

**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION**  
**Erasmus+ midterm review  
survey – First results**

Higher Education Policy Unit

28 June 2023

## Speakers

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Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator, University of Ghent

## Background

### European Commission (EC) interim evaluation of Erasmus+ 2021-27

- EC already collected some preliminary feedback in autumn 2022
- in-depth public and stakeholder consultations in 2023, incl. an online consultation (to open soon via the “[have your say](#)” website )
- EUA survey to feed into the consultation for Erasmus+, and also to collect information with a view to next programme (post 2027)

#### EUA Online survey

- Dec. 22 – Feb. 23

#### Responses from 49 countries

- 31 programme countries
- 18 partner countries

#### 500 higher education institutions

- 140 responses from Germany
- Different types of institutions: universities, colleges, music & art schools

## Overview of key survey findings

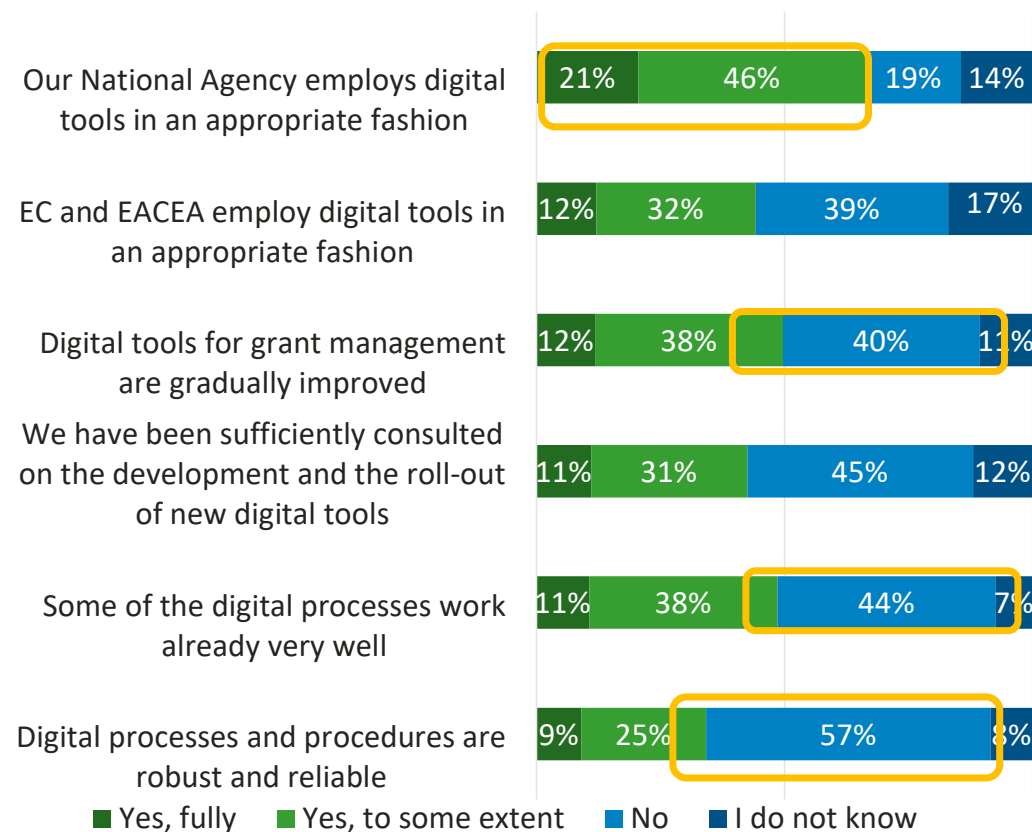
- HEIs unanimously acknowledge (99%) that Erasmus+ offers **good mobility & cooperation opportunities**
- E+ successfully addresses the **priorities it set**
  - ✓ **Inclusion & diversity** (90% fully/to some extent)
  - ✓ **democratic life**, civic engagement, values (82%)
  - ✓ **Environment** / climate change (69%)
  - ✓ **digitalisation** (66%)

## Management & Online tools

- Generally, high level of satisfaction with EACEA & National Agencies – across countries
- No major problems with rules and processes
- Digital processes & procedures:
  - Some work reasonably well?
  - Robust & reliable?
  - New digital tools sufficiently consulted?
  - More positive on how digital tools are deployed by NAs

