

## How has the topic of inclusion evolved since the first Flemish mobility strategy in 2013 and how is this reflected in the new inclusive internationalisation strategy

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# Agenda

- Flemish Inclusion strategies within HE - principles
- Action Plan “Brains on the Move”
- New internationalisation strategy

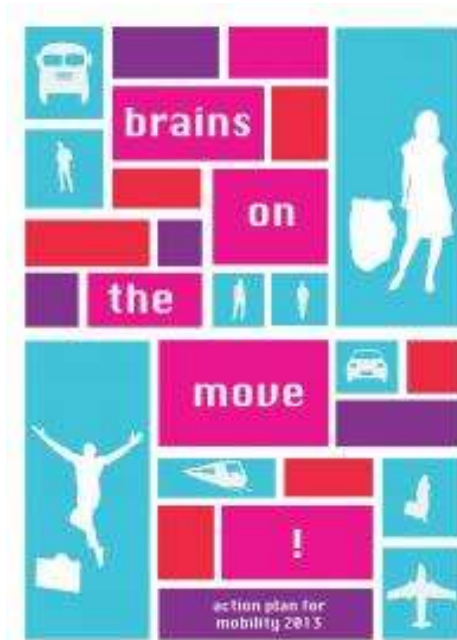
# Inclusion in HE: principles

- General and broad measures give advantages to both disadvantaged students and all other students.
- Specific measures only when general and broad measures are not possible or do not apply.
- Focus on access, continuation and successful completion in HE.
- Financial incentives social inclusion: matching funds for period 2009-2015:
  - Diversity officers;
  - Diversity plans;
  - Dual track policies;
  - Target group measures;
  - Universal design

# Inclusion in HE: principles

- Sustainable policy schemes on social inclusion of underrepresented groups:
  - Student services
  - Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities 2009
  - Support Center Inclusive Higher Education; 2009
  - Inclusion and mobility strategy since; 2013
  - Regulation Inclusive Higher Education; 2017
  - Registration underrepresented groups; 2017

# Inclusion in mobility strategy



- 2009 Leuven - Louvain-la-Neuve: In 2020, at least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training period abroad
- Action plan for student mobility “Brains on the Move”, September 2013
- Read more about the [Action plan](#)

# Inclusion in mobility strategy

## *Aims “Brains on the Move”*

- Provide all graduating students with the necessary international and intercultural competences;
- 33% of graduates should have a mobility experience;
- 33% of the mobile students should belong to underrepresented groups in higher education (students with study grant, students with disabilities, working students).

# Inclusion in mobility strategy

## *Tools “Brains on the Move”*

HE legislation: minimum 25% of all scholarships are allocated to students from underrepresented groups:

- The opportunities of all students and the opportunities of students of underrepresented groups (students with study grant; student with disabilities (VAPH), working students) are connected to each other;
  - In order to use the full budget that is available for the mobility actions, there have to be enough applications from students from underrepresented groups;
- > this forces the higher education institutions to identify these groups of students and to stimulate them to apply for a mobility grant.

# Inclusion in mobility strategy

## *Tools “Brains on the Move”*

### Extra scholarship for students of underrepresented groups/month:

- For a basic grant amount per month of 700 EUR, students from underrepresented groups receive a top up of 200 EUR a month;
- If the basic grant amount for the Washington Center is 9.000 EUR for 4 months, students from underrepresented groups receive 12.000 EUR.

### Awareness and support initiatives:

- Seminars HEIs;
- Student portraits;
- Brochures (Studying abroad, ABC guide EAIE, etc.);
- Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education .



