



Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme

Workshop Promotion, Selection and Recognition of Studies

Elif Memis Marsman
EACEA A.3

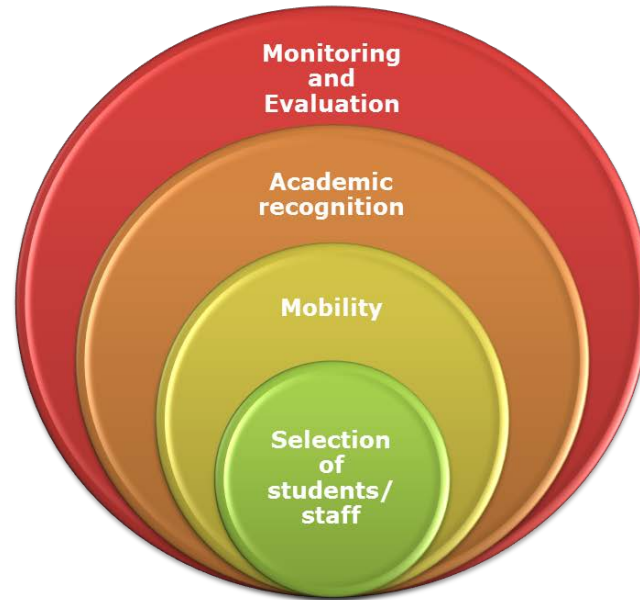
2020 Projects' Kick-Off Meeting
2-4 February 2021



European
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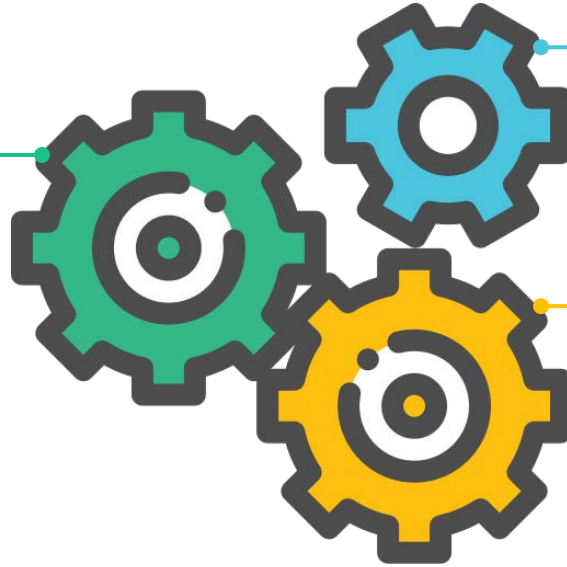
Education, Audiovisual and Culture
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Mobility management: An overlapping process



Layout of the Workshop

**Selection of
the scholarship
holders**



**Promotion
and visibility**

**Recognition of
studies**

Promotion

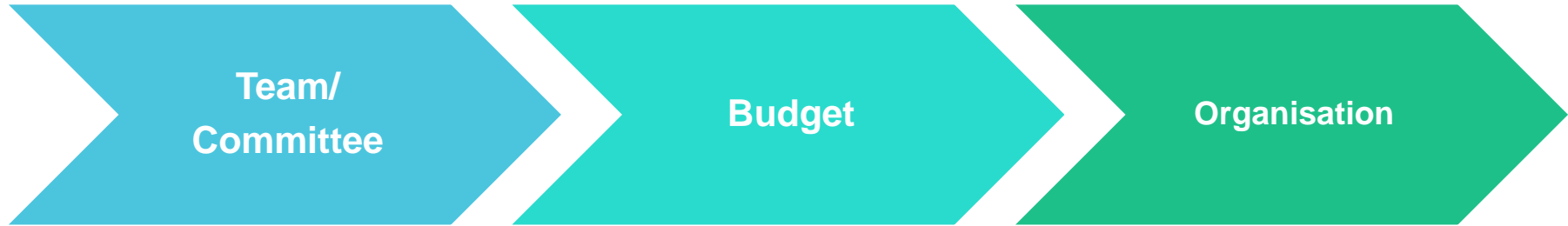
The partnership must:

“Develop a clear promotion and visibility strategy for the partnership including, in particular, a dedicated partnership website referring explicitly to the "Intra-Africa academic mobility scheme" and providing all necessary information about the partnership from the academic, financial and administrative points of view. This must include a solid promotion strategy reaching as many potential applicants as possible in the eligible countries.”

Developing a clear promotion strategy



Promotion: Management



Targets

Restrictions on Target Groups, type of mobility, nationalities, etc.

