

A light blue map of Europe serves as the background for the central text.

ESN

Erasmus Student Network

AGENDA

Agenda

- What is ESN?
- How ESN works?
- International level
 - International Board
 - Council of National Representatives
 - Board Supporters
 - Annual General Meeting

A light blue silhouette map of Europe serves as the background for the central text.

WHAT IS ESN?

What is ESN?

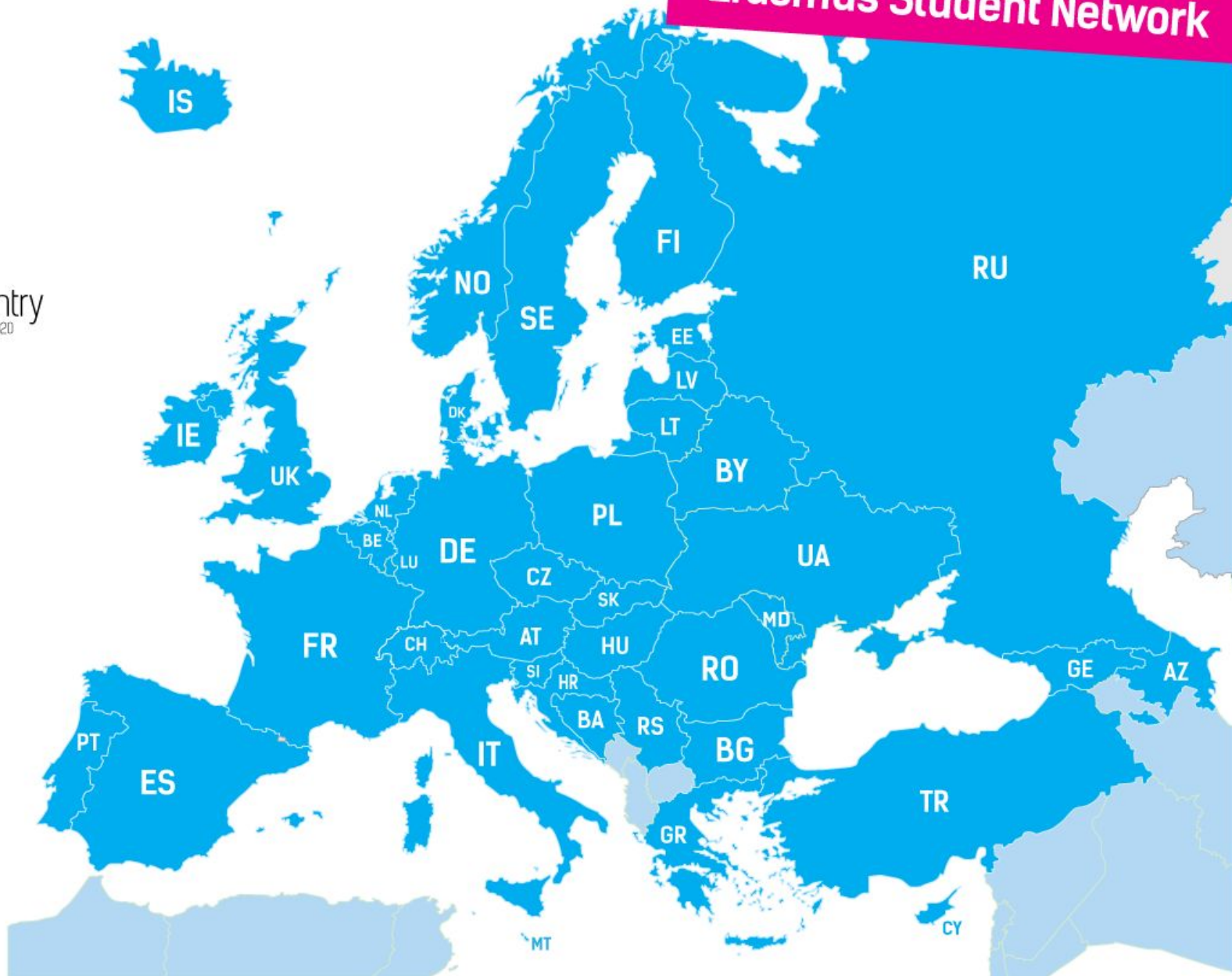
- One of the biggest non-profit interdisciplinary student's organisations in Europe
- Founded in 1989
 - With the return of the 1st Erasmus students
- **Aim:** support and develop student exchanges and provide an intercultural experience
 - also to those students who cannot access a period abroad ('internationalisation at home').
- Principle: “Students helping students”

What is ESN?

