SiEM
Social Inclusion & Engagement in Mobility

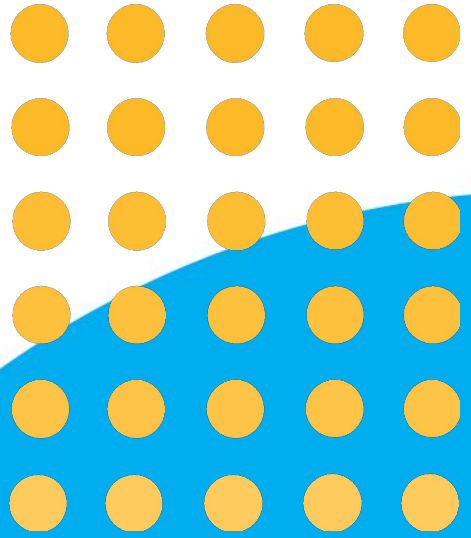
Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility

TCA “Inclusion & Diversity: capacity building for successful implementation”
28.09.2023

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility

- Aim and goals of the project
- Project outputs
- Follow-up activities



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SIEM background: Social inclusion in Erasmus+

- Priority in the current programme period
- Little hard data on the accessibility of the programme
- Underrepresentation of students from less advantaged backgrounds in the Erasmus+

In response to these circumstances, ESN launched the SIEM project

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SIEM Project

More opportunities in life for young people from disadvantaged background by increasing their participation in the Erasmus+ programme.

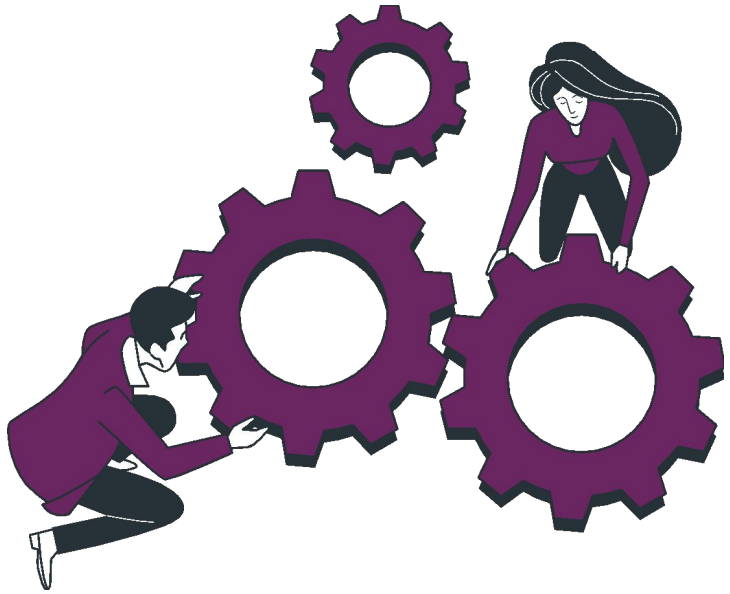
Widening participation of less advantaged and underrepresented groups

Increase the **interaction** between International students and **local communities of underrepresented groups** in order to increase intercultural exchange and visibility of international student mobility.

Making the Erasmus+ programme more **inclusive**

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

SiEM Project partners



Diverse partnership

European networks, & Universities, National Student Organisations

Cross sectoral collaboration

higher education, inclusion organisations & youth work

ESN Erasmus Student Network

Universities UK International

EUF European University Foundation

MUNI Masaryk University

YES FORUM

VUB Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Universidade de Vigo

Latvijas Universitate Anno 1919

ESN Erasmus Student Network Spain

ESN Erasmus Student Network France

The project lasted from February 2020 to October 2022

Major outputs and deliverables:

- Research on inclusive student mobility
- Social Inclusion Multiplier - training for HEIs
- Local phase - community engagement activities
- Erasmus Generation Portal
- Final Conference

Research Report

An extensive **research report** that gathers input of 12.000 students and 750 staff members across Europe and beyond on the inclusion in international student exchanges.

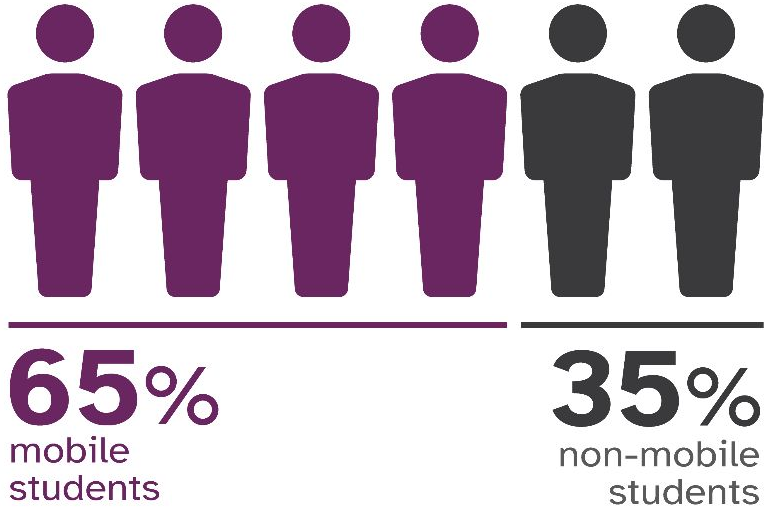
The research report showcases the **14 recommendations** targeting

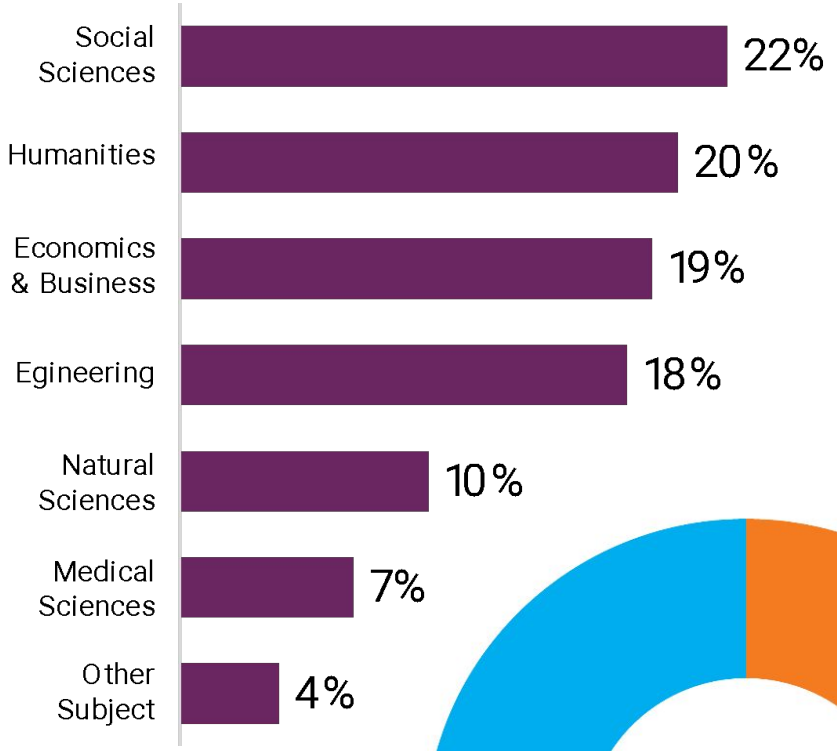
- European Commission
- National Agencies
- Higher Education institutions
- International student organisations.

