

# University-industry cooperation: Mobility of staff and students

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# The European Students' Union

- 45 national unions of students from 37 countries in Europe
- Represents 11 million European students

# Defining student mobility

- Undertaken by students enrolled at HEIs at universities part or full-time
- Transnational
- Physical
- Serves as a learning purpose
- Organised or individual
- Varies in duration

# Mobility in the Bologna Process

- 1<sup>st</sup> tackled in 1999 with Ministers committing to remove mobility obstacles and promote mobility schemes
- Leuven (2009):
  - 20% by 2020 benchmark was agreed
  - Need to address brain-drain

# Models of student mobility



# The role of University within society

- An intellectual hub/magnet in the community: attracting talent
- Providing connections between innovators, researchers, students, entrepreneurs, companies and VCs
- Developing practical course materials (case studies, projects, etc)
- Attracting funding and building a critical mass of innovation and entrepreneurship

# Main types of mobility

1. Diploma mobility
2. Credit mobility
3. Short-term mobility

# What are our options?

- Mobility of researchers to spend time in industry placements on a short-term and long-term basis
- Placement of students in companies
- Placement of teachers / lecturers in firms
- Project assignments
- Use of industry staff to teach short academic courses with direct relevance to their industry to increase diverse knowledge



# The academic aspect



## Full academic integration and recognition

- Takes into account knowledge, experience and methods of foreign students
- Offering information on the academic system and requirements
- Mobile students as full members of the HE community
- Respect to other cultures

# Diploma Supplement

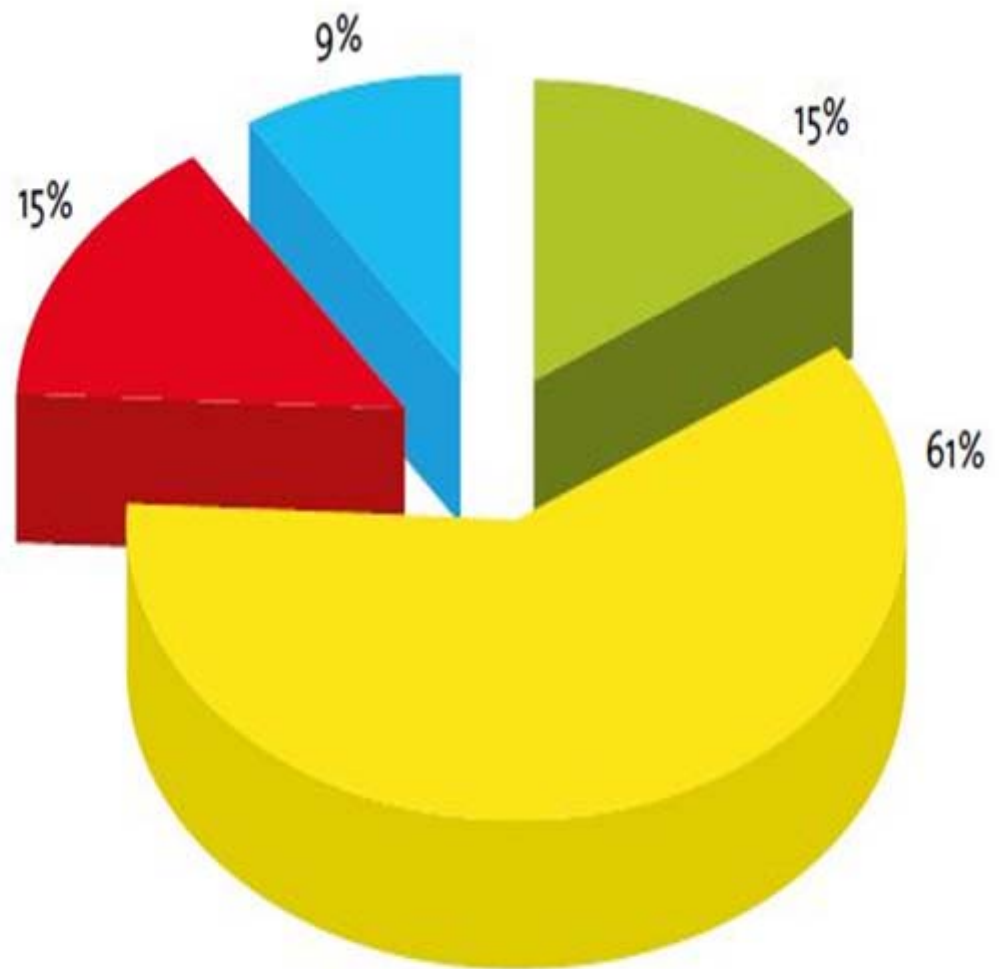
- Document attached to a HE diploma to facilitate academic and professional recognition of qualifications
- Describes the nature, level, context and content of studies complete by individual
- Not an automatic system that guarantees recognition
- Lack of awareness of DS

# The language issue

- Providing language courses before student leaves
- Language tuition available throughout the study period
- Free tuition and proficiency tests
- Greater use of a common teaching language

fig. 20—Status of free language provision around Europe

- Free language provision in all programmes and HEI
- Free in some programmes and HEI
- Additional fees are always or almost always charged
- Not sure/difficult to say



