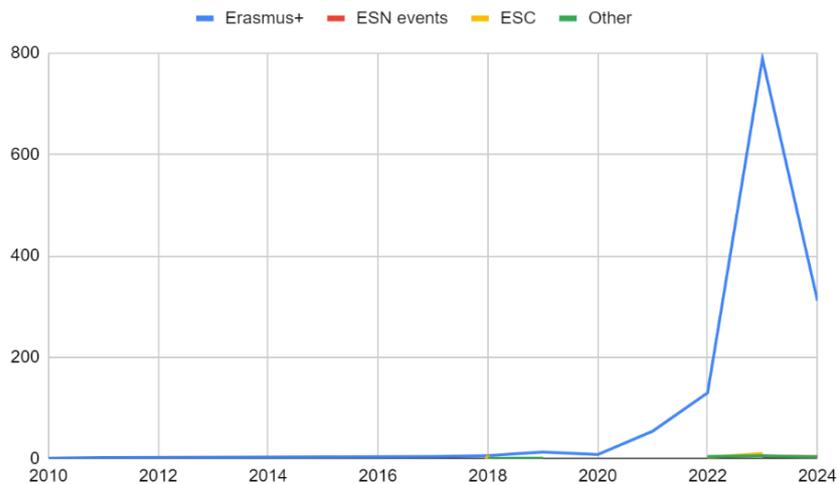


In terms of Erasmus+ participation, I found that there was 1 participant in 2010, 2 in 2011, 4 in 2017, 6 in 2018, 13 in 2019, 8 in 2020, 54 in 2021, 130 in 2022, 789 in 2023, and 312 in 2024. For ESC participation, there was 1 participant in 2018, 3 in 2022, and 10 in 2023.

As for participation in ESN Events, there was 1 participant in 2018, 5 in 2023, and 4 in 2024. In the case of other programmes, there was 1 participant in 2018, 1 in 2019, 4 in 2022, 6 in 2023, and 3 in 2024.

When comparing these figures as percentages, I observed that participants in Erasmus+ accounted for 58.2% of the total, ESC participants made up 1.8%, ESN Events participants comprised 0.8%, and participants in other programmes constituted 0.4%. Additionally, there was a notable increase in the number of participants in the Erasmus+ programme over time, particularly in 2023, although there was a slight decrease in 2024. Participation in the ESC programme also saw an increase, while participation in other programmes remained relatively stable.

## 2.4 Country Distribution

## 2.4.1 Home Countries of Students

### 2.4.1.1 Home Countries of Students for Erasmus+ Programme (Top 5)
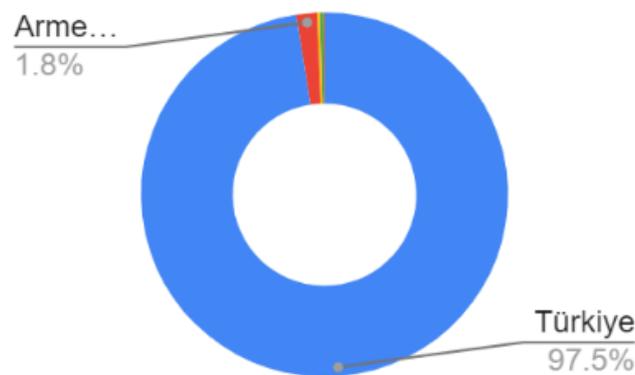


Upon examining the country distribution of students participating in the Erasmus+ programme, we found that the highest participation was from Türkiye, with 1296 students (97.5%). Following this, there were 24 students (1.8%) from Armenia, 4 students (0.3%) from Italy, 3 students from Germany, and 2 students (0.2%) from Colombia. These findings indicate that the majority of students participating in the Erasmus+ programme is from Türkiye.

### 2.4.1.2 Home Countries of Students for ESC Programme (Top 5)
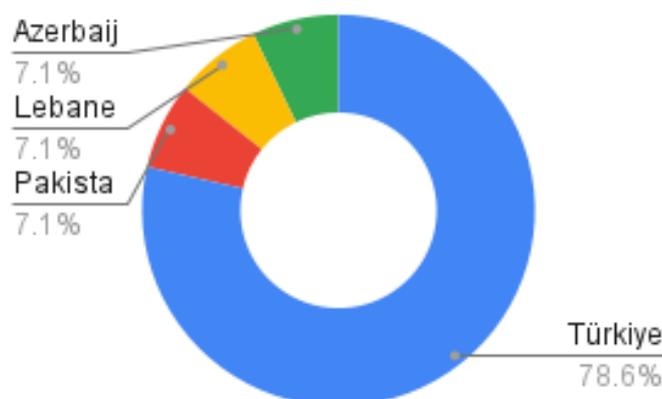


Upon analyzing the country distribution of students participating in the ESC programme, it is evident that the majority of participants are from Türkiye, comprising 11 students (78.6%).

Additionally, there is one student each from Pakistan (7.1%), Lebanon (7.1%), and Azerbaijan (7.1%). These findings underscore the significant representation of Turkish students in the ESC programme.

### 2.4.1.3  Home Countries of Students for Other Programs (Top 5)
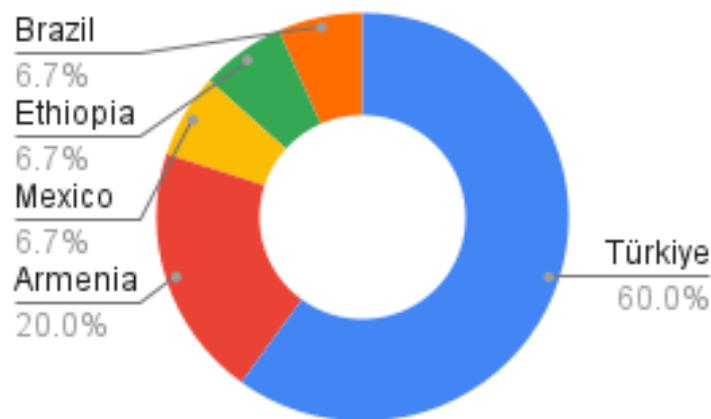


Upon examining the country distribution of students participating in other mobility programs, it is notable that the majority of participants are from Türkiye, accounting for 9 students (60.0%). Furthermore, there are 3 students from Armenia (20.0%), and 1 student each from Mexico (6.7%), Ethiopia (6.7%), and Brazil (6.7%). This data highlights the significant representation of Turkish students in other mobility programs.

### 2.4.2  Host Countries of Students

### 2.4.2.1  Host Countries of Students for Erasmus+ Programme (Top 5)
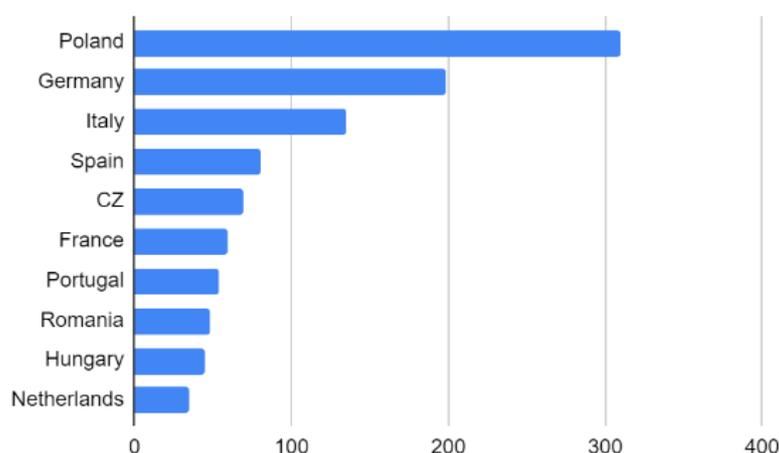
Upon analyzing the host country distribution of students participating in Erasmus+ program, it is evident that Poland hosts the highest number of students, with 310 individuals (24.4%). Following closely, Germany accommodates 199 students (15.7%), while Italy hosts 135 students (10.6%). Additionally, Spain and the Czech Republic host 80 (6.3%) and 69 (5.4%) students, respectively. These top five host countries collectively account for 62.4% of the total participants in other mobility programs. The remaining participants are distributed across various other countries, with France, Portugal, Romania, Hungary, and the Netherlands also hosting significant numbers of students.

### 2.4.2.2   Host Countries of Students for ESC Programme (Top 5)
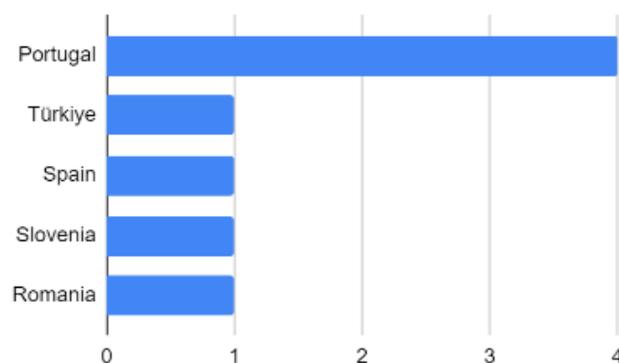


Upon examining the distribution of students in the ESC program by host countries, Portugal stands out as the primary host, accommodating 4 students (66.7%). Türkiye, Spain, Slovenia, and Romania each host 1 student (16.7% each), making up the rest of the top five host countries. These findings underscore the dominance of Portugal as the preferred destination for participants in the ESC program.

