

# **BARRIERS OF MOBILITY: VISA ISSUES FOR NON-EU STUDENTS SURVEY REPORT**

ENCHANTED  
EDITION



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In today's world, there is a growing interest among international students in pursuing education and cultural experiences at universities abroad. However, one of the greatest obstacles faced by these students is the challenges encountered in visa processes. This is particularly true for non-EU students aspiring to study in Europe, as visa procedures can pose a significant barrier to achieving their educational aspirations.

This study is designed to assist non-EU students in overcoming visa challenges and facilitating their access to educational opportunities. The research, conducted through the *Barriers of Mobility: Visa Issues for Non-EU Students* survey, aims to analyse the experiences of students participating in Erasmus+, ESC, ESN events, and other mobility programmes, as well as the difficulties they face during visa processes.

This analysis provides a foundational investigation into the origins of visa-related issues and the challenges encountered by non-EU students. The data obtained from the survey sheds light on the variety of difficulties faced by students and the underlying causes of these challenges. Furthermore, it offers valuable insights into the experiences of students participating in Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes, as well as the support provided by ESNers.

This report examines the barriers non-EU students encounter in visa processes and proposes solutions to address these obstacles. Additionally, it highlights the significance of Erasmus+ and other mobility programmes for non-EU students, discussing steps that could enhance the educational and cultural experiences of international students. The findings of this study serve as a valuable resource for understanding visa challenges and supporting non-EU students in accessing educational opportunities.