Number of scholarship holders

Quality of applicants

Geographical scope

Call requirements

Project application

Total

Per cohort

Selection criteria

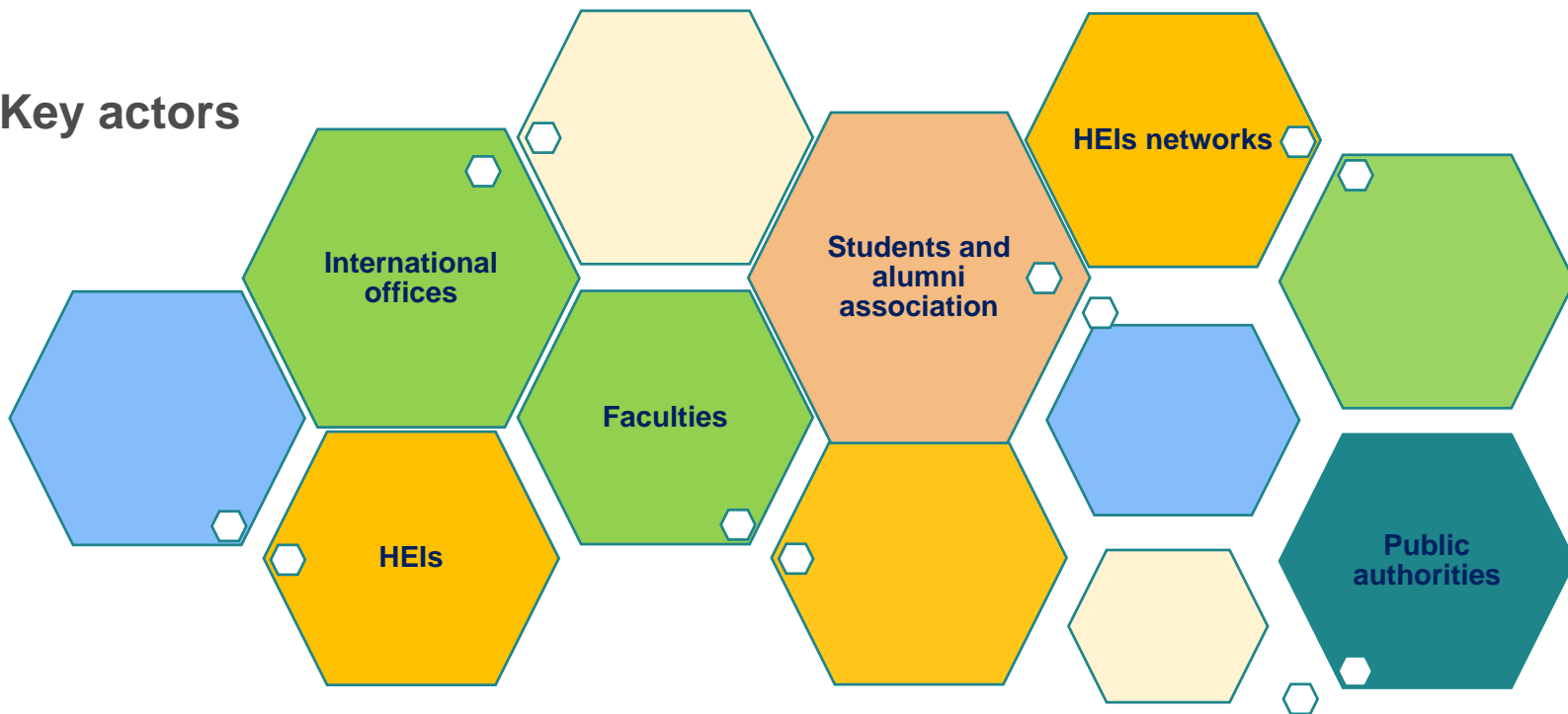
Admission criteria

HEI

Countries

Promotion: Key Actors

- Key actors



Promotion



To
Students
and staff



To
employers



To
media



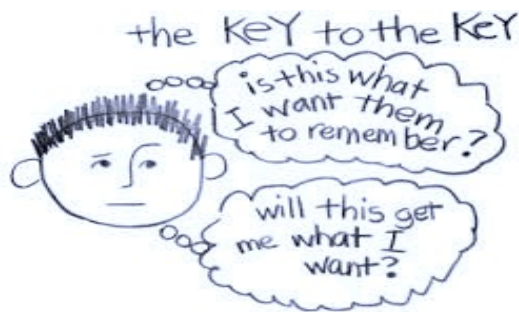
To
university
networks



To
public
institutions

Key messages

Promotion: Key messages to the candidates



Promotion



94%

of the students have
not applied for
scholarship before

Promotion



What convinced you to apply?

Prospective of contributing to development of home country **31%**

Possibility to enhance candidate' profile and future professional career after the mobility **20%**

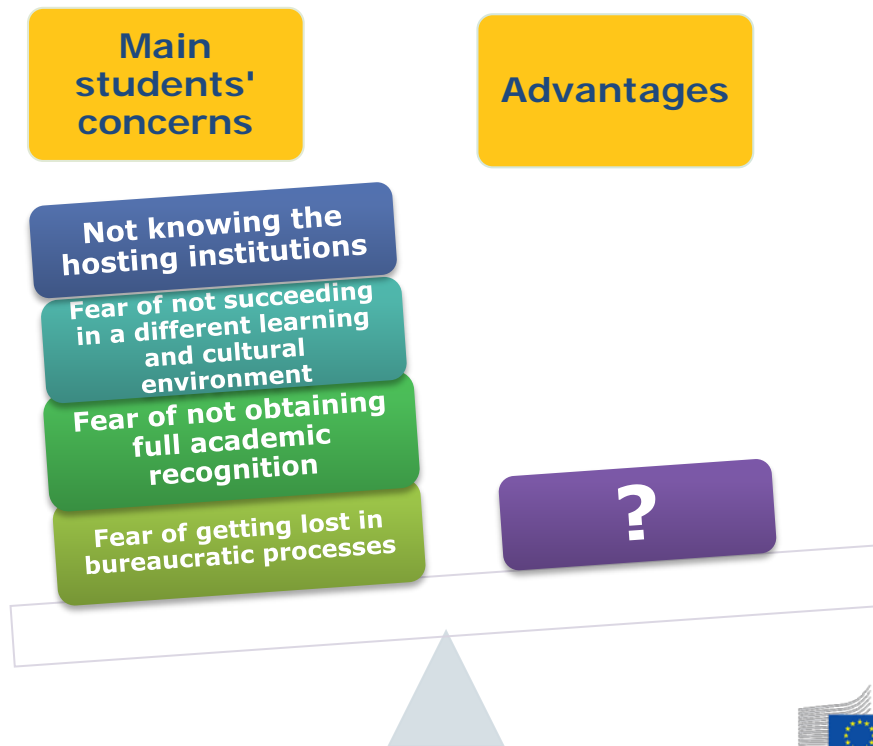
Field of study not available at home country **17%**

Availability of subject of study **14%**

Possibility to live and study in a foreign country **10%**

Academic reputation of host university **8%**

Promotion



PROMOTION: Case Study

Which key messages should be provided to the Scholarship candidates?