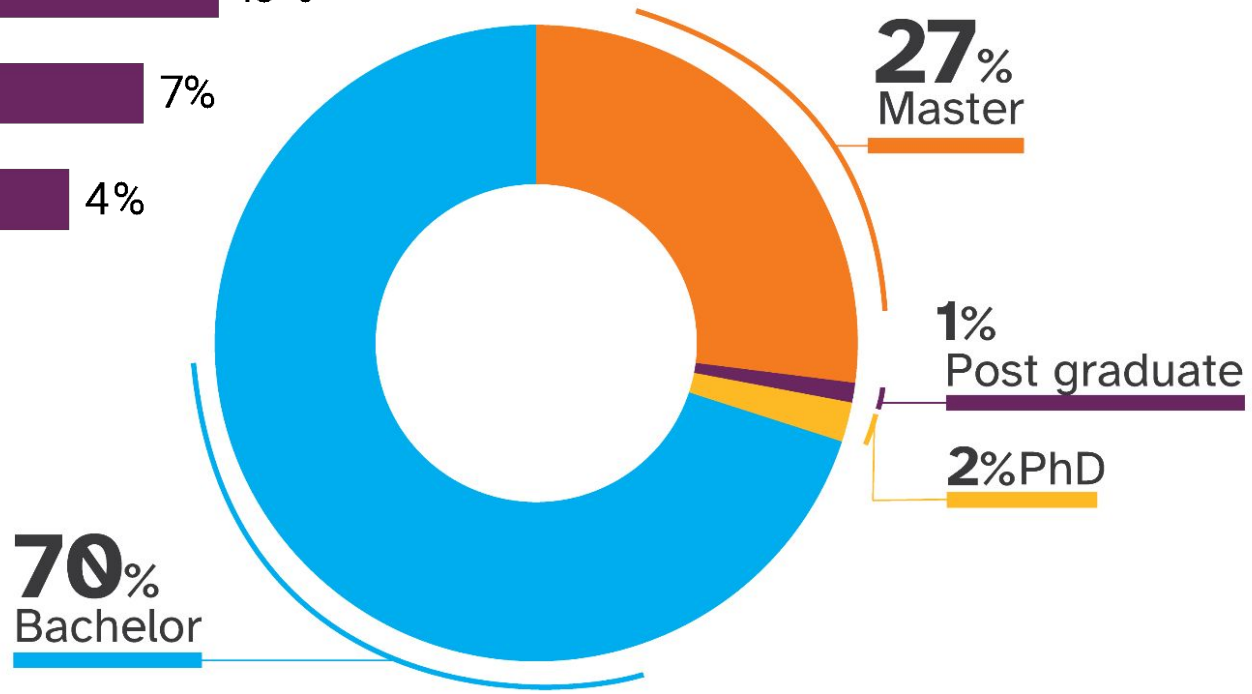
Methodology

- **Student survey**
  (12,820 responses)
- **Staff survey**
  (786 responses)
- **Focus Groups**
  6 focus groups with 36 students in 4 countries
- **Study visits**
  6 institutions

