

**The pandemic two years on –  
what consequences for international cooperation?**

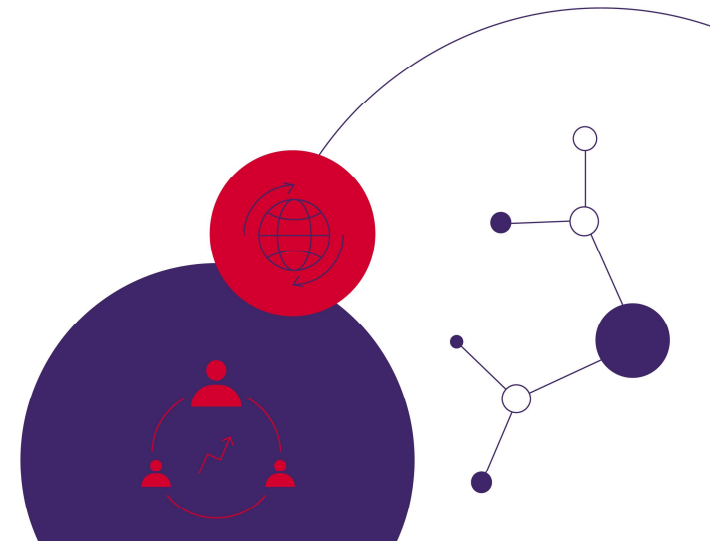
# **The Impact of the Pandemic on Mobility**

**Ulrich Grothus  
ACA President**

**ACA**  
ACADEMIC  
COOPERATION  
ASSOCIATION



**EUA Webinar – March 24, 2022**



## Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)

### Stakeholder organisation in international higher education (IHE)

### Representing national-level internationalisation funding agencies and policy actors in internationalisation

### Monitoring and influencing developments at European level (EUI, ES4U, etc.)

### Professional development for member organisations

### Knowledge production on IHE

[www.aca-secretariat.be](http://www.aca-secretariat.be)



Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation - OeAD-GmbH, Austria



De Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (Flemish Higher Education Council) – VLUHR International, Belgium



Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes – AMEUP, Croatia



Dům zahraniční spolupráce – DZS, Czech National Agency for International Education and Research, Czech Republic



Finnish National Agency for Education – EDUFI, Finland



Education and Youth Board of Estonia – HARNO, Estonia



German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD, Germany



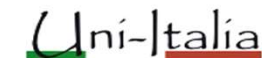
State Scholarships Foundation – IKY, Greece



The Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNÍS, Iceland



Tempus Public Foundation – TPF, Hungary



Uni-Italia, Italy



The Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education – Nuffic, The Netherlands



Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills - HKDir, Norway



Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange – NAWA, Poland



SAIA, n.o. (Slovak Academic Information Agency), Slovakia



Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Mobility and European Educational and Training Programmes – CMEPIUS, Slovenia



Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education – SEPIE, Spain



National Agency for Exchange and Mobility – Movetia, Switzerland



Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, Switzerland

associate members



The International Education Center – IEC, Georgia



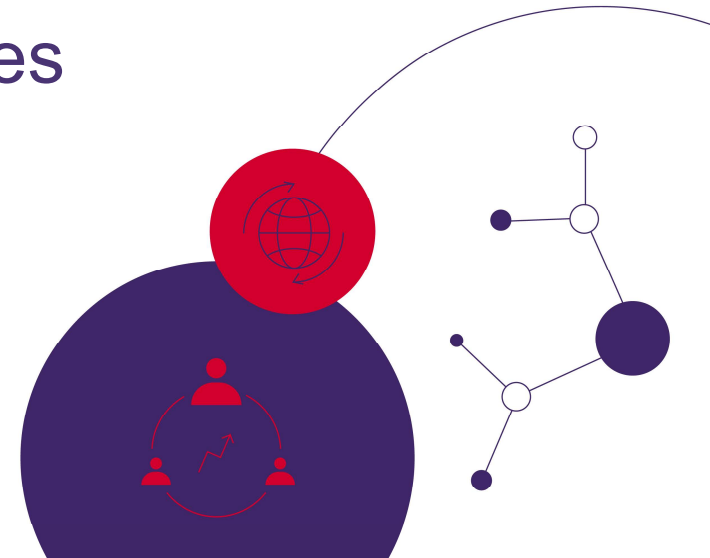
ETS Global, Netherlands/U.S.