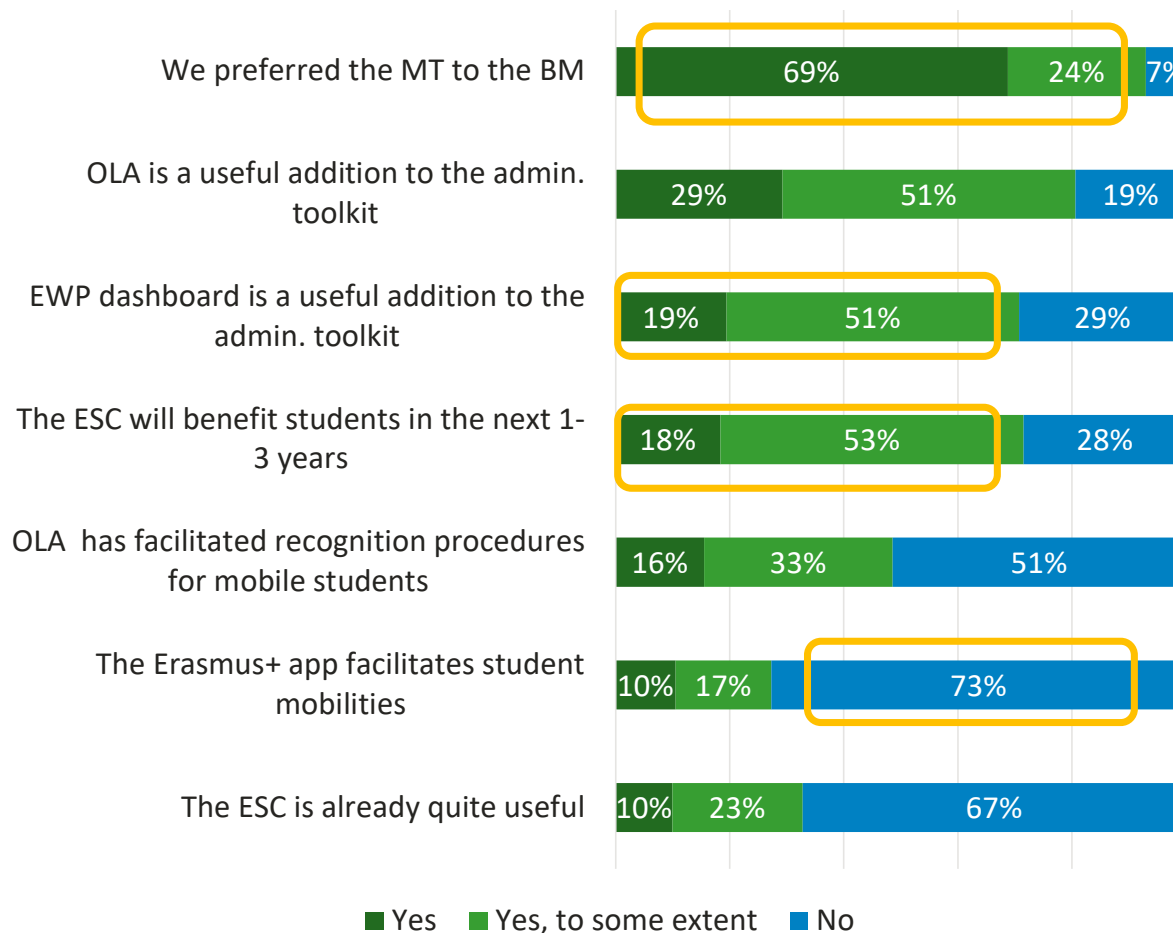
**“[The HE] community should be systematically and consistently consulted on the improvement of specific aspects and tools of the programme (...)”**  
 EUA’s recommendations, 2016 mid-term review

How do you assess the digital tools in the E+ programme? (n=498)