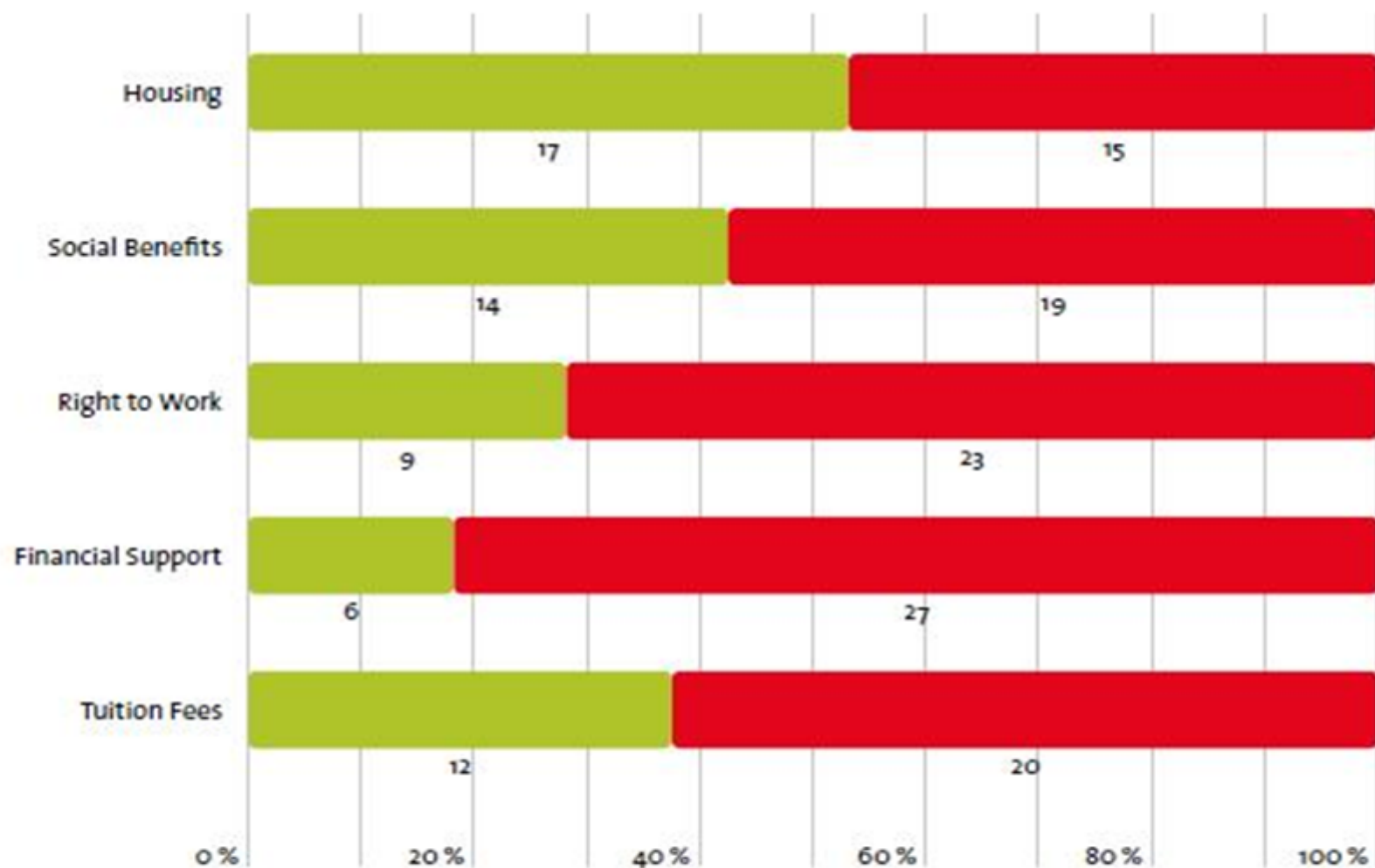
The social aspect:

Can everyone really be mobile?

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# Access to mobility

- Strong vs. Low socio-economic backgrounds
- Non-mobile groups
- Support systems for students
- Non-EU residents
- Opportunities for graduates in different fields



*fig. 4—Treatment of non-European/  
non-EU students in home higher  
education institutions*

- same
- different



# Access to social services

- Need to guarantee equal access to social services
- Addressing the special needs of foreign students
- Addressing specific needs of students with disability
- Information on social services for students

# The inevitable financing debate

- Insufficient funding is a major reason behind low mobility rates
- Support for mobility that is family independent
- Support before and not after mobility period
- Support to cover living costs and costs caused by academic and mobility-related needs
- Flexible grants and loans

# Regional economic differences

- Financial gaps due to economic differences may lead to brain drain
- Additional support for students who want to study in states or regions with higher cost of living than place of origin

# Administrative Barriers



# Administration-related problems

- VISAs
- Residence permit regulations
- Restrictions on right and possibility to work
- Inadequate admission policies
- Overall lack of information about procedure and responsibilities
- Needs of students with partners and students with children

The way forward...

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# The way forward (1)

- Flexibility
- Addressing individual academic needs
- Students should be included in the administration of mobility programmes as well as in designing new programmes and development of existing programmes.
- Adaptation of traditional courses to include aspects of mobility

## The way forward (2)

- Accreditation of mobility at a national and international level
- Communication of needs between HEI and industry
- Persuading industry of the benefits of accepting undergraduates and post-graduates for short term assignments



Thank you for your attention!

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