### 2.4.2.3   Host Countries of Students for Other Programs (Top 5)
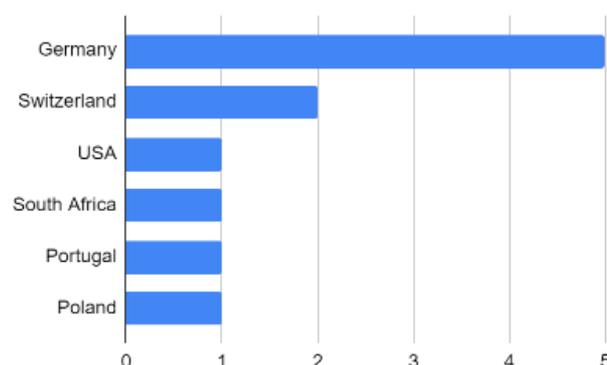
Upon analyzing the host country distribution of students participating in other mobility programs, it is evident that Germany hosts the highest number of students, with 5 individuals (50%). Following this, Switzerland, and the United States each host 2 students (20%). Additionally, South Africa, Portugal, and Poland host 1 student each (10% each). These top five host countries collectively account for 100% of the total participants in other mobility programs.

## 2.4.2.4 Host Countries of Students for ESN Events (Top 5)
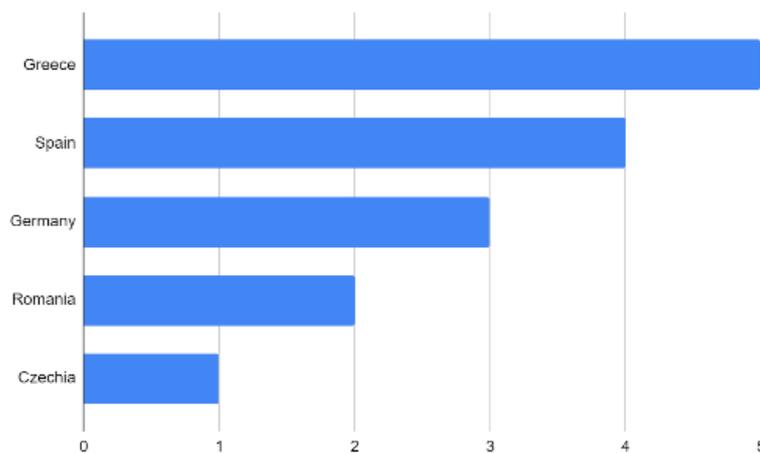


The analysis of the top host countries for students participating in ESN Events reveals a diverse spread. Greece emerges as the most favored host country, accommodating 5 students (38.5%), followed by Spain with 4 students (30.8%). Germany and Romania each host 3 students (23.1% each), while the Czech Republic hosts 1 student (7.7%). These findings highlight the varied geographical distribution of participants in ESN Events, with Greece and Spain being the primary destinations, hosting the majority of students.

## 2.5 Long-Term Visa Requirement
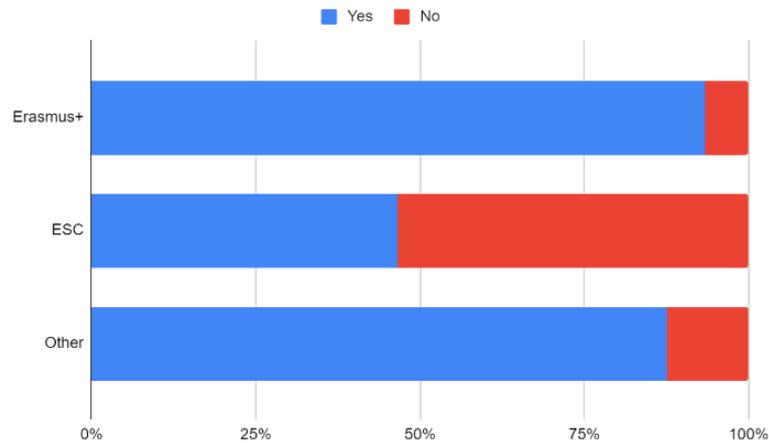


The investigation into long-term visa requirements reveals varying needs among participants across different mobility programs. For the Erasmus+ program, the majority of respondents, totaling 1260 individuals (93.3%), indicated a necessity for long-term visas, while only 90 individuals (6.7%) stated otherwise. In contrast, for the ESC program, 7 participants (46.7%) reported a requirement for long-term visas, while 8 participants (53.3%) did not. Similarly, in other mobility programs, 14 individuals (87.5%) confirmed the need for long-term visas, while 2 individuals (12.5%) did not. These findings underscore the significance of addressing long-term visa requirements, particularly for participants in the Erasmus+ program, to facilitate smoother mobility experiences.

## 2.5.1 Long-Term Visa Requirement for Types of Erasmus+ Program
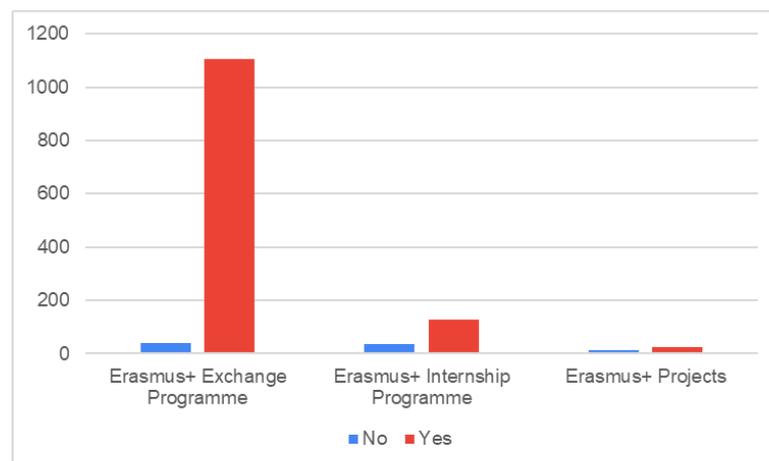


The survey delved into the necessity of long-term visas among participants in various

Erasmus+ programs. For the Erasmus+ Exchange program, out of 1146 respondents, 1106 individuals (96.5%) expressed a need for long-term visas, while 40 individuals (3.5%) did not. In the Erasmus+ Internship program, 129 out of 166 participants (77.7%) reported requiring long-term visas, whereas 37 participants (22.3%) did not. Lastly, in the Erasmus+ Projects category, 25 out of 38 respondents (65.8%) confirmed the need for long-term visas, while 13 respondents (34.2%) did not. These findings underscore the significance of addressing long-term visa requirements across different Erasmus+ programs to ensure smoother mobility experiences.

### 2.5.1.1 Long-Term Visa Requirement Types of Passports for Erasmus+ Programme
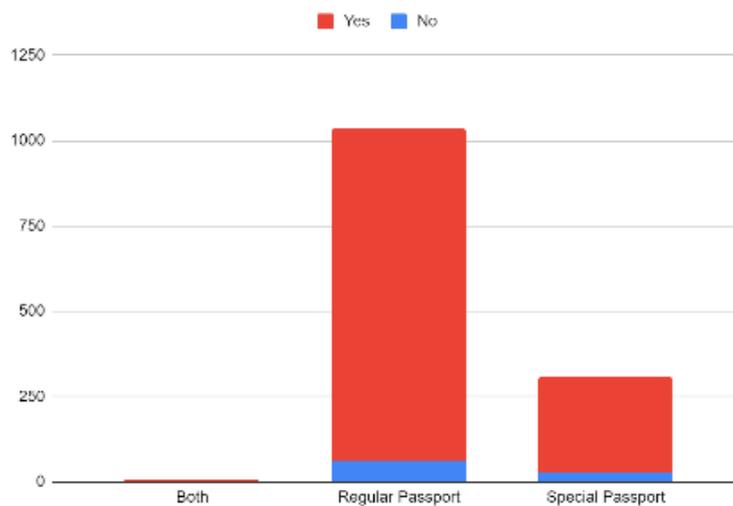


The analysis of passport types among respondents in the Erasmus+ program revealed notable insights. Among participants with regular passports, a significant majority, constituting 94%, or 975 individuals, affirmed possessing a regular passport, while a smaller fraction of 6%, or 61 individuals, indicated otherwise. On the other hand, for participants with special passports, 91% (277 individuals) confirmed holding a special passport, while 9% (28 individuals) reported otherwise. Moreover, a minimal percentage of participants, comprising less than 1%, or 7 individuals, reported having both regular and special passports, with only 1 individual stating otherwise.

These findings highlight the predominance of regular passports among Erasmus+ participants and the noteworthy presence of special passports, indicating a diverse demographic within the program. Such insights contribute to a better understanding of the passport landscape among non-EU students participating in mobility programs.