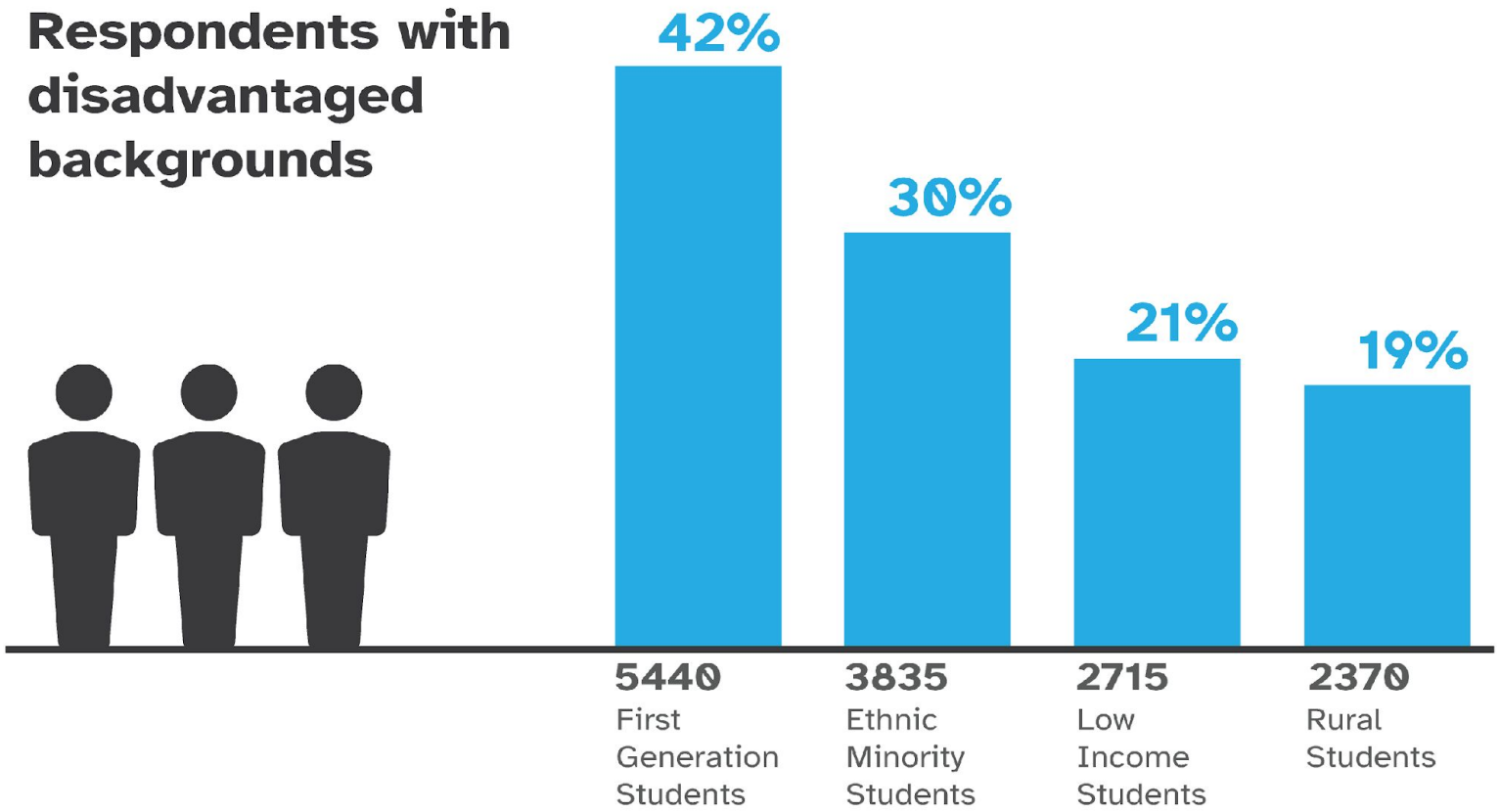
Respondents profile



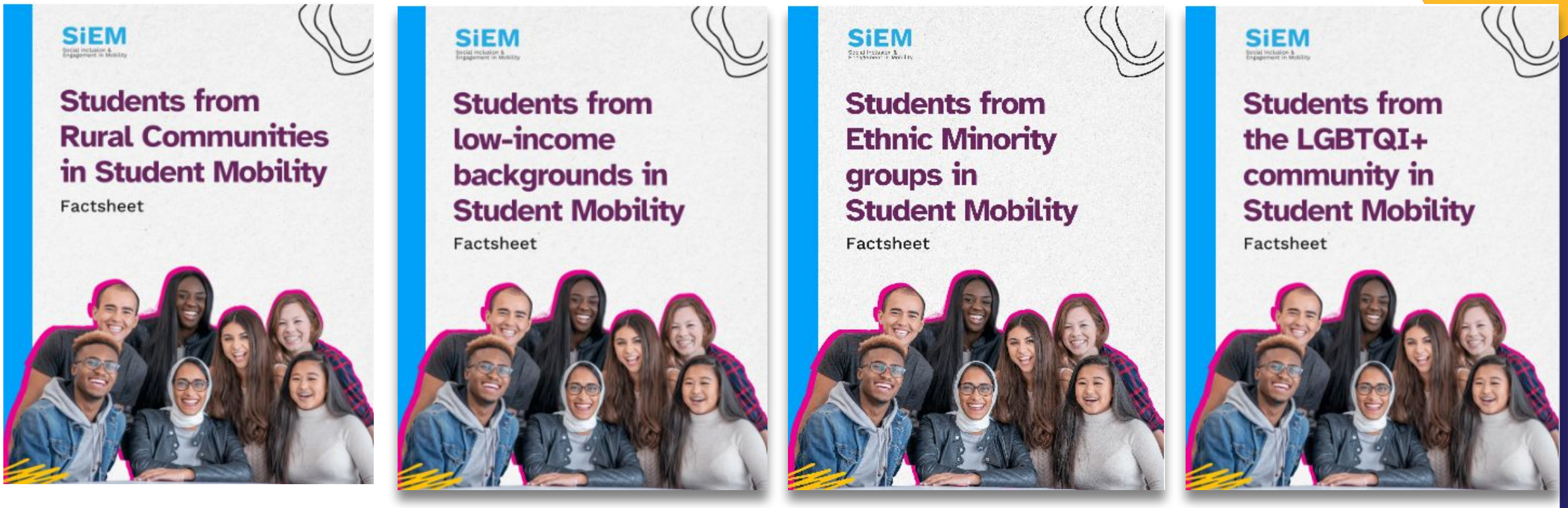




Defining students with fewer opportunities



Factsheets



Deeper understanding of the experience of different underrepresented groups in mobility