# Inclusion in mobility strategy

Testimonial international mobility manager university:

*“The 25% rule is a simple but effective rule that forces higher education institutions to deal with the issue of underrepresented groups. The university does great efforts to identify students who are in a difficult financial situation. For each application round, students are explicitly invited to explain their situation. The Social Service of the university informs the colleagues who prepare the applications about the students who are entitled to priority selection. This happens in the highest possible discretion.”*

# Inclusion in mobility strategy

## Priority within national agency for Erasmus+ (EPOS):

- Top-up grants of 150 EUR/month for students underrepresented groups (students with study grant, working students)
- Student with disabilities, additional scholarship based on real costs
- Cofunding Flemish government max. 500.000 euro (KA1 HEI Erasmus+)
- Investment own resources EPOS in preparatory visits for students with disabilities (2019: 10.000 euro; incl. VET);
  - Maximum duration 5 days (including travel days) to the destination of their mobility (campus or traineeship company);
  - Lump sum for travel and subsistence (according to the country of destination) for the student + the accompanying person (if needed);
  - Simple application at least 4 weeks before departure



# Inclusion in mobility strategy: data

21.97% of all mobilities belong to underrepresented groups (2018-2019)

	% mobile degrees of underrepresented groups / all degrees of underrepresented groups	% mobile degrees of underrepresented groups/ all mobile degrees	% students from underrepresented groups that obtain a degree (mobile and non-mobile) / all degrees
<b>Belongs to underrepresented groups</b>	<b>16.30%</b>	<b>21.97%</b>	<b>23.24%</b>
<b>Received a study grant</b>	17.19%	20.61%	20.66%
<b>Was working student</b>	7.35%	1,03%	2.42%
<b>Had a disability*</b>	12.22%	0.95%	0.96%
<b>Flemish average</b>	17.24%		

\* students recognized by Flemish agency persons with a disability (VAPH)



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# Inclusion in mobility strategy: projects

**EPFIME**  
inclusivemobility.eu

- Enhancing a thought-out Policy and Framework on Inclusive Mobility across Europe
- Examine in-depth the needs and expectations on inclusive mobility of **national authorities, students with disabilities** and **higher education institutions** across Europe
- Ending: **May 2021**

**PLAR-4-SIMP**  
inclusivemobility.eu

- Peer Learning Activities and Resources for Social Inclusion in Mobility Programmes (PLAR-4-SIMP)
- Support **national authorities** and **higher education institutions** across EHEA in the reform of their policies and practices to widen the participation of **disadvantaged students** in mobility programmes
- Ending: **May 2022**



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# New internationalisation strategy: 2021

- Broad-based dialogue approach
  - **Working group drafting the strategy**, led by the Cabinet/Ministry, different stakeholders, including HEI, national agency, rectors conference, students and experts are involved (e.g. SIHO involved as expert on inclusion; NVAO quality assurance agency)
  - **Consultation**: stakeholders (Flemish Education Council)
  - Updating the strategy
  - Approval Flemish government
- Timeline: February - September 2021 -> not finalised yet, work in progress

# New internationalisation strategy

- **Vision 2030**
- **Strategic and operational goals linking to concrete actions**
- **Universal design** as a transversal theme (broad vision)
  - Mobility and other internationalisation actions should be an option for everyone.
  - Designing inclusive mobilities and procedures from onset (in all aspects of the strategy)
  - Wide mix programmes
- **Specific goals and action points related to inclusion, incl. registration & monitoring**

# New internationalisation strategy

- **Proposed strategic goal linked to inclusion:**

*All students acquire international and intercultural competences, as a necessary preparation for their professional and personal functioning in an increasingly global and superdiverse society.*

# New internationalisation strategy

- **Operational goals being discussed:**
  - The Flemish higher education institutions integrate international and intercultural competences into the learning outcomes of each study programme
  - Flanders promotes and supports various forms of mobility, both short and long mobility and both through physical, virtual or blended offerings, based on stepping stone principle
  - Flanders stimulates the participation of students of underrepresented groups in mobility (targets, monitoring, information provisions, wide mix of programmes, etc.)



# New internationalisation strategy

- **(New) action points being discussed:**
  - Focus on Internationalisation@home and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) to create an inclusive learning biotope for all students
  - Focus on inclusive communication, information provision and promotion, guidance
  - Strengthens the advice, information and guidance of (potential) mobile students, with particular attention to the needs of under-represented groups
  - Support HEIs through exchange of good practices and offer of the necessary tools

# New internationalisation strategy

- **Funding:**
  - New funding schemes still under construction
  - Need for specific funding for inclusion

**=> Work in progress... to be continued!**

# Thank you for your attention !

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