Institute of International Education – IIE, United States

# This Talk

- Facts we know
  - degree mobility
  - credit mobility / ERASMUS
  - faculty mobility
- Lessons to learn for post-pandemic times



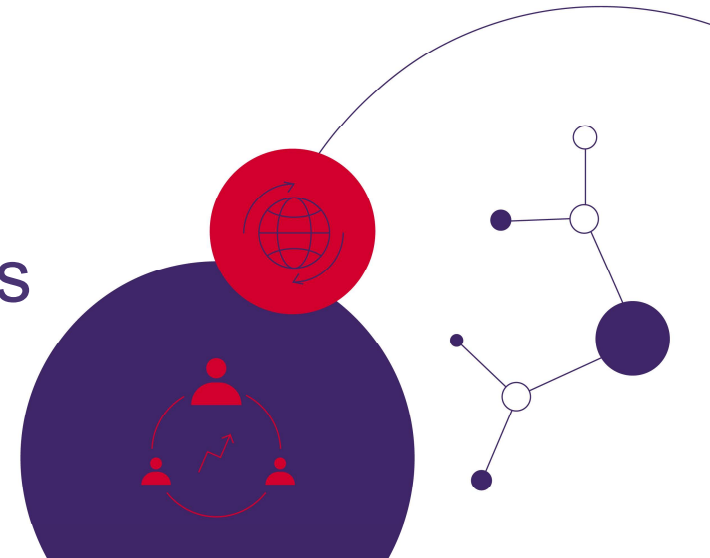
# Degree Mobility

- Most mobile students study for (at least) one study cycle to complete a degree abroad
- Over decades, roughly 1.5 to 2.0 per cent of all students worldwide have been international
- In some national statistics, degree and credit mobility are not properly distinguished



# Limited impact of the pandemic on degree mobility

- Sharp fall of new enrollments in AY 21/22  
US: -46%, AUS: -16% (2020) / -37% (2021), D: -20%
- Many study online from abroad.  
US: 40%, AUS: 50%, D: 24%
- But: strong recovery in AY 21/22  
US: +68%, D: +11%, NL: +14%
- In many countries still below 2019 levels



## Impact on degree mobility (2)

- Travel / health restrictions (US, AUS, China) and access to visas matter
- Shifts in composition (China down, India up, EU down in UK, franco-phone Africa up in France)
- Mid-term impact on numbers and destinations of new generations of students?  
De-globalization? Health and safety?



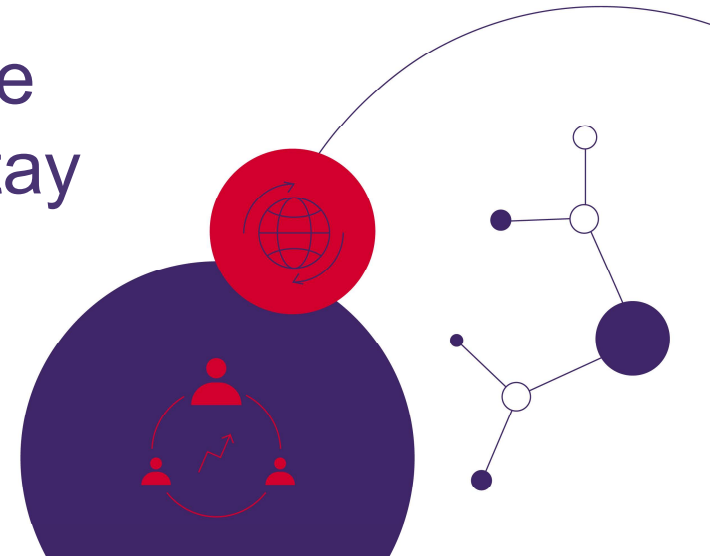
# Impact on credit mobility

- Students who spend up to a year abroad and earn credit for their home universities (Erasmus type)
- Except for US reliable data only for Erasmus
- Caveat: for 2021/22 we (only) know what HEI *expected* their students to do



## Impact on credit mobility (2)

- A crash in mobility in AY 20/21  
D: -41% (Erasmus), US: -51% (-99% for „summer term“)
- Little student interest in „virtual mobility“ (D: 1.5% online from home, 2.4% hybrid)
- Students rather preferred to study online in the host country or push back their stay