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Barriers to mobility

Findings

3 Barrier types

Institutional

barriers that **reflect the programmes** that are being offered and the r**egulations that coincide** with these programmes that may **impact the access** of specific student groups to mobility opportunities.

Environmental

Environmental and **societal factors** that influence the person's decisions to take part in a mobility.

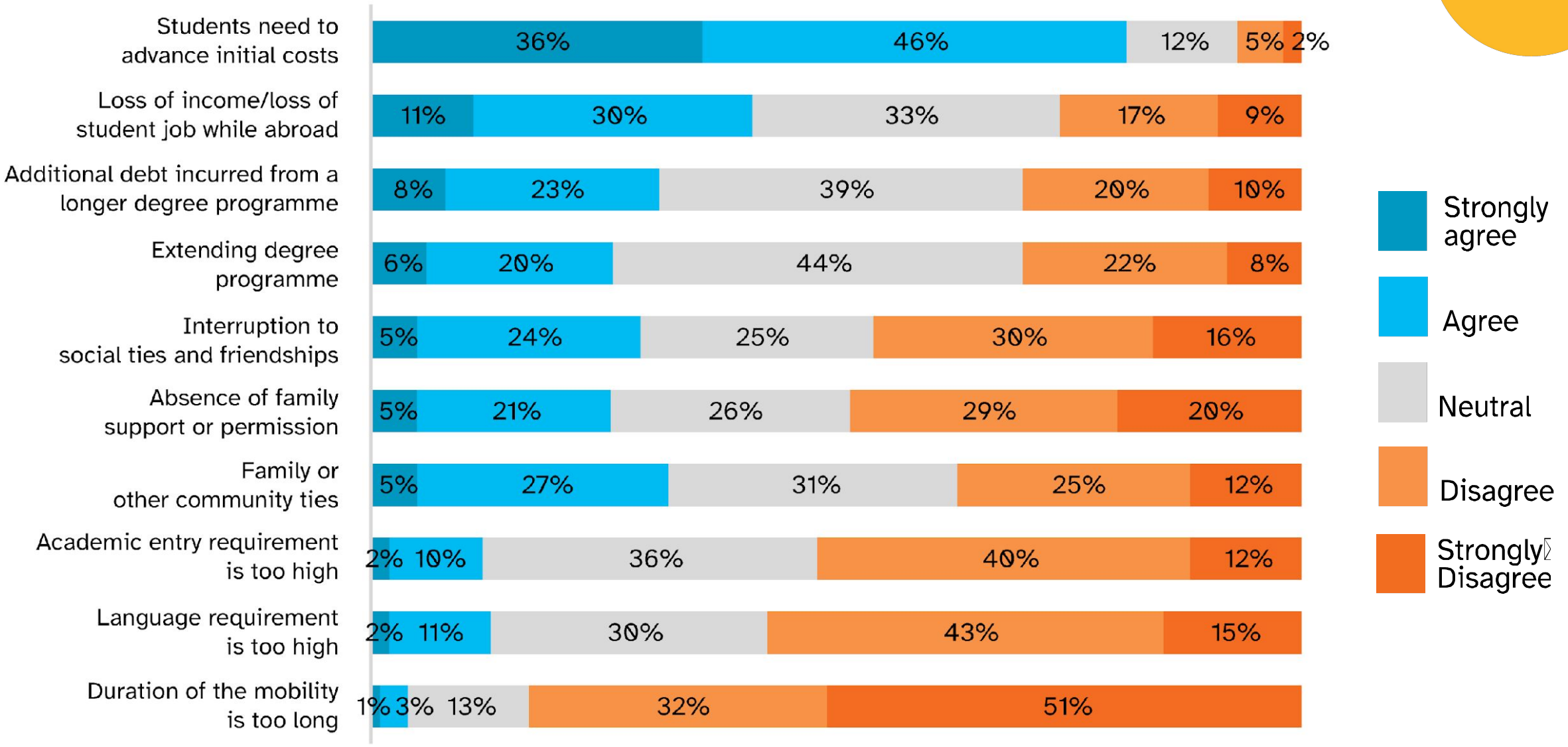
access to information as well as **personal backgrounds** impact mobility participation.