- We are **12 000** volunteers
- **540** local **sections** - university-based
- ESN is present in **42** countries
- Services offered to **150 000** students
- Students working on a *volunteer basis*
- Average **annual growth rate of 12,3%** since 1990

Countries of the Erasmus Student Network

ESN country
As of CNR Marmara 2020



HOW ESN WORKS?

How ESN works?

- ESN is operating on **three** *structural levels*:
 - **Local Structure**
(*eg. sections ESN Helsinki/ Uni Helsinki*)
 - **National Structure**
(*eg. all sections from Finland*)
 - **International Structure**
(*eg. Erasmus Generation Meeting – all the sections together*)

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

International level

- International Board (IB)
- Board supporters:
 - ESN Secretariat
 - Five committees (Education, Communication, Finances, IT and Network & Events)
 - Project Coordinators
 - Liaison Offices
- Council of National Representatives (CNR)
- Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM)

International Board

International level

- Advocacy for international students, mobility, volunteering and Non-formal education
- Coordination of the network, international projects, international events
- Services for the network: financial partnerships, IT tools, communication tools (incl. corporate identity)

Board Supporters

International level

- ESN Secretariat
 - Work with and assists the International Board
- Five Committees
 - Help and assist the Board, project Development
 - Finance, International Education, Network & Events, Communication and IT
- Project Coordinators
 - Social Erasmus, PRIME, ESN Eduk8, ExchangeAbility
- ESN Liaison Offices:
 - European Youth Forum and Council of Europe

CNR

International level

- 36 National Representatives
 - Elected by the sections in their country
 - Represent the sections at the International Level
 - Legislative power
 - Help and regulate the International Board
 - Communication with sections
- Present during the **CNR & CND meetings**

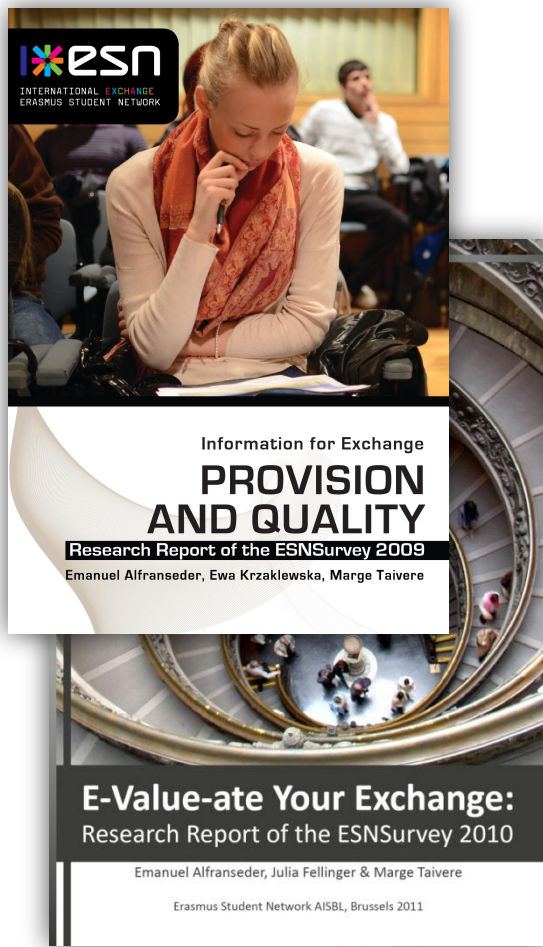
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

AGENDA

Agenda

- ESNSurvey
- PRIME
- ExchangeAbility
- SocialErasmus
- ESN CARDS

ESNSurvey



- A European-wide research project
- Conducted annually
 - Students at HEI
 - Average of 8000 respondents
- The ESNSurvey is the biggest regular European research project entirely carried out by volunteers
 - Started in 2005
 - A different theme each year
 - Focuses on academic and non-academic issues
- Uses all resources of the ESN network and its partners to reach students.