## 2.6 Travel Experiences Beyond Programs
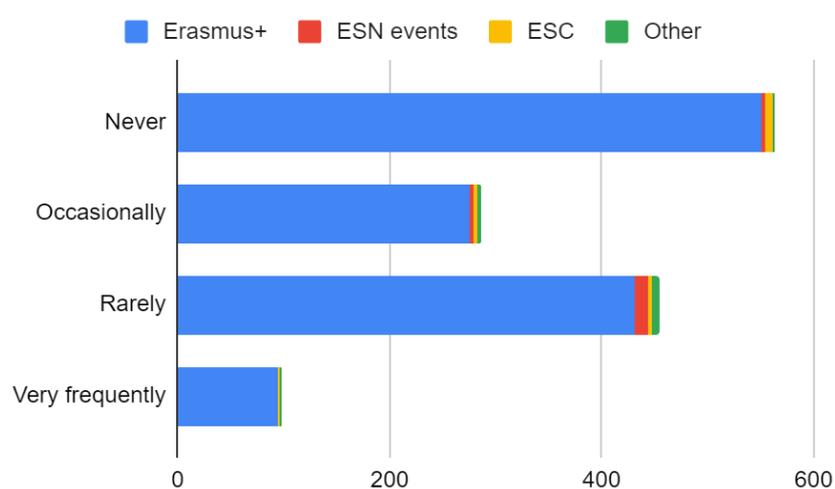


The report examines the travel habits of students participating in mobility programs outside of their programs. Among Erasmus+ program participants, a total of 550 individuals (44.6%) indicated that they never travel, while 275 individuals (22.3%) stated that they occasionally travel, 432 individuals (35.1%) rarely travel, and 94 individuals (7.6%) travel quite frequently. Among ESC program participants, 7 individuals (58.3%) stated that they never travel, 2 individuals (16.7%) occasionally travel, 4 individuals (33.3%) rarely travel, and 1 individual (8.3%) travel very frequently. Among participants of ESN events, 4 individuals (17.4%) stated that they never travel, 5 individuals (21.7%) occasionally travel, 12 individuals (52.2%) rarely travel, and 1 individual (4.3%) travels very frequently. Among participants of other programs, 3 individuals (21.4%) stated that they never travel, 4 individuals (28.6%) occasionally travel, 7 individuals (50%) rarely travel, and 2 individuals (14.3%) travel very frequently. These data indicate that the travel habits of students participating in mobility programs vary widely across different programs.

## 3. VISA PROCESS

## 3.1 Level of Information During the Visa Process

## 3.1.1 Level of Information During the Visa Process for Erasmus+ Programme
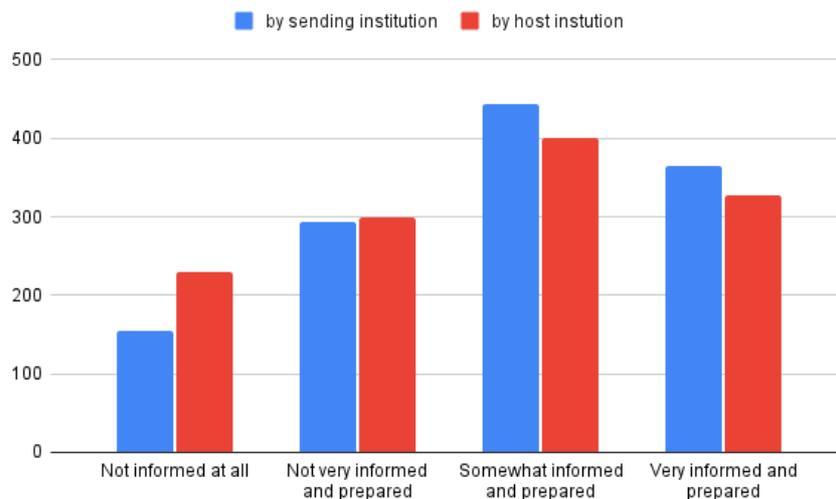


Upon examination of the levels of information provision and preparedness among students participating in the Erasmus+ program, various levels of information and preparedness emerge. When the level of information provision by the sending institution is considered, 27% of participants indicated that they were not informed at all, while 20% stated that they were partially informed and prepared. The highest proportion in terms of information provision and preparedness levels is 32%, falling into the category of "quite informed and prepared." A segment of 21% also expressed that they were very well informed and prepared by the sending institution.

In terms of the level of information provision by the host institution, 23% indicated that they were not informed at all, while 19% stated that they were not sufficiently informed and prepared. 29% mentioned that they were partially informed and prepared. The highest proportion, at 24%, falls into the category of "very well informed and prepared."

These findings underscore the significance of the information provision and preparedness levels provided by sending and host institutions during students' participation in the Erasmus+ program. A good information and preparedness process can enable students to

derive maximum benefit from the program and minimize potential issues. Therefore, it is crucial for both sending and host institutions to focus on improving their information and preparedness processes.

### 3.1.2    Level of Information During the Visa Process for ESC Programme
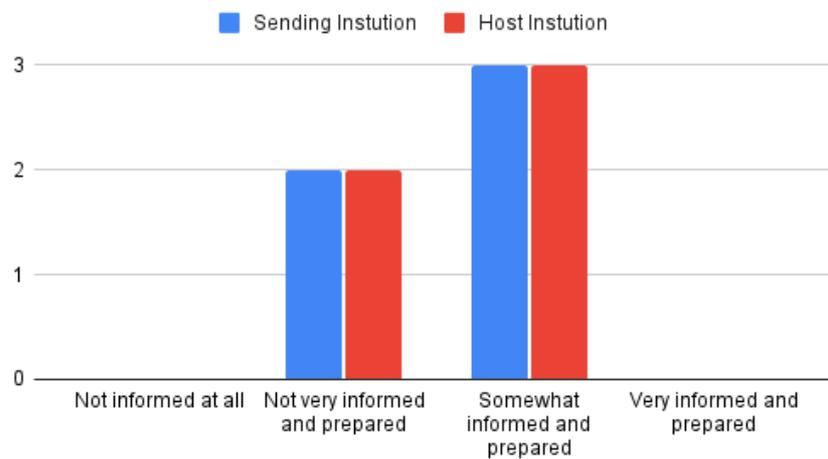


Upon examination of the levels of information provision and preparedness among students participating in the ESC program, it is evident that the information provided by both sending and host institutions is notably high. There have been no instances of lack of information provision by the sending institution, with students expressing that they have been partially or fully informed and prepared at a 100% rate.

A similar trend is observed in the information provision by the host institution. None of the students reported lack of information provision by the host institution, with all students indicating that they have been partially or fully informed and prepared at a 100% rate.

These findings indicate that students participating in the ESC program are benefiting from exceptionally high levels of information provision and preparedness by both sending and host institutions. Such high levels of information provision and preparedness can facilitate students in maximizing the benefits of their programs and minimizing potential issues.

### 3.1.3    Level of Information During the Visa Process for Other Programs
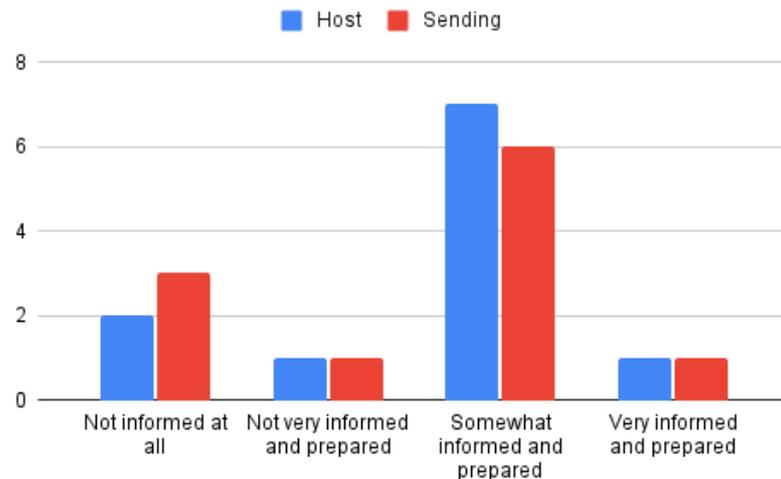


Upon examining the levels of information provision and preparedness among students participating in other mobility programs, it is evident that the information provided by both sending and host institutions varies. Regarding the level of information provision by the sending institution, a proportion of 27% indicated that they were not informed at all, while a segment of 9% expressed that they were partially or fully informed and prepared.

A similar distribution is observed in the level of information provision by the host institution. An 18% proportion reported not being informed at all, while 9% mentioned being partially or fully informed and prepared.

These findings indicate that students participating in other mobility programs benefit from varying levels of information provision and preparedness by both sending and host institutions. This diversity in information and preparedness levels may hinder students from fully benefiting from their programs and minimizing potential issues. Therefore, it is important for sending and host institutions to work on establishing a more consistent information and preparedness process.

