



Erasmus+ Credit recognition with partner countries

Could the intra-European experience serve as a model?

PLA Budapest, 27 November 2018
Markus Symmank, NA DAAD



DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

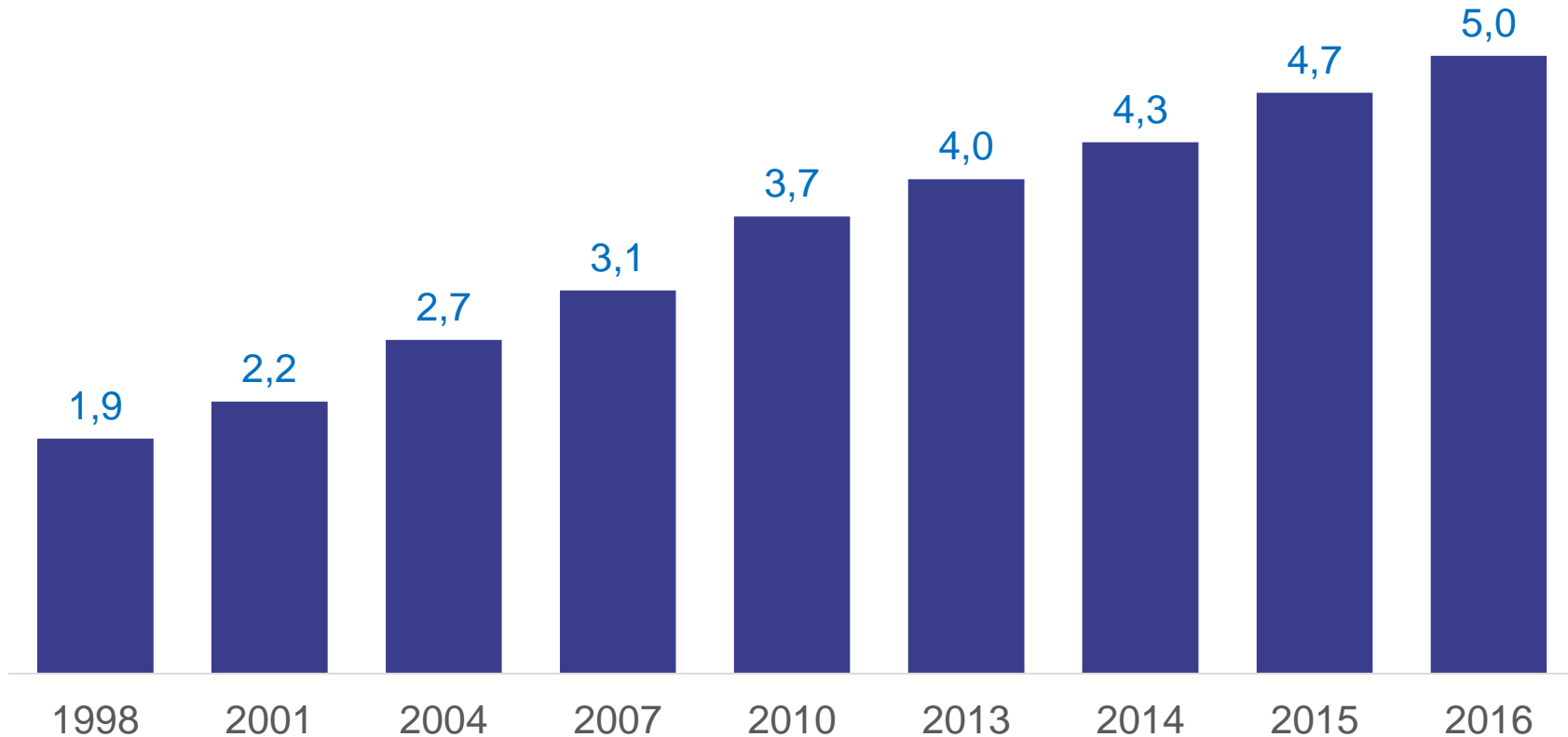


Erasmus+

GEFÖRDERT VOM
 Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

International mobility of students since 1998

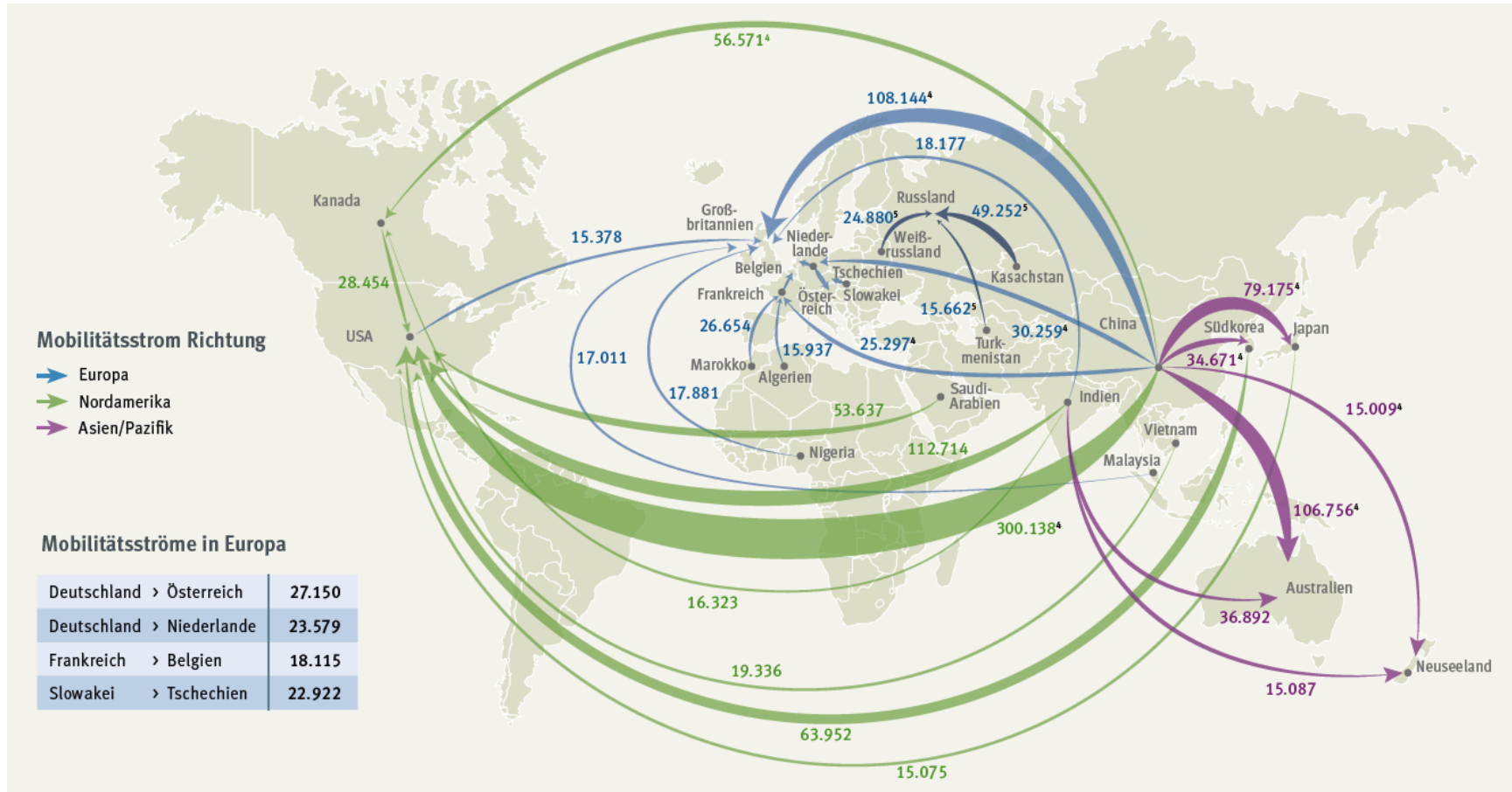
Source: UNESCO



Recognition of credit mobility with partner countries?

- **Mobility trends worldwide: growing focus on regions**
- **Mobility enforces introduction of key principles of Bologna reforms**
- **Recognition: credit vs. degree mobility**
- **Credit mobility paving the way for intra-regional exchange**

International student mobility 2015 – important directions



Source: UNESCO

Recognition of credit mobility with partner countries

Prerequisites

- Erasmus programme (1987)
- Bologna reforms (since 1999)
- Lisbon recognition convention (1997)
- Erasmus+ programme call (2014-2020)
- Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education (2014)
- Erasmus+ Call for the mobility with partner countries (2015)
- Erasmus+ Inter-institutional agreement for the mobility with partner countries (2015)