## Online tools

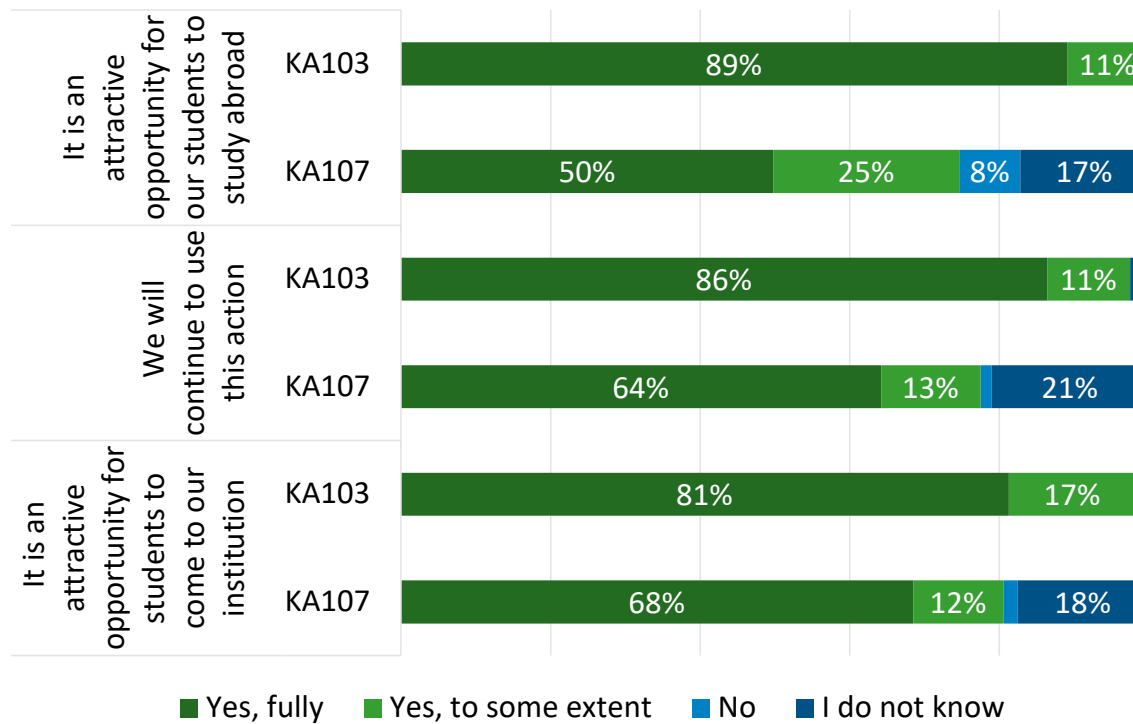
- Major problems with the **Beneficiary Module** -- **Mobility Tool** worked better
- **Erasmus+ app** fails
- **Online Learning Agreement:**
  - facilitates recognition
  - found useful by large majority
- **Erasmus Without Papers** dashboard: positive feedback from 70%
- Challenge to achieve **interoperability** between different tools and systems
- Considerable extra work
- **Erasmus Student Card**
  - Majority expects benefits in the near future
  - currently only used by 13% of respondents



(n=410)

## Mobility programmes - added value

KA1 Student Mobility opportunities (KA 103 n=284, KA 107 n=273)



- Overall satisfaction with the programme
- **KA103** attractive for in- & outgoing students
- Extends to **KA 107, though**
  - More “*I don’t know*” responses
  - Less agreement on “an attractive opportunity for outgoing students”
- Physical mobility remains attractive
- But also positive response to Blended Intensive Programme (75%)

## Mobility Management & Funding

### Mobility Management

- **KA103:**
  - Satisfaction levels up to **80-90% on management issues**
  - Interinstitutional agreement (IIAs) requirements → appropriate/flexible
  - Very positive turnout on the **support received from NAs**
  - Burden on management because of **BM**
- **Compared to KA107:**
  - Higher “*I don’t know*” responses for ICM (20-26%)
  - BM
    - KA 107: 29% works/46% no, 26% don’t know:
    - KA 103: 19% works /73% no

### Mobility Funding

- **KA103 funding:**
  - Majority of institutions: number of grants & grants ceilings **not an obstacle** for participation
  - **Financial rules** are assessed positively as sufficiently clear and easy to apply
  - HEIs overall satisfied with **funding rules and levels**, but: 22% encountered problems
- **Compared to KA107:**
  - Higher “*I don’t know*” responses for ICM (18-30%)
  - available funding matches outgoing student demand, but **for some regions** outgoing student **demand exceeds** by far the available **funding** (31% fully, 19% to some extent)



## KA2 Cooperation Partnerships

### Opportunities

- **attractive opportunity collaboration in Europe** (80% fully/20% to some extent)
- **Cooperation with international higher education institutions beyond Europe** - - 82% (49 fully – 33 to some extent – 16% no)
- **exchange and collaboration beyond the HE sector, with industries, NGOs etc.** - 95% (52% fully, 43% to some extent)

### Management

- Generally satisfied with the **NA management of the projects** 85% ( 49% fully, 31% to some extent)
- **Selection process** by the NA works well - 82% (20% fully, 62% to some extent)
- Applications are **worth the preparation time** (13% fully, 62% to some extent)
- **no major problems** with the action 85% - 40% fully, 45% to some extent).

### Funding

- One third of institutions (35%) find the **grant sizes insufficient**
- **lump sum approach:** only 56% found the rules clear (24% “no”)
- **Unit cost approach** clearer – but: 38% found the **staff cost ceilings** too low.