## 3.2    Support From Institutions on Visa Process

## 3.2.1    Support From Institutions on Visa Process for Erasmus+ Programme
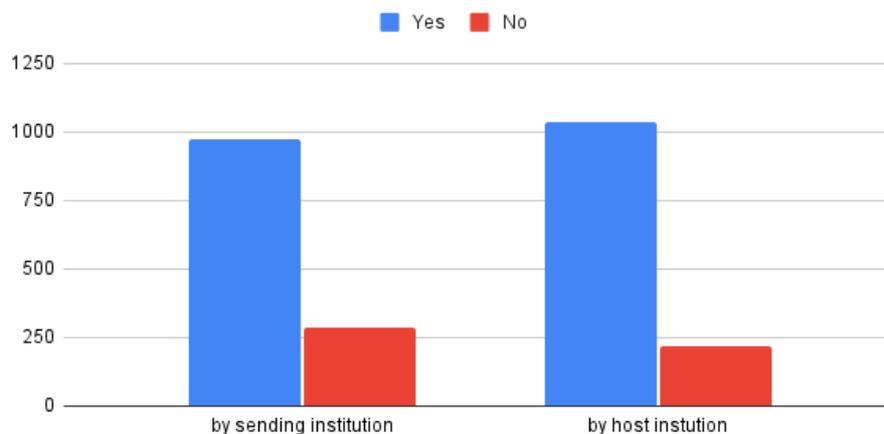


Upon examination of the support received by students participating in the Erasmus+ program, it becomes evident that the level of support provided by both sending and host institutions is crucial. When evaluating whether they received adequate support from the sending institution, 77% of students (972 individuals) responded with "yes," while 23% (284 individuals) chose "no."

A similar trend is observed in the assessment of support provided by the host institution. 83% (1038 individuals) responded with "yes," while 17% (218 individuals) selected "no."

These findings indicate that the majority of students participating in the Erasmus+ program is satisfied with the support provided by both sending and host institutions. However, there remains a significant minority expressing concerns, particularly regarding the support from the sending institution. Therefore, there may be a need for further development and improvement of the support processes.

### 3.2.2 Support From Institutions on Visa Process for ESC Program
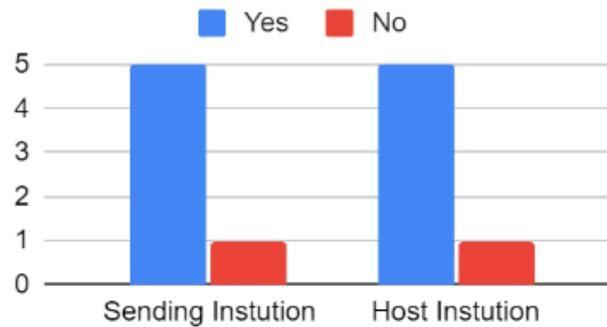


Upon examining the evaluations of support provided by both sending and host institutions among students participating in the ESC program, it is generally observed that satisfaction levels are high. In the assessment of support provided by the sending institution, 83% (5 individuals) responded with "yes," while 17% (1 individual) preferred "no."

A similar trend is evident in the evaluation of support provided by the host institution. 83% (5 individuals) responded with "yes," while 17% (1 individual) chose "no."

These findings indicate that students participating in the ESC program are generally satisfied with the support provided by both sending and host institutions. However, as these data were obtained from a limited number of participants, caution should be exercised regarding the generalizability of the results.

### 3.2.3 Support From Institutions on Visa Process for Other Programs
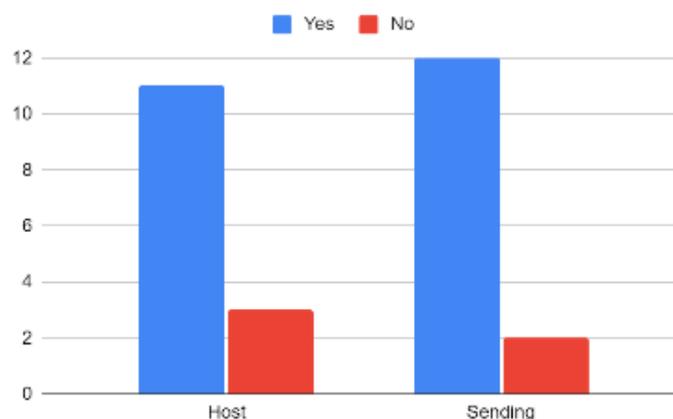
Upon examination of the evaluations regarding the support provided by both sending and host institutions among students participating in other mobility programs, it is generally observed that satisfaction levels are high. In the assessment of support provided by the sending institution, 86% (12 individuals) responded with "yes," while 14% (2 individuals) preferred "no."

A similar trend is evident in the evaluation of support provided by the host institution. 79% (11 individuals) responded with "yes," while 21% (3 individuals) chose "no."

These findings indicate that students participating in other mobility programs are generally satisfied with the support provided by both sending and host institutions. However, as these data were obtained from a limited number of participants, caution should be exercised regarding the generalizability of the results.

### 3.2.4    Support From Institutions on Visa Process for ESN Events
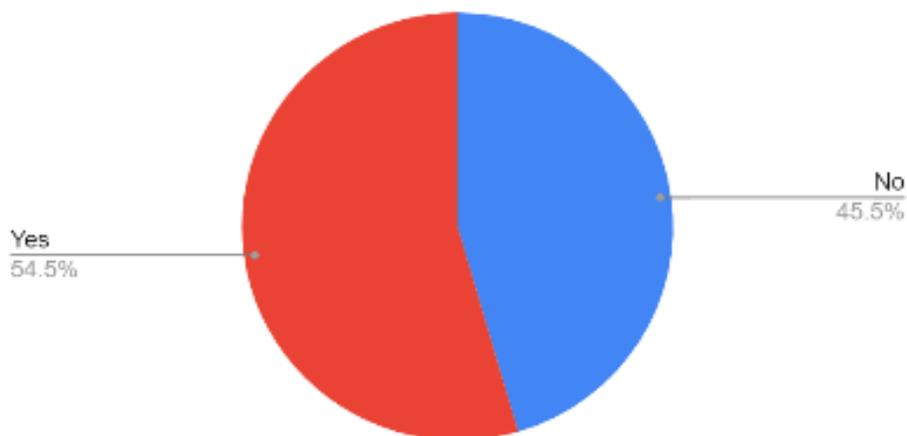


When evaluating whether they received sufficient support from program organizers to address visa-related challenges, opinions among participants who attended ESN events vary. According to the assessment, 54.5% (12 individuals) responded with "yes," while 45.5% (10 individuals) preferred "no."

These findings indicate that among students who participated in ESN events, there is no consensus on whether they received sufficient support from program organizers to address visa-related challenges. While 45% of participants expressed that they did not receive the expected support from program organizers, 55% believed they did.

These results underscore the necessity of establishing a more effective visa support mechanism in the planning and implementation of future ESN events.

### 3.2.4.1  Additional Document Support from Institutions for ESN Event
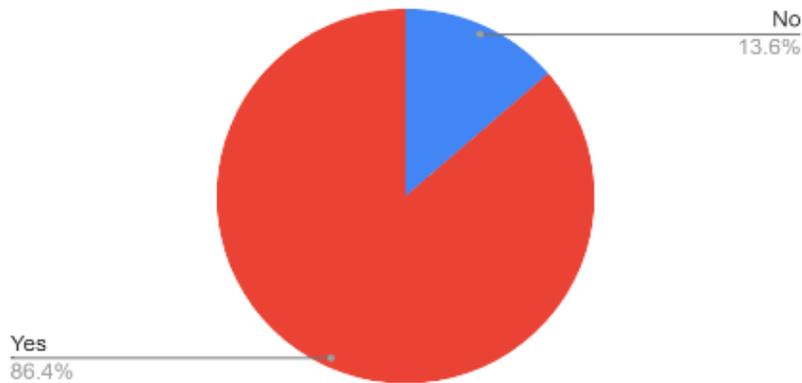


When examining the views of participants attending ESN events regarding whether they received an invitation letter from the inviting institution, a predominantly positive picture emerges. According to the evaluation results, 86% (19 individuals) responded with "yes," while 14% (3 individuals) preferred "no."

These findings indicate that among participants attending ESN events, the majority believe they received an invitation letter from the inviting institution. However, these results are based on a limited number of participants, so caution should be exercised when generalizing.