Lisbon Recognition Convention

Goals

- **Transparency**
- **Exchange between different types of higher education systems, types and cultures**
- **Fostering lifelong learning**
- **Allowing for individual education histories**

Challenges

- **Analysis of substantial differences**
- **Definition of and exchange about learning outcomes**
- **Shifting of the burden of proof**
- **Courses, not classes**
- **Grade conversion**
- ***No sanctions in place***

Outcome-based approach:

- It facilitates the recognition of prior learning and experience and encourages a higher level of completion and wider participation in lifelong learning;
- It establishes a closer link between educational programmes and societal requirements and enhances interaction with all stakeholders, including the world of work and wider society

- **It facilitates mobility within an institution or country, from institution to institution, from country to country, and between different educational sectors and contexts of learning (i.e. formal, non-formal, informal and work-based learning), through recognition and credit transfer.**

Recognition of credit mobility Germany

- **“Diversity in unity”**
- **Bologna reform turned study system upside down**
- **Exceptions: state exams**
- **Knowledge of Lisbon Recognition Convention still rare**
- **Knowledge of ECTS Users’ Guide still rare**
- **Erasmus+ triggered recognition shift in large universities**

Recognition of credit mobility with partner countries

Germany

- **State law, coordinated by education minister's conference**
- **Numerous actors**
 - Rector's Conference, DAAD, Bologna experts, Ac hoc groups
- **Numerous activities**
 - Reports, conferences, workshops, regular exchange
- **Monitorings with/in partner countries**
 - Serbia, Israel 11/2016, Ukraine 11/2017

Recognition of credit mobility with partner countries

Germany

Different implementation between

- States
- Types of institutions
- Institutions
- Faculties
- Academic staff
- International relation offices

Recognition of credit mobility in Europe as a model?

State of play

- **Erasmus+ learning agreement brought shift in decision-making from IRO to „academic responsible“**
- **Evergreen reasons for shortcomings:**
 - Late publication of course catalogues,
 - Early deadlines for nomination,
 - Unclear internal processes and external communication,
 - „Students do not need recognition towards the end of their academic degree“

Recognition of credit mobility in partner countries

State of play

- **Monitoring result: different by neighbouring country (with National Erasmus Offices), in EHEA, in existing networks, in regions**
- **Figures with major ICM partner countries: about 90 % full or partial recognition**
- **„Modular curricula“ in classes not courses**
- **Students travel home for exams**
- **Students lose credits completely**

Challenges in projects with partner countries

Example: Working with the Learning Agreement

- **Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education as part of inter-institutional agreement with partner countries makes charter principles less visible**
- **In some partner countries recognition is managed by official bodies outside HEI. Exceptions hardly possible**
- **HEI in programme countries need to explain recognition system widely**

Challenges in projects with partner countries

Example: Working with the Learning Agreement

- Documents is not being returned or with great delay
- Responsible academic not defined
- Often not enough to communicate via students but through hierarchy in partner institutions
- Table B is left out. Why?
 - Either completed studies prerequisite for individual credit exchange, or
 - Credit exchange not foreseen in study system
 - In consequence: Results of mobility only recorded as additional qualification

Challenges in projects with partner countries

Example: Working with the Learning Agreement

- **Recalling missing document not enough: Need for**
 - Explanation,
 - Justification of its importance,
 - Which forms of recognition are being accepted,
 - Who is to sign it

Recommendation for partner countries

Peer learning on all levels

- Describe and reflect recognition process openly with a partner of your choice
- Involve students and student bodies as a resource to overcome potential shortcomings in the process
- Use Erasmus mobility projects to set up structured partnerships for this topic (as a form of capacity building)
- If available, your National Erasmus Office might liaise with a National Agency from a partner country to organise bilateral meetings and events

Proposal: Ask those, who made it last

- **Challenges in the field of recognition experienced in/with partner countries could be best addressed by programme countries, who overcame similar challenges only a few years ago**
- **Systematic partnerships („peer/buddy countries“) could collaborate to solve operational issues**
- **Collaboration of policy and operations needs to be intensified**
- **Erasmus+ still has two calls to go. By the end of it, substantial progress should be reachable**

Erasmus+

Wer sich bewegt,
bewegt Europa!

Nationale Agentur für EU-Hochschulzusammenarbeit
Erasmus+ National Agency „Higher Education“
DAAD – Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn
www.daad.de
www.eu.daad.de
Servicenummer: 0800 2014 020

 DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

 Erasmus+

GEFÖRDERT VOM
 Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung