

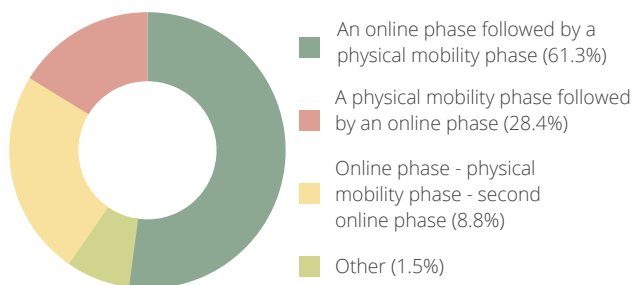
## A SURVEY OF BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMMES

# Blended Mobility in European Higher Education

In 2021 the European Commission's new Erasmus+ Programme introduced Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) which combine phases of online teaching and collaboration with a short period of physical mobility. In February - March 2023 196 academic coordinators of BIPs responded to a survey which aimed to find out how BIPs are being employed in European Higher Education and what the experiences of the coordinators have been to date. This is a brief summary of the main findings. For more information, contact Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain; robert.odowd@unileon.es) and Sina Werner (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany; sina.werner@rub.de).

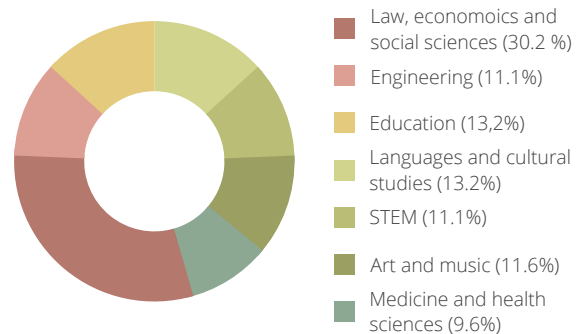
### HOW WAS IT ORGANISED?

The majority of BIPs begin with an online phase followed by a physical mobility phase.



### SUBJECTS

BIPs are being carried out across a wide range of subject areas



### WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS?

- Having the opportunity to work in international teams (33%)
- Developing a professional network (27%)
- Developing intercultural skills and an intercultural perspective (23%).
- Experiencing new ways of teaching and new perspectives on the subject matter (16%).

### WHAT PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED?

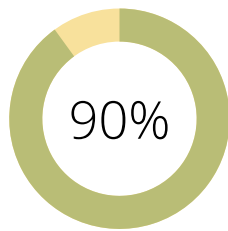
- Administrative issues (e.g. excessive bureaucracy, different regulations in different countries) (36%)
- Lack of sufficient funding for students' travel and accommodation costs (31%)
- Reaching the minimum number of students for the physical mobility (17%)
- Finding an appropriate time for online and in-class activities (9%)



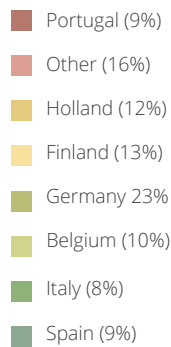
### HOW WERE STUDENTS REWARDED FOR TAKING PART IN THE BIP?

- | Mobile students               | Non-mobile students BIP treated as...   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • 3 ECTS <b>50%</b>           | • ... part of their course - <b>49%</b> |
| • between 3-6 ECTS <b>47%</b> | • ... extra credit - <b>30%</b>         |
| • more than 6 ECTS <b>3%</b>  | • ... voluntary activity - <b>10%</b>   |
|                               | • other options - <b>11%</b>            |

## HOW WAS THE PHYSICAL MOBILITY ORGANISED?



The majority of BIPs had a mobility phase between 5-7 days.



Most popular destinations for the physical mobility



## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE CONSIDERED MOST SUITED TO THE ONLINE PHASE?

- 1 Lectures and other theoretical input  
Introduction to the BIP
- 2 Online interaction: group work and discussions
- 3 Practical activities: teambuilding and preparation for physical mobility

## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE CONSIDERED MOST SUITED TO THE PHYSICAL MOBILITY?

- 1 Excursions  
Social and cultural events
- 2 Workshops  
Group work
- 3 Lectures  
Seminars

## WHAT GOOD PRACTICES DO COORDINATORS RECOMMEND?

- Start planning early
- Provide a clear and transparent structure and organisation
- Recruit more students than the minimum requirement of 15 students
- Involve the international office in planning
- Facilitate collaborative & interactive methods (esp. online)
- Include social and cultural activities (esp. in physical mobility)
- Maintain close communication with partners & students
- Develop a good working relationship with your partner teachers and international offices