### 3.3  Overall Experience About Visa Process
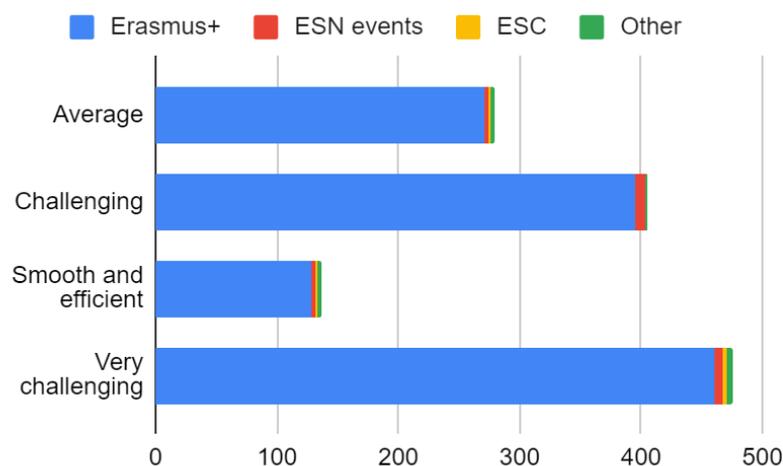
When examining the overall experiences regarding the visa process, the views of students participating in various mobility programs display diversity. For the Erasmus+ program, 23% of participants (271 individuals) rated their experience as "average," 32% (395 individuals) found it "challenging," 10% (129 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 35% (461 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

In the case of the ESC program, 25% of participants (1 individual) rated their experience as "average," 25% (1 individual) found it "challenging," 50% (2 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 50% (2 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

For ESN events, 20% of participants (4 individuals) rated their experience as "average," 40% (8 individuals) found it "challenging," 15% (3 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 35% (7 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

Regarding other programs, 36% of participants (4 individuals) rated their experience as "average," 18% (2 individuals) found it "challenging," 27% (3 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 45% (5 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

These findings illustrate the diversity of experiences among students participating in different mobility programs regarding the visa process, with some finding it considerably challenging.

## 3.4 Visa Processing Duration
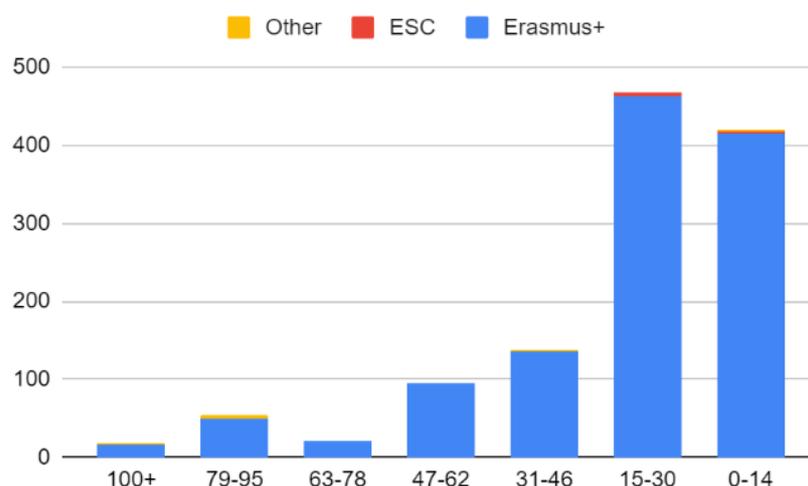
When evaluating the duration of the visa process, there is a diversity of experiences among students participating in different mobility programs. Among those in the Erasmus+ program, 34% (415 individuals) indicated that their visa process lasted between 0-14 days, while 38% (464 individuals) stated it fell within the 15–30-day range. Additionally, 11% (135 individuals) reported a duration of 31-46 days, 8% (95 individuals) experienced 47-62 days, 2% (21 individuals) faced 63-78 days, 4% (50 individuals) encountered 79-95 days, and 1% (17 individuals) spent 100 days or more on the process.

For participants in the ESC program, it is observed that visa processing times tend to be shorter. Half of the participants (3 individuals) reported a duration of 0-14 days, while the other half (3 individuals) stated it was between 15-30 days.

Similarly, among students in other mobility programs, a variety of visa processing times were noted. In this group, 40% (2 individuals) reported a duration of 0-14 days, 20% (1 individual) experienced 15-30 days, 60% (3 individuals) faced 31-46 days, 20% (1 individual) encountered 63-78 days, 80% (4 individuals) spent 79-95 days, and 20% (1 individual) had a process lasting 100 days or more.

These findings underscore the variability in visa processing times experienced by students across different mobility programs, with some students encountering prolonged waits.

## 3.5    Visa Approval Time
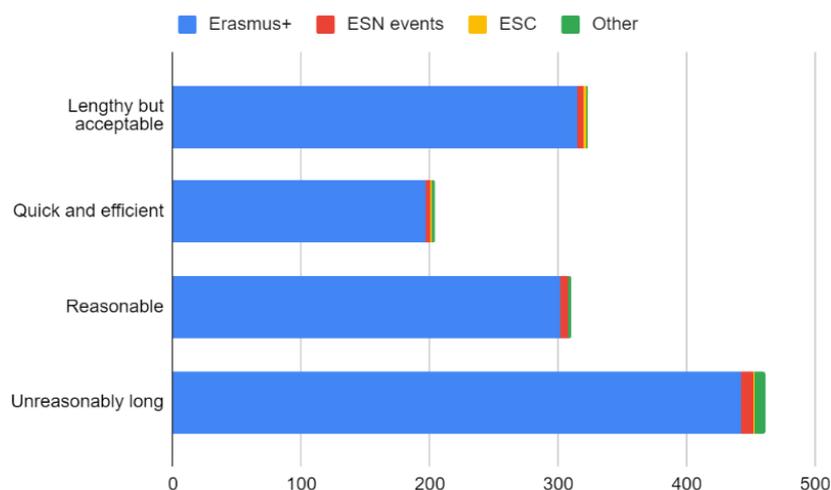
Assessments regarding visa approval times vary among students participating in different mobility programs. For students in the Erasmus+ program, 32% (315 individuals) described the process as "lengthy but acceptable," while 20% (197 individuals) found it "quick and efficient," 25% (302 individuals) deemed it "reasonable," and 23% (442 individuals) considered it "unreasonably long."

Among students in the ESC program, assessments were generally positive. Half of the participants (3 individuals) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," while the other half (3 individuals) perceived it as "quick and efficient." Additionally, 17% (1 individual) considered it "reasonable," and another 17% (1 individual) found it "unreasonably long."

However, evaluations were predominantly negative among students in other mobility programs. In this group, 12% (1 individual) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," 37% (3 individuals) described it as "quick and efficient," 25% (2 individuals) considered it "reasonable," and 25% (8 individuals) perceived it as "unreasonably long."

These findings highlight the variability in perceptions of visa approval times among students in different mobility programs and indicate that some students find the process to be lengthy.

## 4. OTHER NEEDED REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Residence Permit Requirement
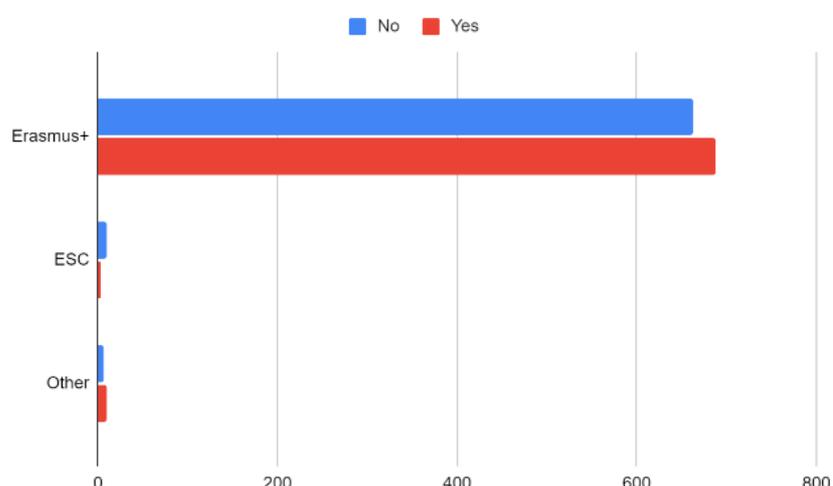
Assessments regarding residence permit requirements show diversity among students participating in different mobility programs. Among students in the Erasmus+ program, 51% (688 individuals) indicated having this requirement, while 49% (663 individuals) stated otherwise.

In the ESC program, this requirement appears to be less prevalent. Of the participants, 29% (4 individuals) reported having a residence permit requirement, while 71% (10 individuals) stated otherwise.

Among students participating in other mobility programs, this requirement seems to be more common. In this group, 56% (9 individuals) reported having a residence permit requirement, while 44% (7 individuals) stated otherwise.

These findings highlight the variation in residence permit requirements among students participating in different mobility programs.

## 4.2 Level of Information During the Residence Permit Process

### 4.2.1 Level of Information During the Residence Permit Process for Erasmus+ Programme
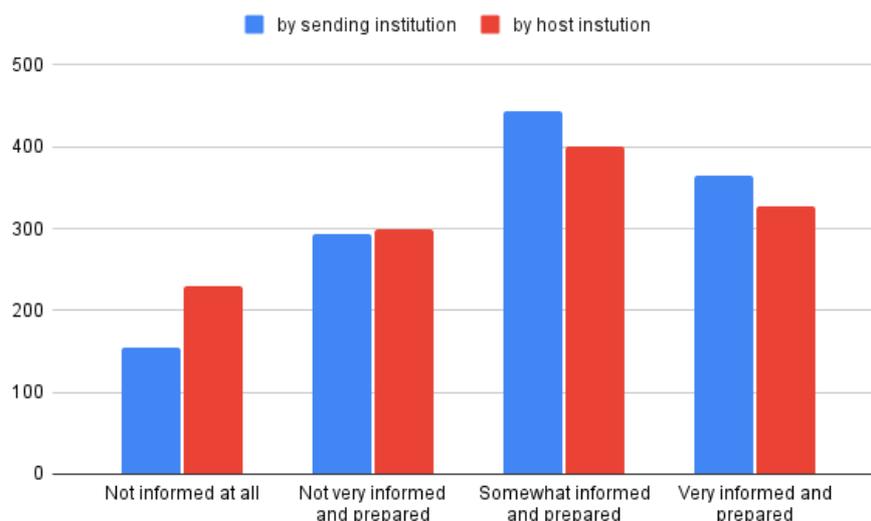


Residence permit process information evaluation among Erasmus+ participants reveal varying degrees of preparedness and awareness, both from sending and host institutions.