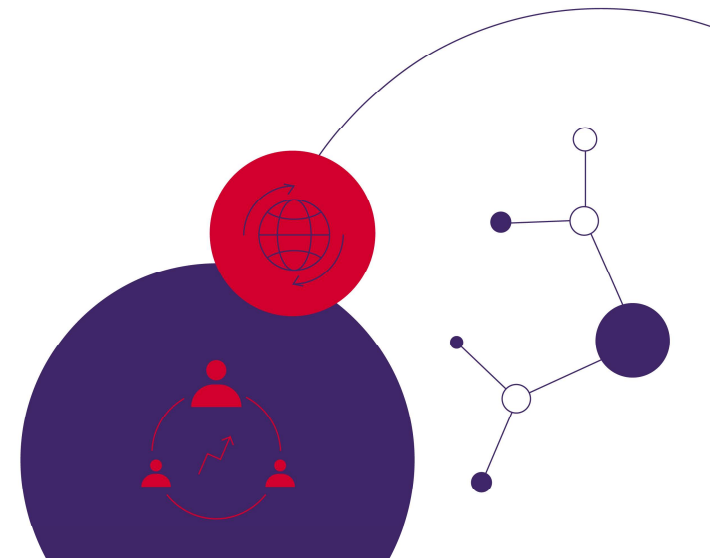
## Impact on credit mobility (3)

- Huge impact of short-term and local developments in the health crisis
- Strong demand/plans for Erasmus mobility in AY 21/22 in the fall
- No signs for a loss of student interest in the „real“ international experience



# Faculty (researchers' and teachers') mobility

- Near breakdown of short-term faculty mobility under Erasmus
- Few offline international conferences
- Institutional travel restrictions



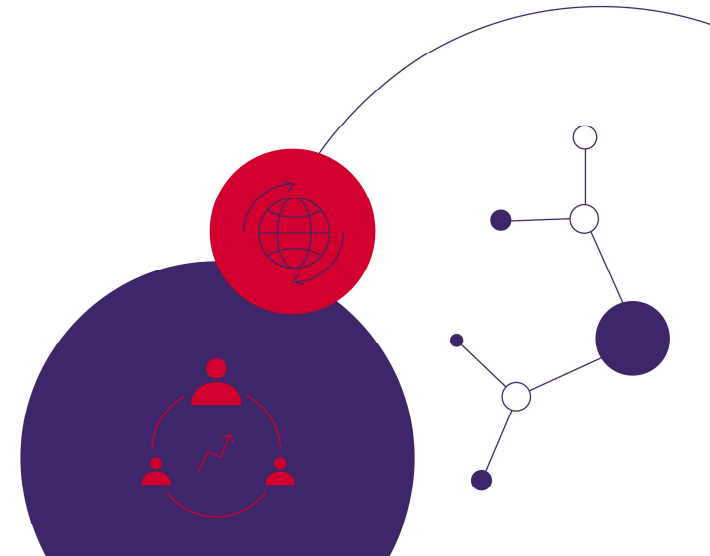
# Lessons learned

- The case for physical mobility: make friends, build networks, experience the unexpected
- More online conferences and webinars
- HEI (and students) have made a leap forward in the use of technology – and will stick to it, where appropriate



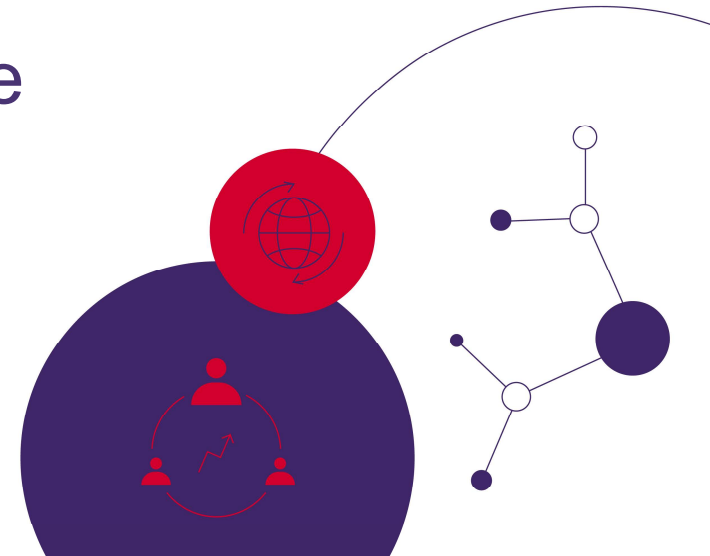
# ZOOMing in: make intelligent use of technology

- International online teaching is not just broadcasting your (domestic) program
- Specific pedagogy, that is sensitive to intercultural difference and encourages intercultural interaction



# Striking a balance

- Resist the temptation of „internationalization without mobility“ (and with less money)
  - Use online interaction as a complement rather than a substitute for physical student mobility
  - Be more inclusive and more sustainable
- The pros and cons of short stays



# Questions please

or email me: [president@aca-secretariat.be](mailto:president@aca-secretariat.be)

[www.aca-secretariat.be](http://www.aca-secretariat.be)

(i.a. ACA think pieces: The world after COVID-19)

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