Attitudinal

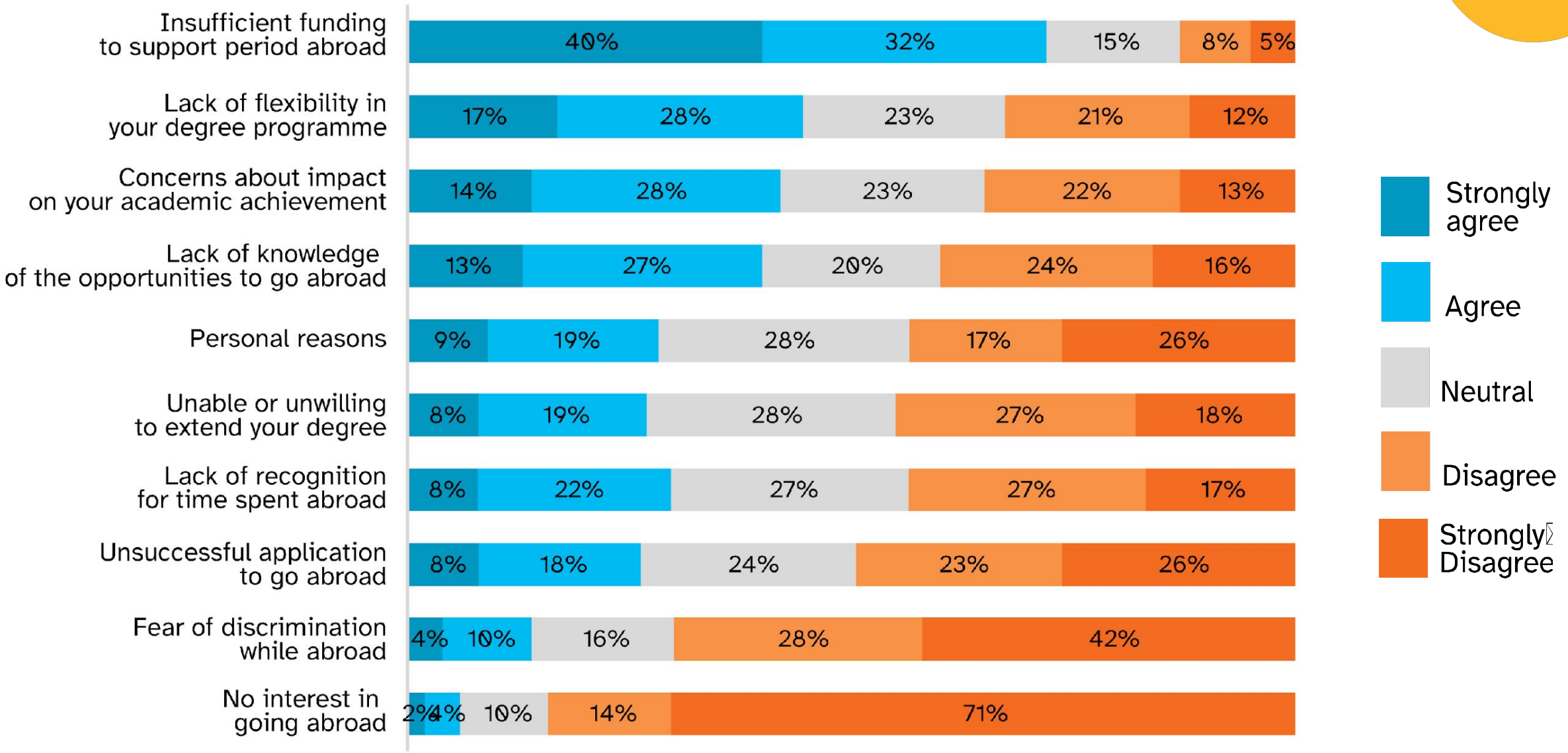
Attitudinal barriers tackle the **belief system and emotions** around the topic of mobility opportunities, to see how they influence their participation rates.

internalised barriers can severely impact their identification with the opportunity.