Regarding information provided by the sending institution, 37.8% (443 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, while 31.1% (365 individuals) felt very informed and prepared. However, a significant portion, 13.2% (155 individuals), stated they were not informed at all, and 24.8% (293 individuals) reported not feeling very informed and prepared.

Concerning information provided by the host institution, 39.5% (400 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, whereas 32.9% (327 individuals) felt very informed and prepared. However, 19.5% (229 individuals) stated they were not informed at all by the sending institution, and 25.1% (300 individuals) reported not feeling very informed and prepared.

These findings highlight that while a considerable number of Erasmus+ participants feel adequately informed and prepared by both sending and host institutions, there are still notable proportions who express dissatisfaction with the level of information provided. Ensuring comprehensive and clear communication channels from both institutions can enhance the overall experience and efficiency of the residence permit process for participants.

## 4.2.2 Level of Information During the Residence Permit Process for ESC Programme
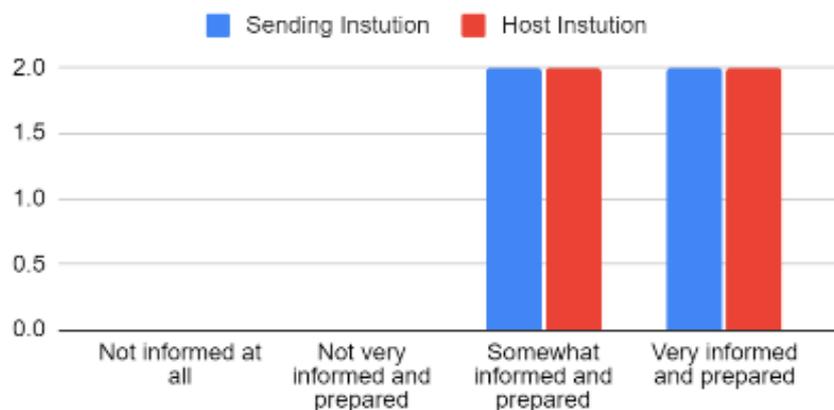


The assessment of the level of information during the residence permit process within the ESC program indicates that participants' perceptions vary.

Among respondents, 50% (2 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared by the sending institution, while another 50% (2 individuals) reported feeling very informed and prepared by the sending institution. Similarly, 50% (2 individuals) indicated being somewhat informed and prepared by the host institution, with another 50% (2 individuals) feeling very informed and prepared by the host institution.

These results suggest a balanced perception of the level of information and preparedness provided by both sending and host institutions among ESC program participants. Further insights could illuminate the effectiveness of information dissemination strategies for future planning and improvement.

### 4.2.3 Level of Information During the Residence Permit Process for Other Programs
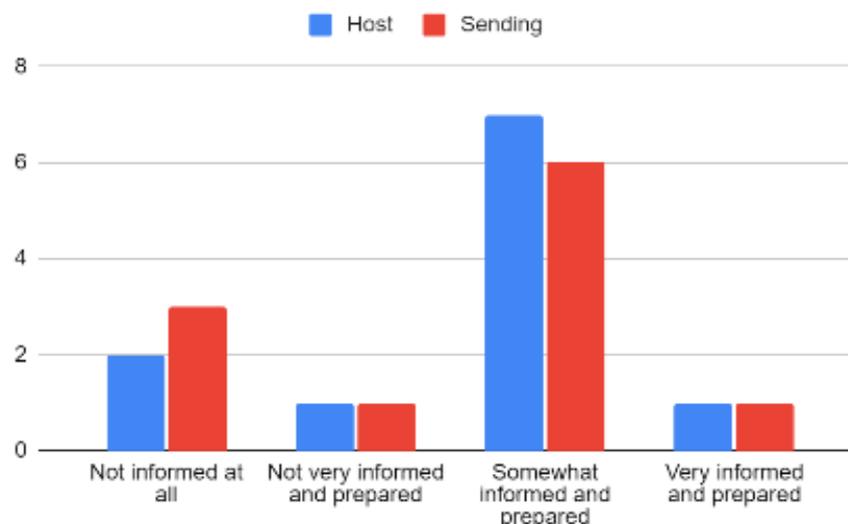


The evaluation of the level of information during the residence permit process among participants in other mobility programs reveals varying perceptions. Regarding information provided by the sending institution, 50% (6 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, 8.3% (1 individual) felt very informed and prepared, 25% (3 individuals) stated they were not informed at all, and 8.3% (1 individual) reported being not very informed and prepared. Concerning information provided by the host institution, 87.5% (7 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, while 12.5% (1 individual) felt very informed and prepared.

Furthermore, 25% (2 individuals) stated they were not informed at all by the sending institution, and 12.5% (1 individual) reported being not very informed and prepared by the sending institution.

These findings suggest that while the majority of participants in other mobility programs feel somewhat informed and prepared by the host institution, there are mixed perceptions regarding the level of information provided by the sending institution. This underscores the importance of effective communication and support mechanisms from both sending and host institutions to ensure a smooth residence permit process for students participating in mobility programs.

## 5. SATISFACTION

## 5.1    Satisfaction About the Given Information
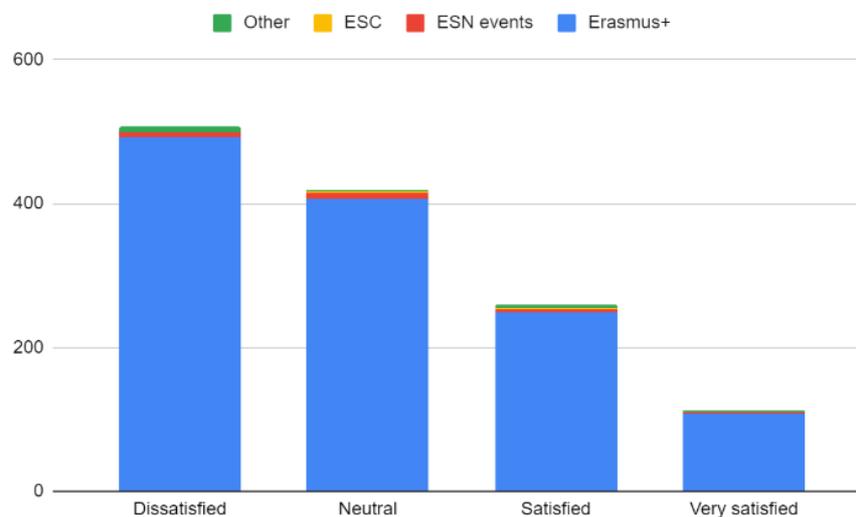


Satisfaction levels regarding the information provided vary across different mobility programs, indicating diverse experiences among participants.

For Erasmus+ participants, the responses are distributed as follows: 38.6% (493 individuals) expressed dissatisfaction, 31.9% (407 individuals) remained neutral, 19.4% (248 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and 10.1% (108 individuals) were very satisfied with the given information.

In the ESC program, all responses were generally positive, with no participants expressing dissatisfaction. 23.1% (3 individuals) remained neutral, 23.1% (3 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and none were very satisfied.

Regarding ESN Events, 28% (7 individuals) expressed dissatisfaction, the same percentage (7 individuals) remained neutral, 20% (5 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and 12% (3 individuals) were very satisfied.

In other mobility programs, 43.8% (7 individuals) expressed dissatisfaction, 12.5% (2 individuals) remained neutral, 18.8% (3 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and 12.5% (2 individuals) were very satisfied.

These results underscore the importance of tailored communication strategies and support mechanisms to address the varying information needs of participants across different mobility programs. Further efforts can be made to improve satisfaction levels, particularly among Erasmus+ and other program participants who expressed higher levels of dissatisfaction.

## 6. POTENTIAL SCENARIOS ARISING FROM VISA-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

## 6.1 Visa Rejection Alternative Plan
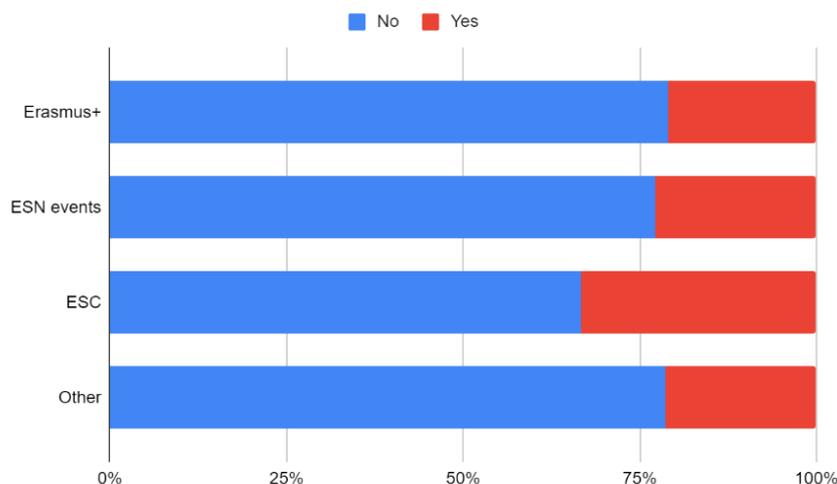


Visa rejection and the need for alternative plans in case of such rejections vary among participants across different mobility programs.