Promotion

- Key messages to students

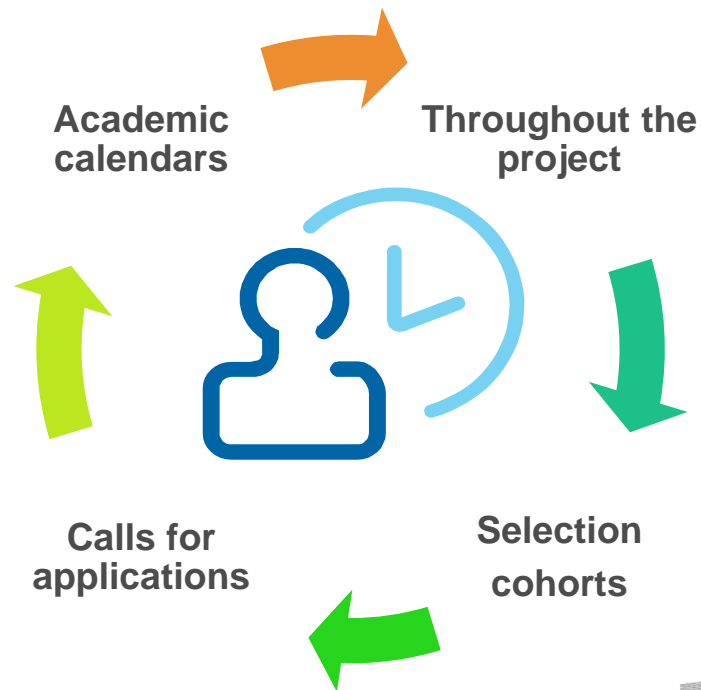
Simple and clear

- target groups
- selection criteria and process
- application process
- academic offer
- benefits
- encouraging the participation of disadvantage groups
- ***Contact person for questions and assistance***

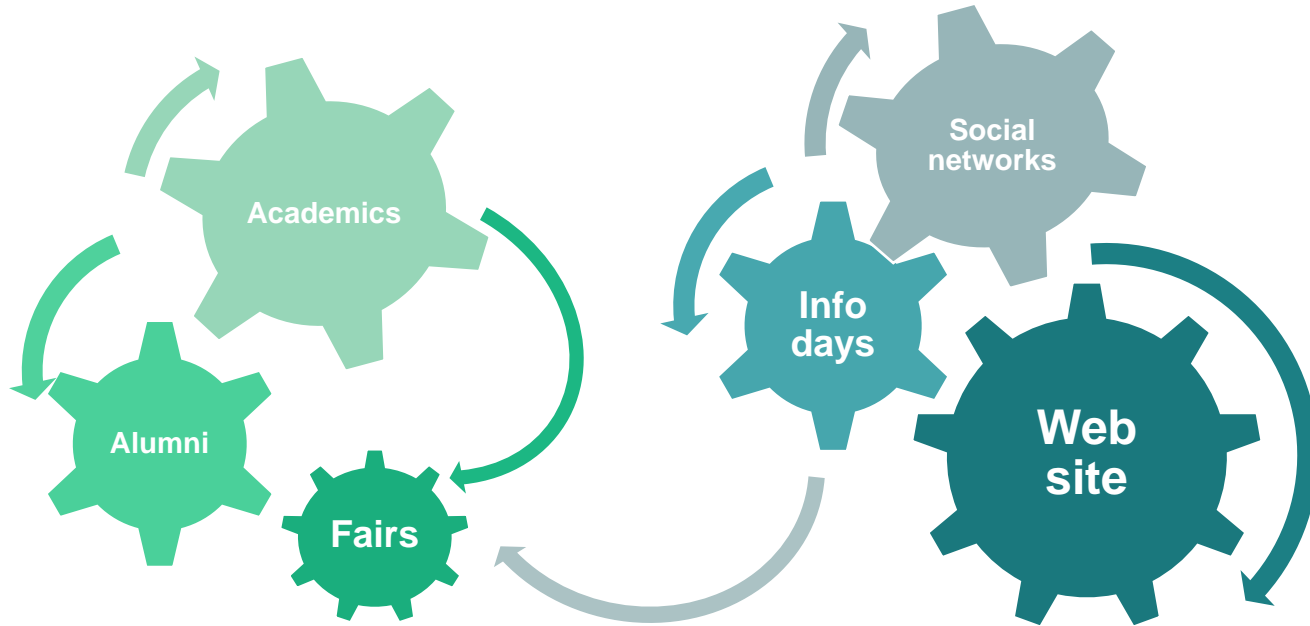
Promotion

- Key messages to students – examples:
 - ✓ The Intra-Africa mobility is **funded by the EU**.
 - ✓ The Intra-Africa **scholarship** covers travel, insurance, subsistence allowance, participation costs. It contributes to research costs.
 - ✓ **Guidance and support** is provided to all scholarship holders before, during and after the mobility.
 - ✓ The mobility allows students to **experience** different research, teaching and learning methods, as well as to meet different cultures and languages.
 - ✓ **Guidance** on how the studies during the mobility will be **recognised**.

Promotion: Timing



Promotion: Tools



How did you get to know about the programme?



From the home university **49%**

From a friend/student/professor/colleague **26%**

From Internet **13%**

Via the official Programme webpage **6%**

Other **6%**

Promotion: Visibility

Beneficiaries' Space

- **Visibility** of the EU funding



Funded by the Intra-Africa
Academic Mobility Scheme of
the European Union



- Check-list for **project websites**

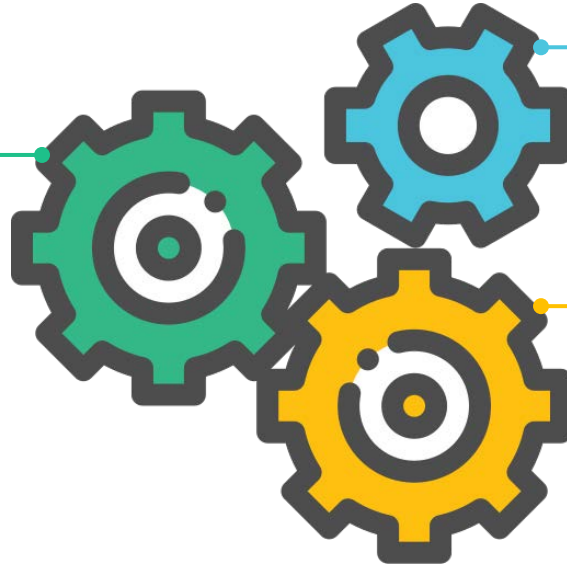
Promotion

Websites check by EACEA – main findings:

- ✓ Lack of information on the programme
- ✓ Wrong definitions of target groups
- ✓ Unclear or/and missing information on the academic offer
- ✓ Settling-in allowance not mentioned
- ✓ Lack of information on the institutional services offered to incoming students
- ✓ Lack of information on data protection

Layout of the Workshop

Selection of the
scholarship
holders



**Promotion and
visibility**

**Recognition of
studies**

Selection process

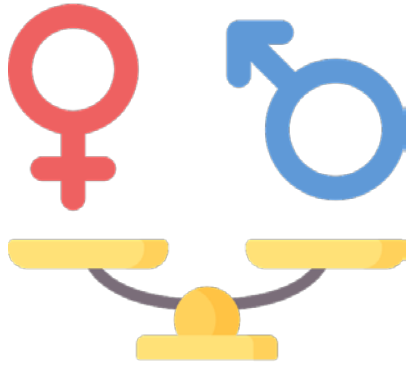


Joint

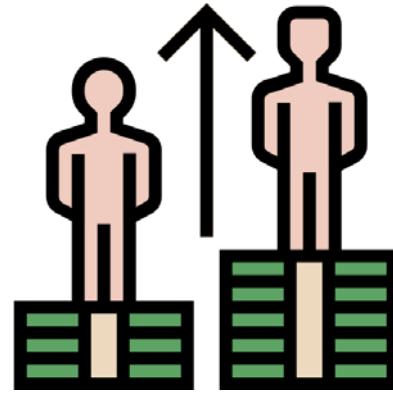


Transparent

Selection process



**Participation
of women**



**Participation of
disadvantaged
groups**

Selection process

- Call for scholarship applications

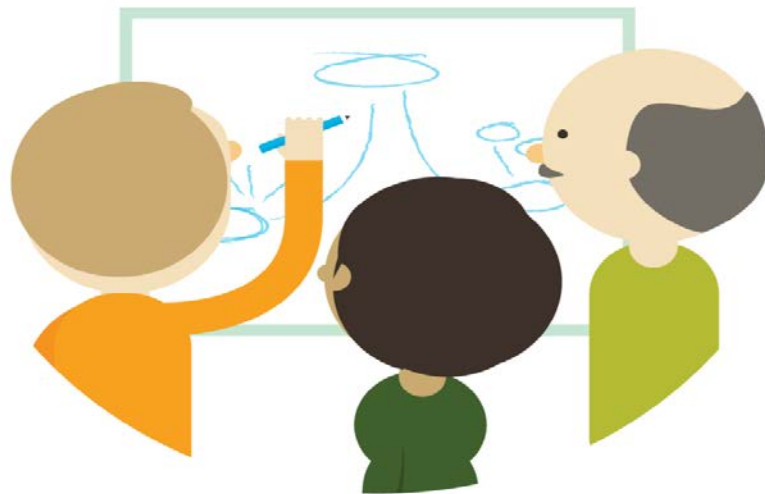
- ✓ Open ~ 45 days
- ✓ Online/paper application form



Selection process: Group exercise

Scholarship holders selection process:

- ✓ Steps ?
- ✓ Actors involved ?



Selection process



Selection process

- **Who?**

- For TG1 – by the home HEI
- For TG2 – by the coordinator

- **Eligibility criteria**

- Proof of nationality is provided
- Fulfillment of the TG requirements
- The correct application form is used and completed
- All required documents are provided
- The application deadline is respected



Eligibility
check

Eligibility check – avoiding irregularities in students' selection

To request the students (**both at application stage and in the student agreement**) :

- to declare not to have already benefitted from a previous scholarship under the Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Scheme and the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme.
- To commit not to benefit from another EU funded scholarship scheme to follow the same academic programme during the mobility period
- To reimburse the scholarship in case of incomplete or false declaration.

Selection process

- **Who?**
 - Hosting partner institutions
- **Selection criteria**
 - Academic performance (transcript results)
 - Personal motivation
 - Match between the home and host HEIs
 - Relevance and quality of study/research plan
 - Language skills

Evaluation of
eligible
candidates

Selection process

Best case scenario

- Selection criteria include admission criteria and admission process is integrated into selection

The reality...

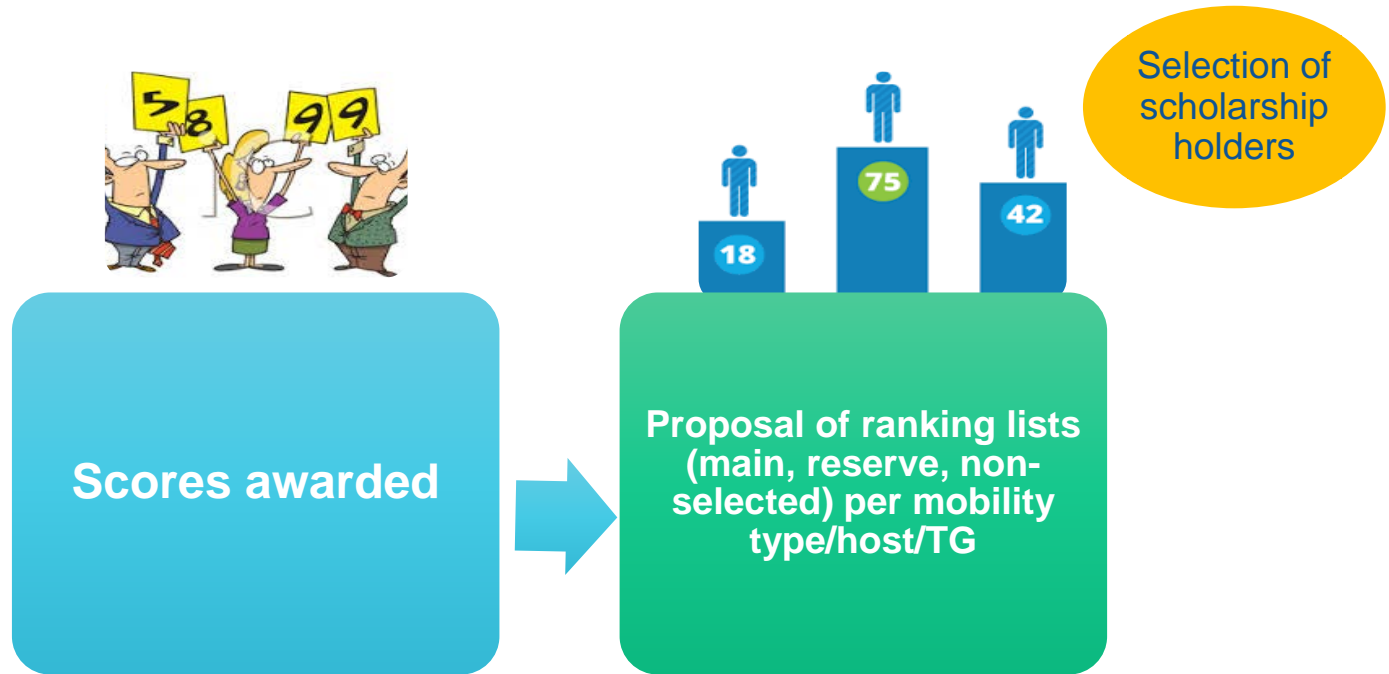
- Admission is a separated process which is often not well communicated to applicants

Selection process

Selection of
scholarship
holders

- **Who?**
 - Selection Committee/Board
- **Considering:**
 - cross-cutting issues (gender balance, socio-economically disadvantaged applicants, disabled candidates, etc.)
 - mandatory mobility distribution range by the call
 - balance between sending/hosting partners
 - max. 20% per nationality

Selection process: Final decision on ranking lists



Selection process

Best case scenario

- Implemented mobility \geq planned mobility
- Mobility per nationality is max.20% of the total mobility
- Implemented mobility only in thematic fields defined by the call

The reality...

- Implemented mobility fewer than planned
- 20% recommendation not respected
- Cases of mobility academic programs not belonging to mandatory thematic fields

Selection process

Best case scenario

- Mobility distribution range per type of mobility is respected
- Duration of mobility respecting the call guidelines per type
- Balanced distribution per home/host

The reality...

- Deviations from the mobility distribution range
- Cases of mobility durations beyond the maximum allowed
- Despite quota system, distribution is not balanced

Selection process

Best case scenario

- Gender balance
- Cross-cutting issues are tackled

The reality...

- Prevalence of male grantees (at PhD level mostly)
- Partnerships fail to give this issue the desired attention

Selection process

- Letters to all applicants:

- ✓ Acceptance letters

- ✓ Rejection letters

- ✓ Letters to candidates in reserve list



Notification
of results

Selection Process

- Acceptance Letter
 - ✓ Information on host university and course/research
 - ✓ Start date and duration of the mobility
 - ✓ Scholarship amount (incl. settling-in allowance)
 - ✓ Information on admission
 - ✓ Logistics and institutional services
 - ✓ Contact persons (home and host)
 - ✓ Data Protection

Model of
nomination letter
on
Beneficiaries space



Selection process

- Appeal procedure - clearly announced:
 - ✓ in rejection letters
 - ✓ on the partnership web-site
- Appeal committee

Appeal
procedure

Selection process

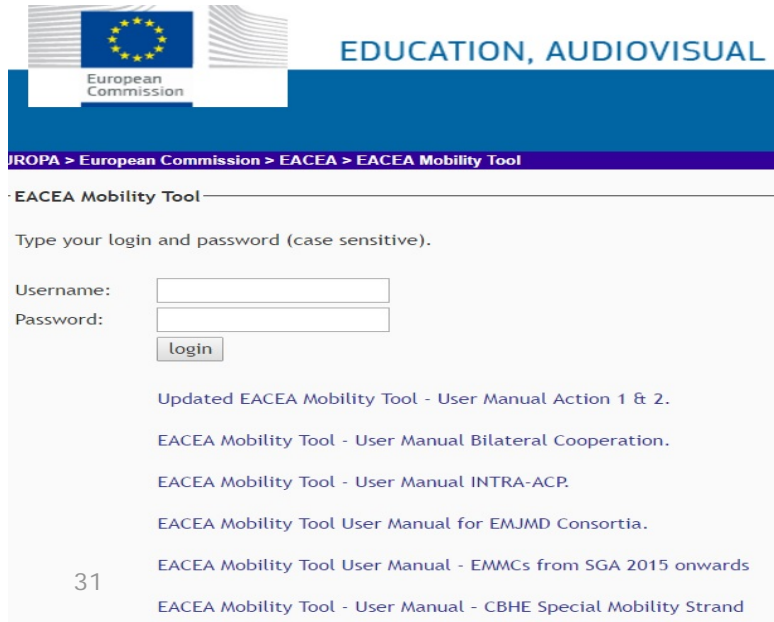
Beneficiaries' Space

Check list

Minimum requirements for the selection procedures

The EACEA Mobility Tool

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/mobility/>



EDUCATION, AUDIOVISUAL

European Commission

EROPA > European Commission > EACEA > EACEA Mobility Tool

EACEA Mobility Tool

Type your login and password (case sensitive).

Username:

Password:

Updated EACEA Mobility Tool - User Manual Action 1 & 2.

EACEA Mobility Tool - User Manual Bilateral Cooperation.

EACEA Mobility Tool - User Manual INTRA-ACP.

EACEA Mobility Tool User Manual for EMJMD Consortia.

EACEA Mobility Tool User Manual - EMMCs from SGA 2015 onwards

EACEA Mobility Tool - User Manual - CBHE Special Mobility Strand

- Database and reporting tool for the mobility (including financial reporting)
- Data protection through a specific [privacy statement](#)
- Username + password will be sent to all coordinators
- A specific session on how to use it will be organized

Commitment
towards/
between

- Individuals
- Institutions

Student/Staff and mobility agreements - 1

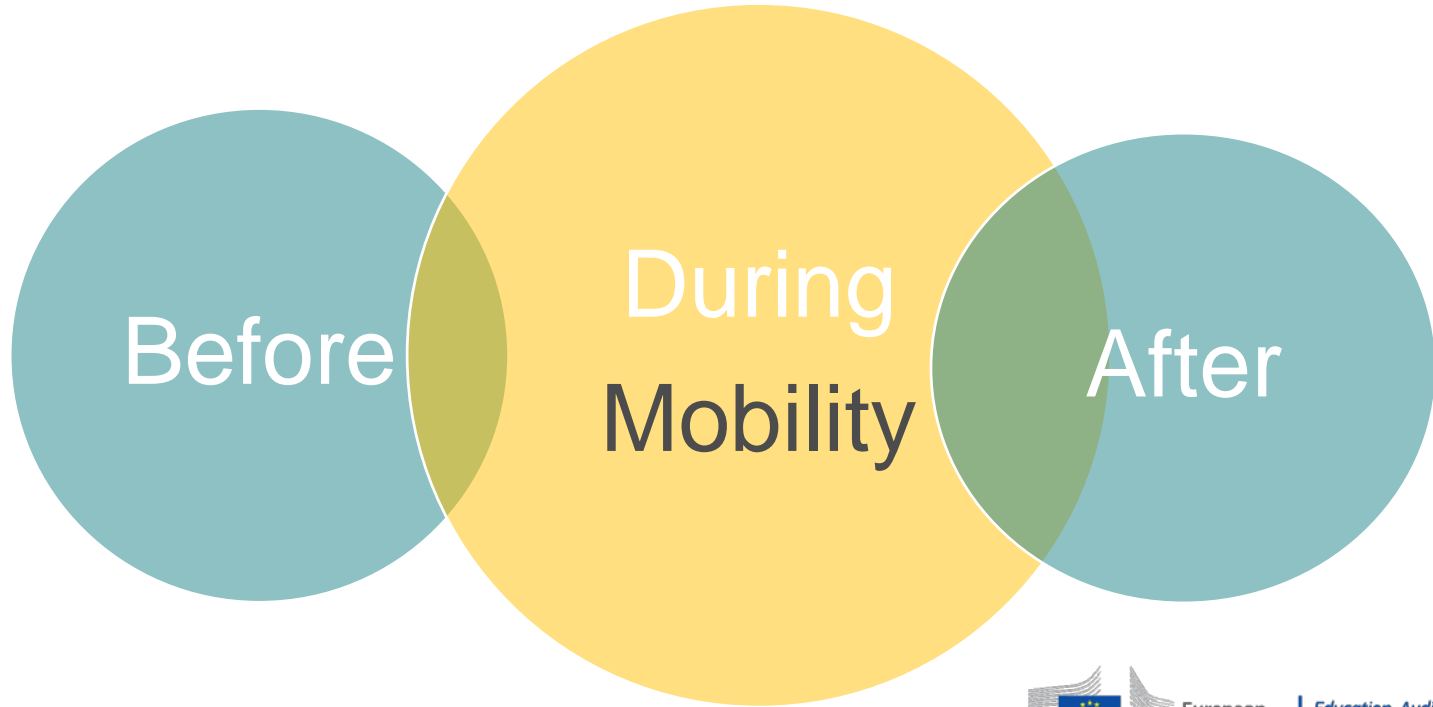
- **Before** the start of the mobility period
- **General** information on the mobility period
 - Personal data of the student or staff member
 - Home and host HEI
 - Mobility period
- Scholarship conditions - **rights**
 - Number of subsistence allowances (including settling-in and extra allowances for women, if applicable)
 - Travel arrangements and visa costs
 - Insurance scheme (contact person and coverage)
 - Details on participation and research costs, if applicable
- **Payment modalities** (regularity – at least every 3 months - and exchange rate applicable)
- **Data Protection (EACEA Mobility Tool)**



Student/Staff and mobility agreements - 2

- Commitment → obligations
 - During mobility
 - Academic requirements (cf. Learning agreement or study/research plan) for students
 - Research/work or training plan for staff members
 - Follow-up methodology on any modification to the study/research or work plan
 - Reporting on the advancement of mobility period abroad
- Management of interruption of the mobility or drop-out from the scholarship
- End of mobility: Reporting; Final academic and administrative

Institutional services



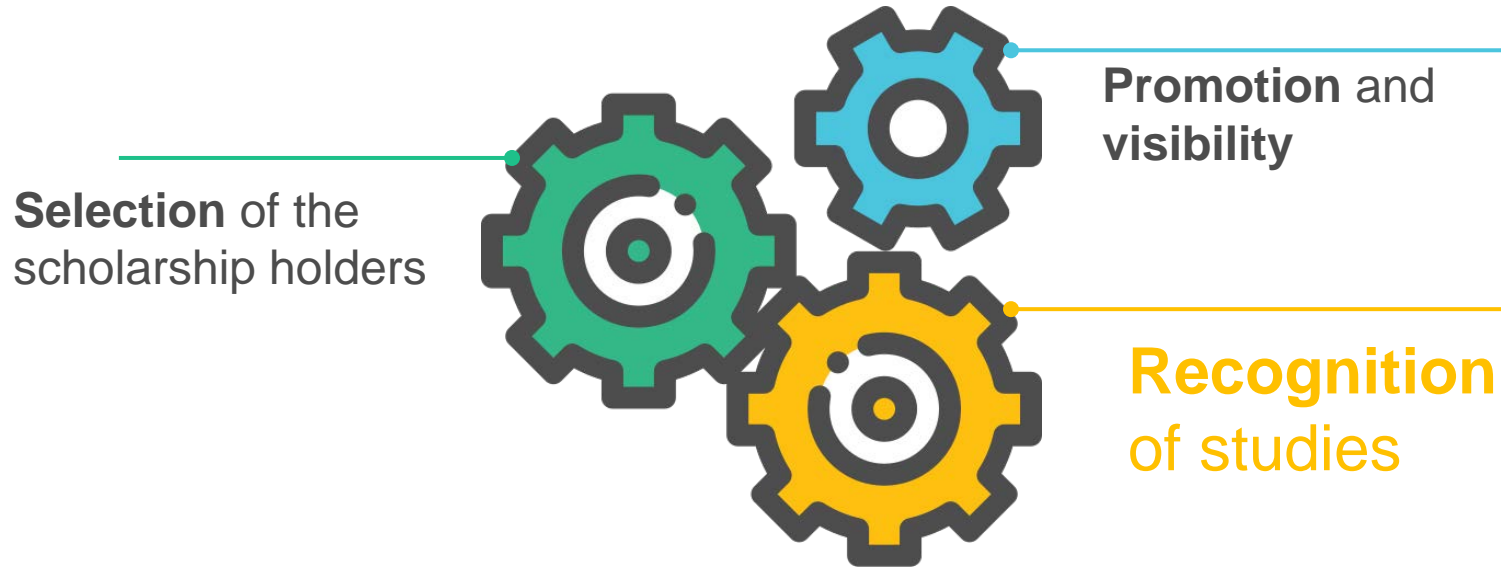
Institutional services

- **Visa** support
- **Travel** arrangements well in advance
- **Welcoming/departure** events or cultural events
- **Welcome** guides for each partner
- Arrangement of the **accommodation** and **insurance**
→ **Minimum requirements for insurance**

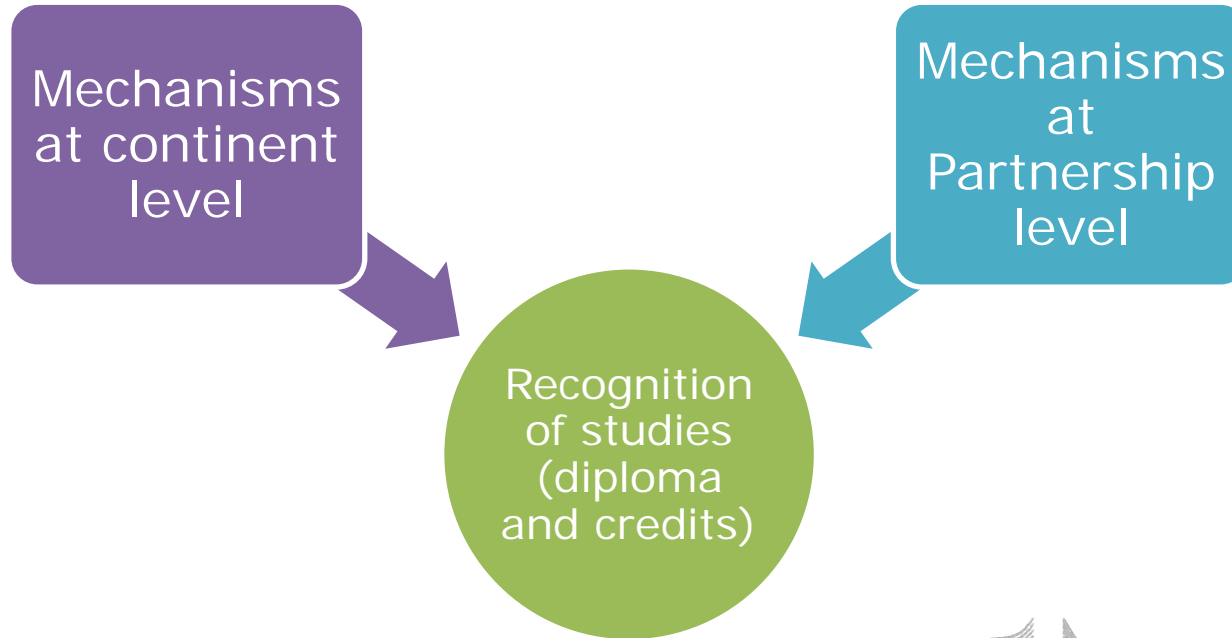
Institutional services

- Information on the **project website**:
 - Scholarship conditions
 - Academic offer per partner
 - Contact details of the partner institutions
 - List of services available at each partner
- Student and mobility **agreements**
- **Language** courses (Instruction and local language)
- Guidelines on **recognition process**
- **Tutors/mentors** for each student
 - Support in registration
 - Intercultural learning (e.g. buddy system)
 - Academic advisors

Layout of the Workshop



Recognition of studies



Existing frameworks

- Addis Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education in Africa
 - 1981: To promote regional cooperation and academic mobility
 - 2014: Ratification of the revised Convention
 - Key instruments:
 - - African Regional Qualifications Framework
 - - Development of an African Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

Existing frameworks

- **Southern** African Development community: Protocol on Education and Training, 1997
- **East** African common Market Protocol, 2009
- **East** African National Regulatory Agencies for HE
- Economic community of **West** African States
- **Francophone** Africa: Conseil africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement supérieur – CAMES, 1968

Existing Frameworks

- **Tuning Africa:** Harmonisation of higher education
 - Contribution to the development of a qualifications framework in eight subject areas
 - collaboration with nearly 100 African universities, the AAU and other higher education partners
- **A proposal on African Credit Transfer System (CATS)** at continent level

Recognition: Discussion in groups

How to ensure recognition of studies between two different universities?

Recognition of studies

Credit
conversion
tables

Comparable
and compatible
curricula

Learning
Agreement

Research plan

Transcript of
records

Diplomas and
supplements



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Recognition of studies - Tools

- Learning Agreement for all types of mobility
 - At the time of application (if possible)
 - Ensure the compatibility of studies at home and host HEIs
 - Follow-up on learning agreement (students' performance)
 - Any addendum to learning agreement?
- Credit-seeking mobility
 - Transcript of records
 - Credit transfer/conversion system between home and host HEIs
- Degree seeking mobility
 - Diploma and/or [diploma supplement](#) (detailed)
- Detailed [learning outcomes](#) to ease the recognition

Recognition of studies - Tools

- Masters: Learning Agreement
 - Agreed and signed by home, host and student (credit seeking)
 - Clear, compatible and comparable learning outcomes
 - Compatibility of curricula
 - Credit transfer systems
 - Detailed transcript of records (signed by host)
 - Diploma and diploma supplement

Recognition of studies - Tools

- Doctorates: Research plan/Learning agreement
 - Research or course based?
 - Diploma and diploma supplement
- Special attention to **Target Group 2** students
 - Non-partner home HEI!
- **Staff:** Mobility Agreement
 - Teaching assignment or training plan
 - Mobility period as part of academic/administrative career

Recognition of studies - Tools

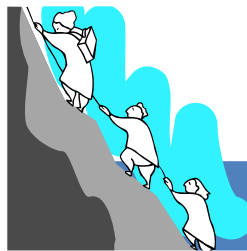
- **Existing links** between partners HEIs (or with non-partner HEIs)
 - Bi-/multi-lateral agreements on transfer of credits
 - Joint research projects or publications, etc.
- Arrangements with HEIs of **Target Group 2 students**
 - Compatibility of curricula
 - Role of academic advisors
 - Infrastructures to continue the research/study after credit-seeking mobility

Recognition of studies



Opportunities

- Contribution to the harmonisation of higher education
- Models for a CATS
- Internationalisation of the curriculum
- Promotion of comparability of study programs and qualifications
- Development and visibility of quality assurance and the bodies in place



Challenges

- Differences among education systems
- Lack of well functioning quality assurance and accreditation systems
- Collaboration between partners
- Absence of continental qualification framework
- Deficiency of updated data and reliable information on HE programs

Useful Links

For Guidance and template documents:

→ Consult the **Beneficiaries' Space** dedicated to the 2020 Intra-Africa Projects:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2014-2020/intra-africa/intra-africa-academic-mobility-scheme-2020_en

→ Results from the **Cluster Meeting on Project and Mobility Management**:

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/intra-africa/events/2018-Project_and_Mobility_Management_meeting_en

In particular, the [feedback from the Workshop on Recognition of studies and Quality](#)



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