Mobile participants' reported practical barriers to mobility



Non-mobile students' blocking factors to go abroad



Cost of living per month reported by mobile students

67%

of students reported a monthly living cost **over 501 EUR**.

average monthly scholarship - **301 EUR** (ESNsurvey, 2022)

Students with fewer opportunities indicated they needed at least 75% of their mobility costs covered **by a grant.**

Student impressions: Inclusion & Equality of international students

had **positive** experiences while abroad.

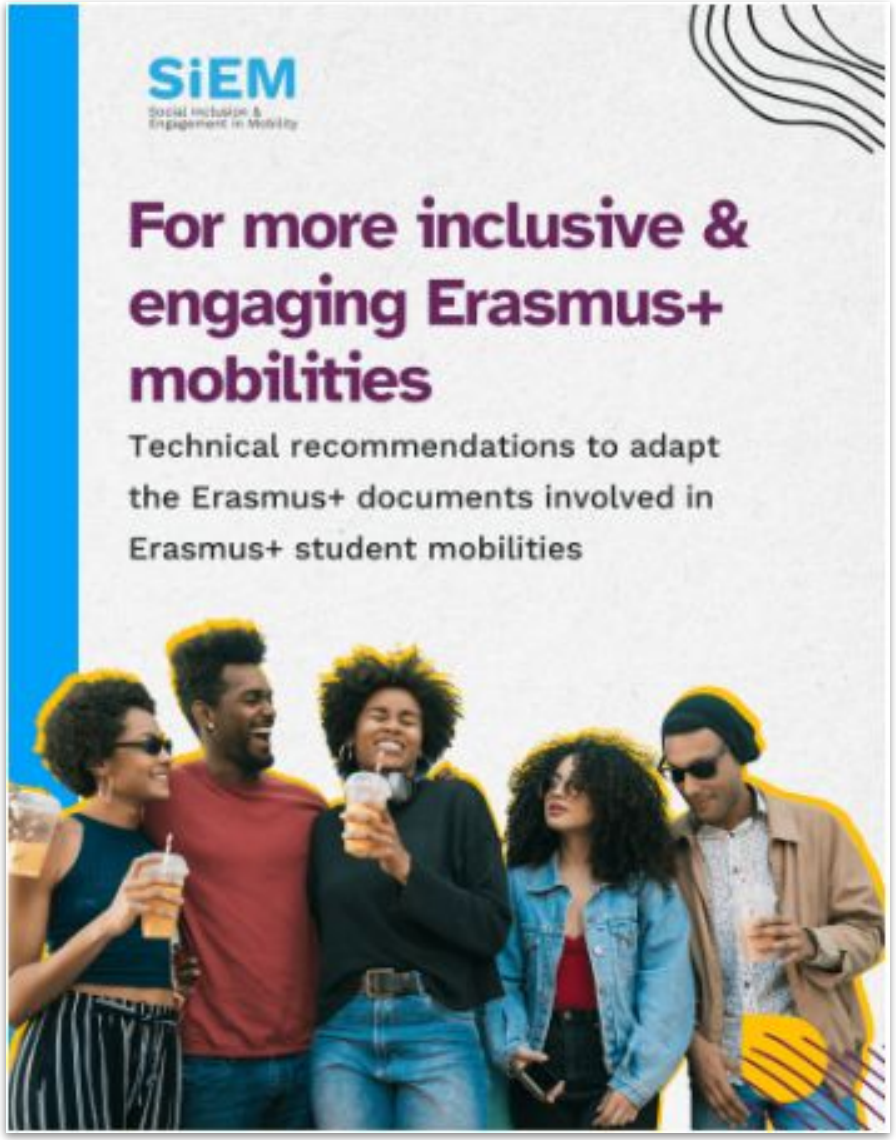
10%

of students felt that they were treated differently or unfairly at their host university

24%

experienced discrimination during their exchange

Technical recommendations for more inclusive mobility



The SIEM technical recommendations provide an **analysis of possible changes** that could be implemented to the key documents and processes involved in Erasmus+ Higher Education mobilities in order to make them more inclusive.