PRIME



PRIME: Problems of Recognition In Making Erasmus

8900 students

500 Higher Education Institutions

16 National Agencies

To define sources of problems

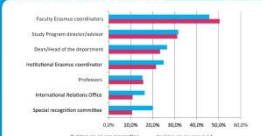
To investigate the recognition process at European universities

To point out the examples of existing obstacles to student mobility

To provide suggestions for improvements in order to facilitate student exchange in Europe

73%

Recognition procedures



Parties who are responsible for negotiation and signing the Learning Agreement and course recognition do not always match.

Remaining challenges to recognition

- Incompatibility of study programmes
- Problems with credit calculation
- Problems with grade transfer
- Bureaucratic issues
- Attitude of certain professors
- Insufficient information provision

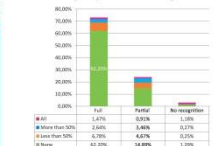
Recognition procedures

Only 73.3% of students signed a Learning Agreement before going on exchange. 73% made changes to the previously signed agreement during their stay abroad. Almost 50% of the students could freely choose the courses in the Learning Agreement.



Recognition

73% of students received full recognition of the credits successfully gained abroad and previously included in the Learning Agreement. 24% of the students received only partial recognition for certain courses, almost 3% did not get any of their credits recognised.



62.2% of students received full recognition for the courses gained abroad and did not have to repeat any courses or take additional examination upon return. 21.6% of students had to repeat at least some (or in 3.7% all) of their courses and/or exams at the home university.

Conversion of grades



HEs convert grades in different ways: using conversion tables created by the institution (32%), by department/faculty (16%) or for specific programme (4%). They are also converted individually by Faculty Erasmus coordinators (14%) or institutional Erasmus Coordinator (3%). 10% of students feel their average was downgraded as a result of the grade transfer, 16% believe it was upgraded and 41% think it stayed the same.

Further Information.

PRIME Coordinator
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www.prime.esn.org

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- A European-wide qualitative and quantitative research project
- Conducted in 2009 and 2010
 - Students, HEIs and National Agencies
 - Over 9000 students responses, 300 from HEIs and 16 from NAs
- PRIME was:
 - Started in 2009
 - Focused on academic recognition
- Funded by a European Commission grant
- Final conference organised in Brussels for all stakeholders

ExchangeAbility is a project that aims to integrate young people with special needs going on exchange

- **Two main goals**

- **Short term goal:**

- Making ESN an association accessible for students with disabilities for all the levels of its activities and provide opportunities to these students to actively participate in student life.

- **Long term goal:**

- Encouraging the increase of the number of exchange students with disabilities and creating the best conditions for them during their stay abroad.

- **Results so far:**

- 18 sections in 16 countries have integrated students with special needs in their everyday activities
 - A booklet was made, about how to integrate the students with special needs

SocialErasmus

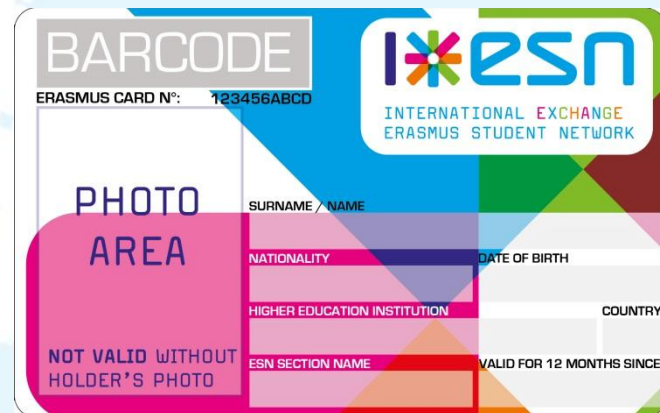
SocialErasmus is the new flagship project of ESN. It gives exchange students the opportunity to volunteer in the **local community**. It promotes a **social attitude** during the Erasmus exchange. It consists of **three pillars**:

- **Ecological**
- **Educational**
- **Charitable**



ESNcard

- The symbol of the ESN Member
 - A membership card and discount card
- More than 80,000 cards sold per year to exchange students and ESN members
- A good tool to develop the partnerships
- In development: esncard.org
 - A website only for partnerships and discounts
 - A tool for all the network
 - International, national and local discounts and deals



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**THANKS FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