## KA2 Funding

### Lumpsum approach

#### Positive

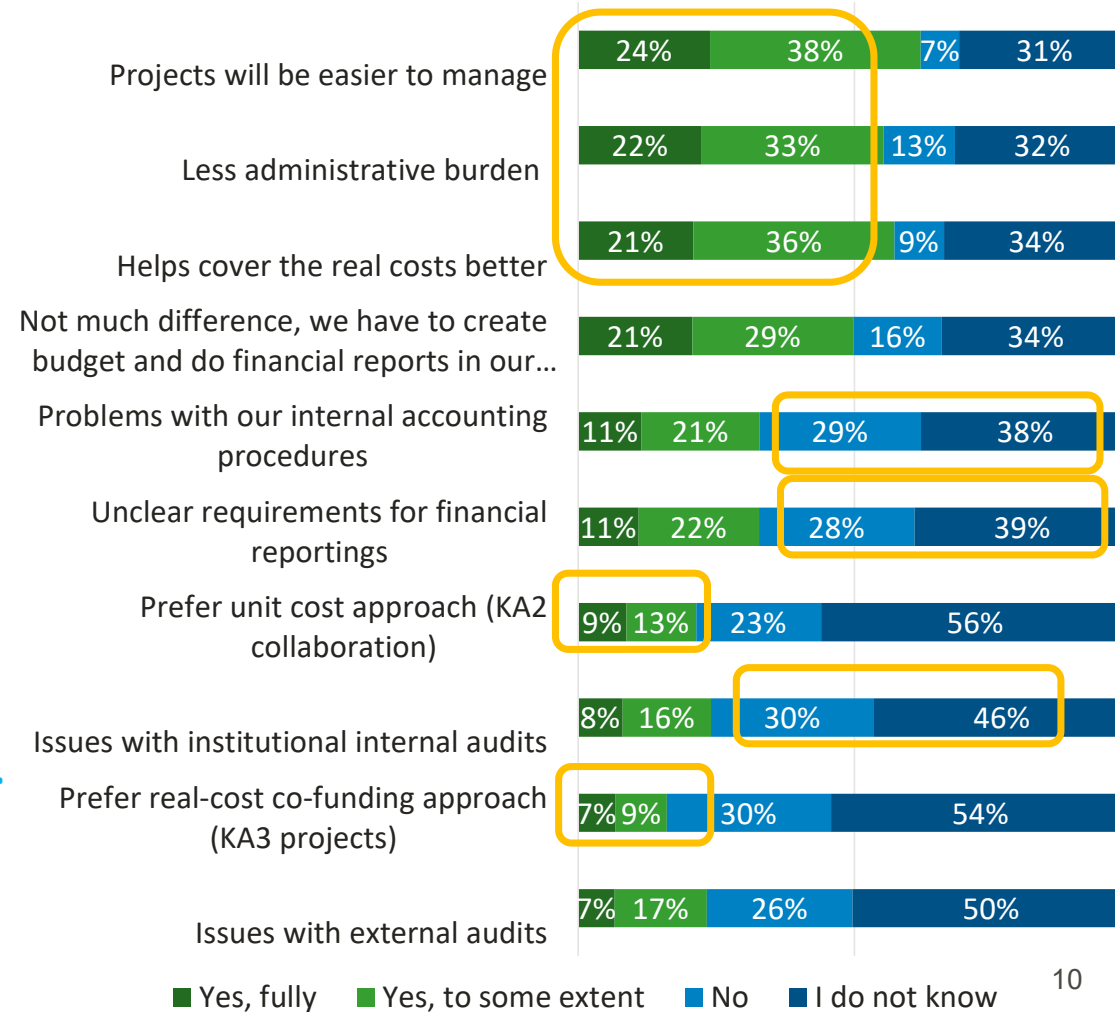
- Easier to manage
- Less administrative burden
- Helps cover real costs

#### Divided opinions – high uncertainty

- Problems with internal accounting
- Problems with internal audits
- Problems with external audits
- Lump sums or cost units? Same number supports Unit cost (22%) and lump sums (23%), but 56% simply do not know

High number of “I don’t know” responses on lump sum approach (31-56%) because of limited experience so far.

Lump sums (n=490)



## Conclusions – observations

- Erasmus+ continues to be of crucial importance for HEI
- Overall, no major problems with administration – with the important reservation re digital processes & tools:
  - Considerable of extra work & frustration
  - Will this improve any time soon?
- Mobility:
  - Physical mobility enjoys high popularity & demand – virtual opportunities add-on, not replacement
  - no major concerns about grant sizes. Do the top-ups insure inclusive mobility?
- Cooperation
  - New lumpsum approach: some concerns, and need for better guidance & support, but principally they fit better the purpose?
  - Grant sizes – in view of rising prices, inflation?
- ...

Up next

**EUA report and recommendations for  
Erasmus+ in autumn**

**Next E+ webinar on Student mobility**

14 September 2023 – 14.00

European University Association & European  
Student Networks

# Thank you for your attention