They target the **European Commission, Erasmus+ National Agencies, Higher Education Institutions** and other policy makers and stakeholders interested in Erasmus+ and mobility programmes.

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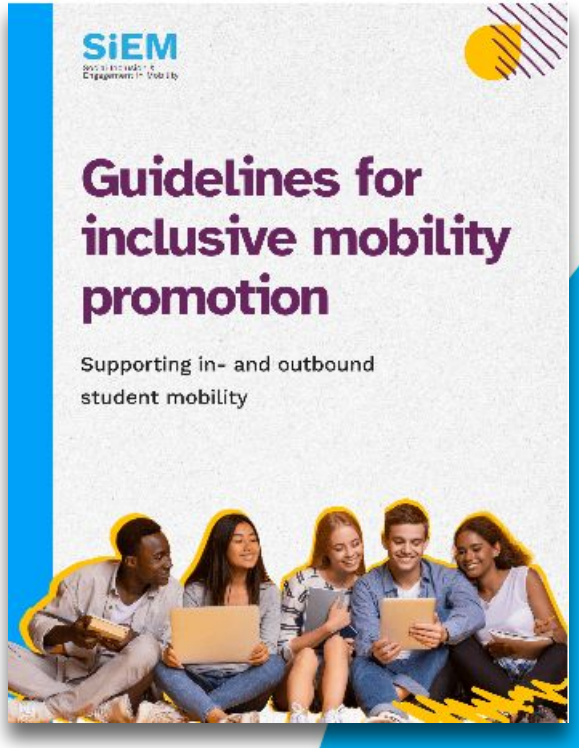

Find our publications on siem-project.eu

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Engagement of International Students in Local Communities

Local phase

Key figures

- **22 local activities** co-funded by the project
- Local activities in **10 countries**: Romania (1), Poland (1), UK (1), Turkey (1), Croatia (1), Italy (1), Bulgaria (2), Portugal (3), Spain (5), Greece (6).
- **Goal:** engage international students in local communities through various actions and volunteering initiatives.
- Sport activities, intercultural dialogue, cultural trips, school projects

Erasmus Olympics

- Plovdiv, Bulgaria
- 45 participants
- A whole-day sport tournament involving Erasmus students, local students and high school students from underrepresented groups from a small rural town.
- “Pay as you wish” ticket donations for a local library.

Rebuild a home

- Lisbon, Portugal
- 32 participants
- Engage international students in volunteering to restore old houses and furniture
- Helping families with poor living conditions

After-school and creative recycling

- Foggia, Italy
- 22 participants
- Erasmus students helping pupils in elementary and middle school from disadvantaged backgrounds to do their homework and participate in leisure activities while their parents work.
- Learning how to reduce waste and recycle

The home of the Erasmus Generation

INCLUSION & ENGAGEMENT IN MOBILITY CONFERENCE 2022

The Erasmus Generation Portal

Home of the **Erasmus Generation**.

Student-centered info,
by students, **for** students

- Mobility opportunities to study, train or volunteer abroad.
- Information about host countries, organisations and activities.
- Stories, testimonials and podcasts from former mobile students.

Portal Blog Activities EGM ErasmusJobs Green Erasmus IEG ESN.org

Erasmus Generation Portal

Countries Mobility programmes Testimonials Simulate your grant

I want to go to start typing the name of a country

I want to go on Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps,...

Inclusion & Engagement in Mobility Conference

- 2 days conference, bringing together European Commission representatives, professionals, international officers, policymakers, Erasmus+ National Agencies, Ministries working on education & youth, and students and youth representatives from all over Europe

Follow-up actions

- Advocacy for more inclusive student mobilities based on SIEM research
- Enriching Communities through Engaged Mobilities Project - a new Erasmus+ collaboration project

Co-funded by the European Union

ECEM Enriching Communities Through Engaged Mobilities

Project Launch

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Please refer to the research report as:
Allinson K., Gabriels W.,(2021). Maybe it will be different abroad; student and staff perspectives on diversity and inclusion in student exchanges. SIEM Research Report, **siem-project.eu**

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