For Erasmus+ participants, the responses are as follows: 21% (264 individuals) indicated having alternative plans in case of visa rejection, while the majority, 79% (992 individuals), reported not having such plans.

In the ESC program, 33.3% (2 individuals) stated having alternative plans, whereas 66.7% (4 individuals) did not have such plans.

For ESN Events, 22.7% (5 individuals) indicated having alternative plans, while 77.3% (17 individuals) reported not having them.

In other mobility programs, 21.4% (3 individuals) stated having alternative plans, whereas 78.6% (11 individuals) did not have them.

These results suggest that a considerable portion of participants across all programs do not have alternative plans in case of visa rejection. This underscores the importance of providing support and guidance to students to help them navigate visa-related challenges effectively and develop contingency plans where necessary.

## 6.2   Overall Visa Application Process Experience
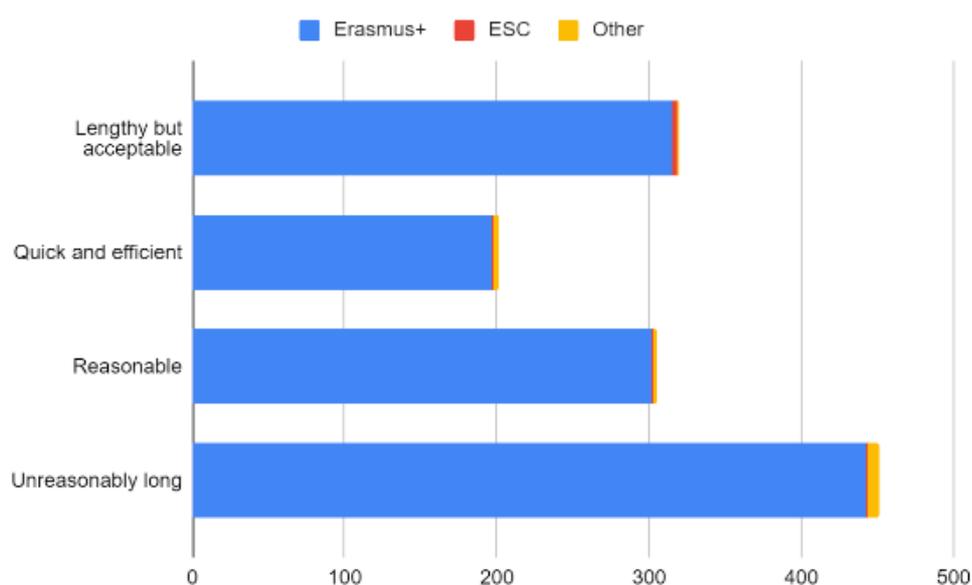


The analysis of responses regarding the overall experience with the visa application process reveals varying perspectives among participants across different mobility programs.

Among Erasmus+ participants, the majority described the process as "unreasonably long," with 442 respondents (approximately 36%). Additionally, 315 individuals (around 26%) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," while 197 (approximately 16%) considered it "quick and efficient," and 302 (approximately 25%) deemed it "reasonable."

In contrast, ESC participants reported a less diverse range of experiences. Three respondents (around 43%) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," while one person (approximately 14%) each described it as "quick and efficient" and "reasonable." One participant (around 14%) found it "unreasonably long."

For ESN Events attendees, opinions were more evenly distributed. Ten participants (approximately 42%) regarded the process as "unreasonably long," followed by five individuals (around 21%) finding it "reasonable," and four respondents (around 17%) each describing it as "lengthy but acceptable" and "quick and efficient."

Participants in other mobility programs mostly viewed the process as "unreasonably long," with eight respondents (approximately 47%) expressing this sentiment. Three participants (around 18%) found it "quick and efficient," two (approximately 12%) considered it "reasonable," and one (around 6%) described it as "lengthy but acceptable."

These findings illustrate the varied experiences of participants in navigating the visa application process across different mobility programs. While some perceive the process as manageable or efficient, a significant proportion encountered challenges, particularly regarding the duration of the process.

## 6.3  Visa Rejection Reasons for Erasmus+ Programme
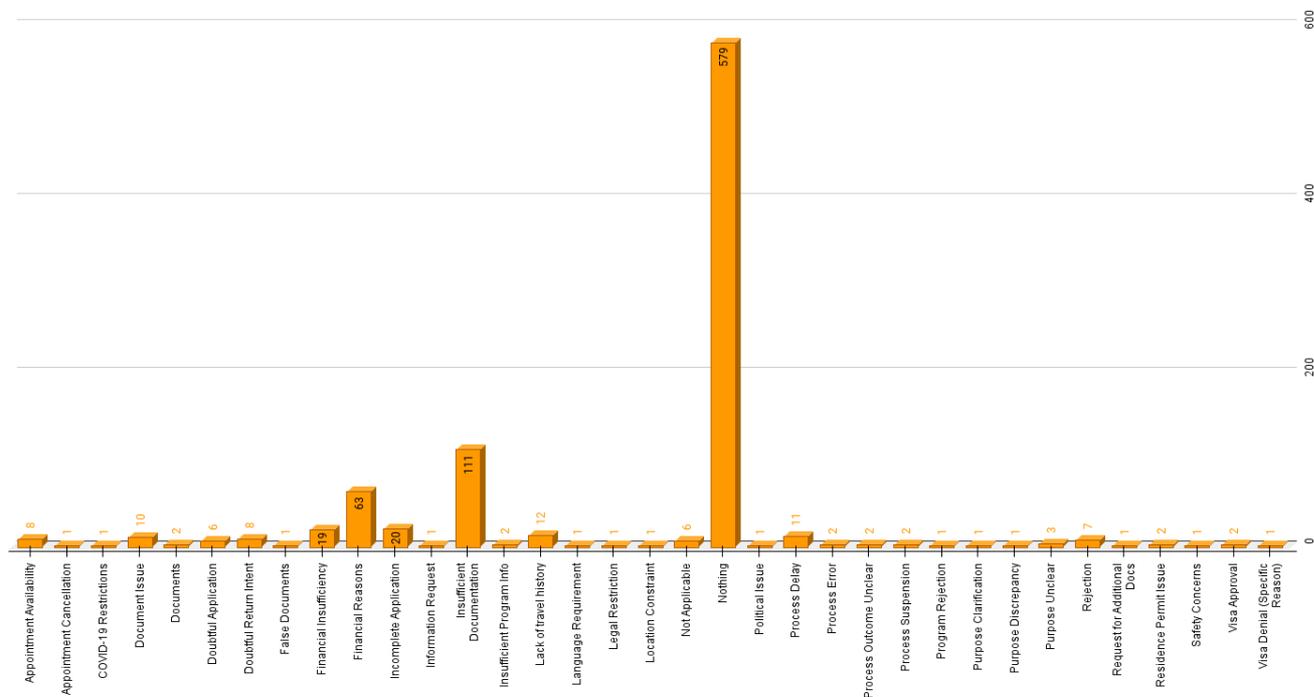


The analysis of visa rejection reasons provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by non-EU students in mobility programs. Among the various categories reported:

The most prevalent reason for visa rejection was "Insufficient Documentation," with 111 instances, constituting approximately 21.9% of the responses.
Following closely, "Financial Reasons" were cited in 63 instances, representing around 12.4% of the responses.

"Incomplete Application" was another significant factor, reported 20 times, comprising approximately 3.9% of the responses.

"Financial Insufficiency" and "Lack of travel history" were also notable, with 19 and 12 instances, respectively, accounting for about 3.7% and 2.4% of the responses.

Interestingly, a substantial number of respondents, accounting for 579 instances, reported "Nothing" as the reason for visa rejection, indicating a lack of clarity or awareness regarding the cause, representing approximately 113.9% of the responses (as respondents could select multiple categories).

Other categories such as "Doubtful Application," "Process Delay," and "Rejection" were also reported, albeit in smaller numbers.

These findings underscore the diverse range of challenges encountered by non-EU students during the visa application process, emphasizing the need for improved support and guidance to address these issues effectively.

## 6.4 Challenges Posed by Visa Requirements for Non-Eu Participants
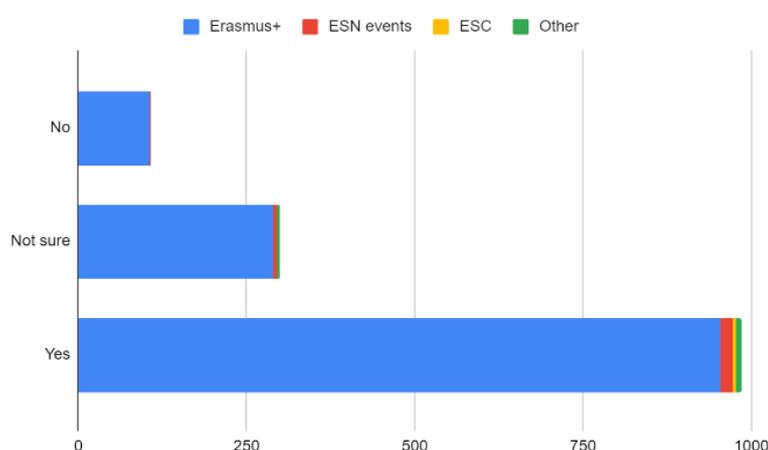


The analysis of responses regarding the impact of visa-related issues on non-EU students' motivation to apply for mobility programs provides insights into the perceptions of participants across different mobility programs.

Among Erasmus+ participants, the majority, comprising 955 individuals (approximately 69%), expressed that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying for mobility programs. In contrast, 106 respondents (around 8%) disagreed with this notion, while 290 participants (approximately 21%) were unsure about its impact.

In the ESC program, all six respondents (100%) who answered the question indicated that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying for mobility programs.

Among ESN Events participants, 16 individuals (approximately 73%) believed that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying, while only one person (around 5%) disagreed. Five participants (around 23%) were unsure about the impact.

Similarly, in other mobility programs, nine respondents (approximately 64%) stated that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying, while none of the participants disagreed. Five individuals (around 36%) were unsure about the impact.

These findings underscore a widespread perception across different mobility programs that visa-related issues negatively impact non-EU students' motivation to apply for mobility programs. While a significant number of participants believe in this deterrent effect, a notable proportion remains unsure about its influence, suggesting the need for further investigation or clarification.

## 7. EFFECT of VISA ISSUES

### 7.1 Effect of Visa Issues on Erasmus+ Programme Experience
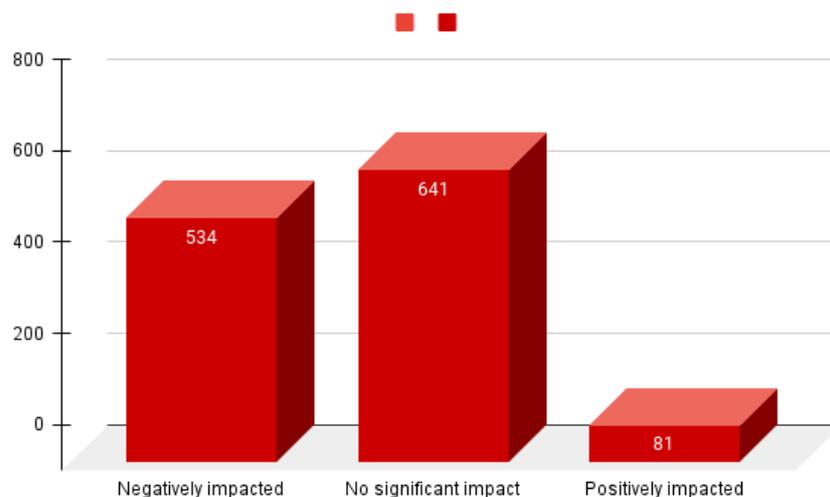


The survey responses regarding the overall experience with the visa application process in the Erasmus+ programme reveal varied sentiments among participants. Out of the respondents, 48% (534 individuals) reported a negative impact on their experience, 57% (641 individuals) stated that there was no significant impact, and 7% (81 individuals) noted a positive impact. These findings underscore the diverse experiences and perceptions surrounding the visa application process within the Erasmus+ programme.

## 7.2    Effect of Visa Issues on ESC Programme Experience
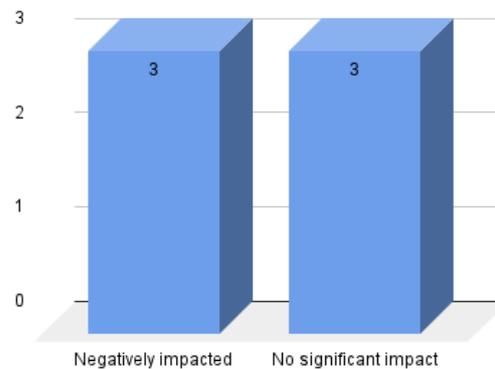


The responses concerning the overall experience with the visa application process in the ESC programme indicate relatively consistent sentiments among participants. Out of the respondents, 50% (3 individuals) reported a negative impact on their experience, while the remaining 50% (3 individuals) stated that there was no significant impact. These findings suggest a balanced perspective on the visa application process within the ESC programme.

## 7.3    Effect of Visa Issues on Other Programs Experience
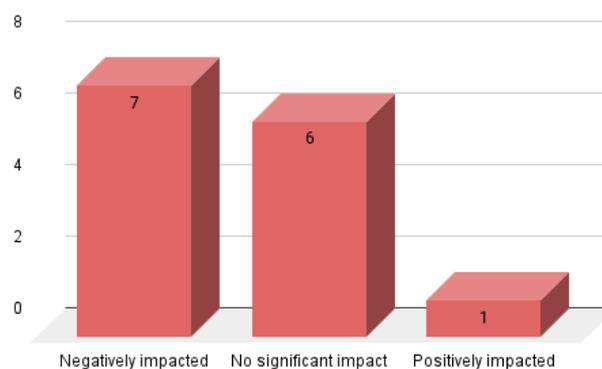


Analysis of responses regarding the overall experience with the visa application process in other mobility programs reveals diverse perceptions among participants. Out of the respondents, 50% (7 individuals) reported a negative impact on their experience, while 46% (6 individuals) stated that there was no significant impact. Only 4% (1 individual) expressed a positive impact on their experience. These findings suggest varying levels of satisfaction and challenges faced by participants in other mobility programs regarding the visa application process.

## 8. PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION INQUIRY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MOBILITY BARRIERS
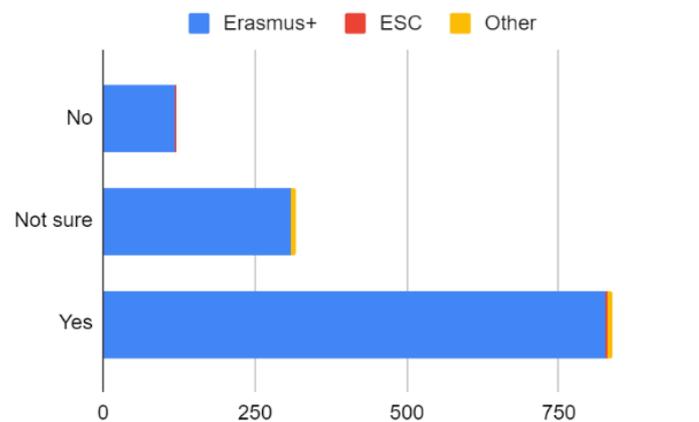


Upon investigating participants' responses regarding their willingness to recommend the program within the framework of mobility barriers, significant insights emerged. In the Erasmus+ program, a majority of respondents, comprising 65%, or 827 individuals, expressed willingness to recommend the program. However, a notable 9% (119 individuals) disagreed with the recommendation, and 26% (310 individuals) were uncertain.

For the ESC program, the majority, accounting for 67% (4 individuals), indicated their willingness to recommend, while 33% (2 individuals) expressed disagreement.

In the other mobility programs category, opinions were more evenly distributed, with 50% (7 individuals) in favor of recommending the program and an equal number expressing uncertainty.

These findings underscore the importance of addressing mobility barriers to enhance participant satisfaction and program recommendation rates, particularly within the Erasmus+ program, where the majority of respondents showed positive inclinations.

# 9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we come to the end of this report, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the project.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Merve Ceylan, the ESN Türkiye Project Manager. Your invaluable contributions and collaborative spirit during the creation of this project played a crucial role in its success. To Gökay Bağrıyanık, the ESN Türkiye President, I extend my thanks for your unwavering support and guidance at every step of the project. Your leadership was instrumental in making this project a reality. I am deeply grateful to Nensi Mkrtchyan from ESN Armenia for the significant contribution you made to the project. Since we met, your incredible support has been invaluable, and you played a vital role in the success of this project. To Jude Waites, the ESN UK President, and Christie Dear, the former ESN UK President, I extend my thanks for your guidance as supervisors. Your expertise and advice were instrumental in driving the development of this project forward. To my teammates Berker Özer, Doğan Deler, Bora Koparan, Sadık Erener, and Ömer Çavuşoğlu, I thank you for your dedication and hard work in making this project a reality. It was a pleasure working with you all, and your contributions were integral to our success.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to all participants who contributed to the project and helped us amplify our voice. Without your support, completing this project would not have been possible.

I am truly grateful to each and every one of you.

**Written by:** Hazal PINAR (Vice Chair of National Strategy Committee Survey Team of ESN Türkiye)