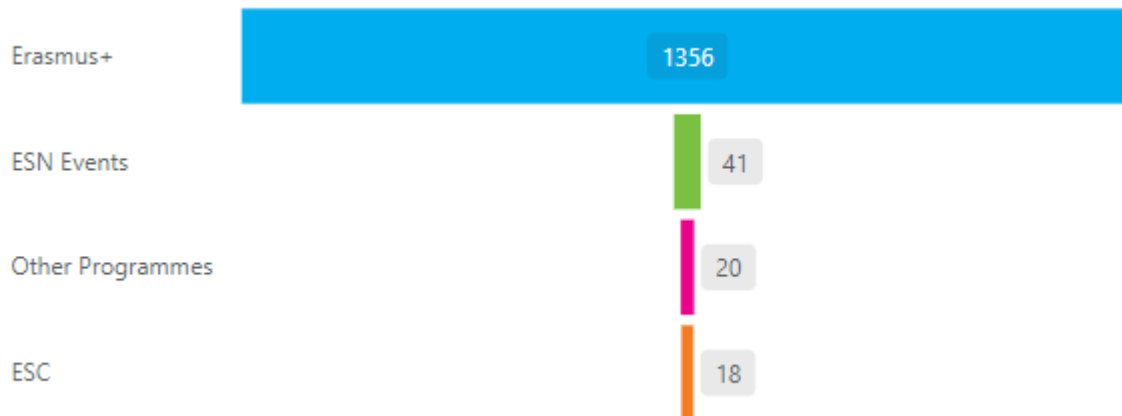


## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

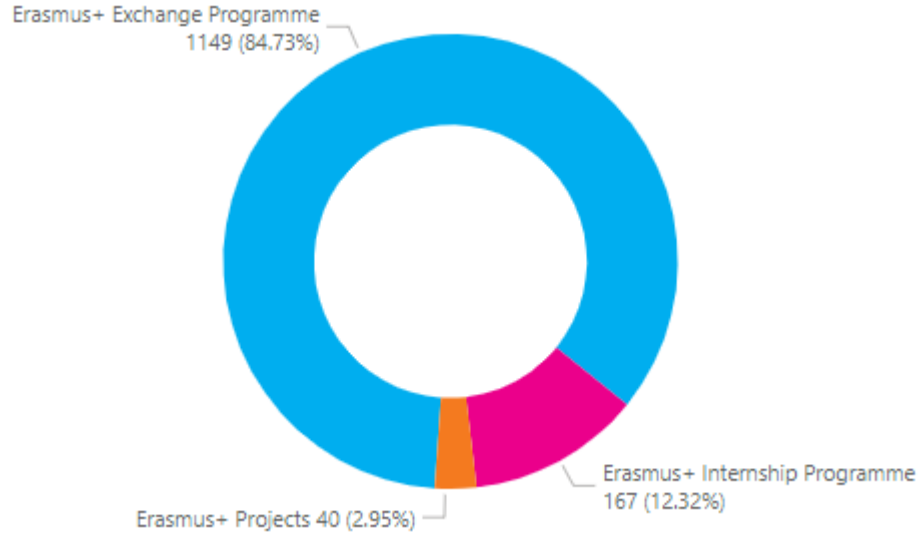
The graph showing that 98.6% of the responses obtained from the form are valid indicates that the study is built on a solid foundation and that most participants provided evaluable answers. This high validity percentage demonstrates that respondents understood the questions and provided accurate responses. Furthermore, the high validity percentage enhances the reliability of the findings.

The rate of invalid responses is determined to be 1.4%. This implies that some participants either did not respond to specific questions or provided incomplete or nonsensical answers. However, this low rate does not significantly affect the overall validity of the study.

This graph underscores the reliability and validity of the study, indicating that the analysis of the data is based on a robust foundation. Therefore, we can have confidence that the findings presented in the subsequent sections of the report reflect the real experiences of non-EU students in dealing with visa issues.



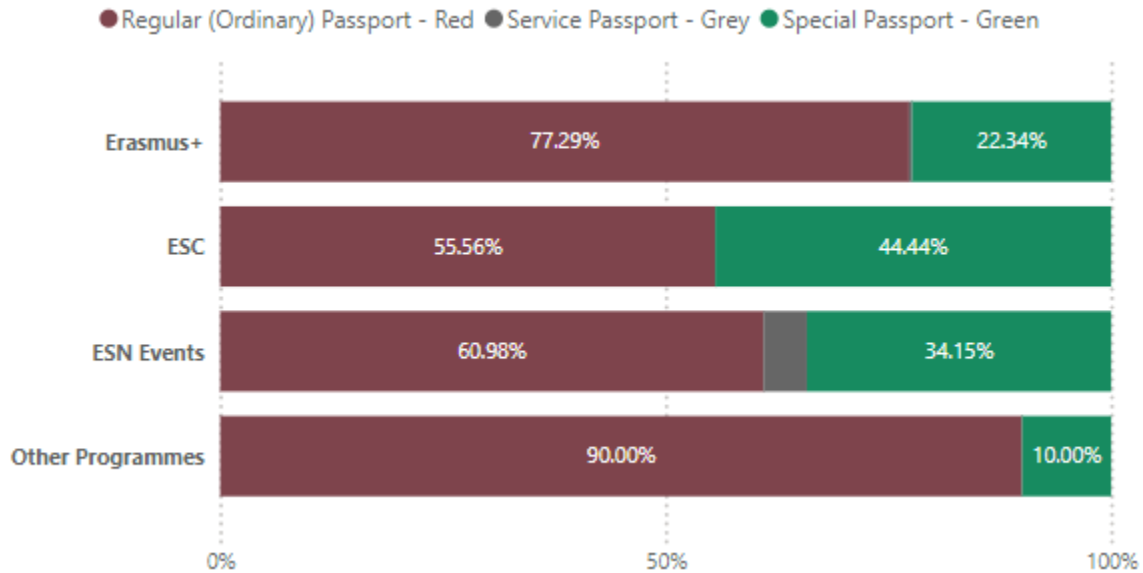
According to the responses obtained from the form, a total of 96.5% of participants (1356 individuals) filled out the Erasmus+ program, while 1% (18 individuals) completed the ESC program, 3% (41 individuals) attended ESN events, and 1.5% (20 individuals) selected other programs. These data indicate the distribution of participation in various mobility programs and reveal which programs students are more inclined towards.



According to the responses obtained from the form, 96.5% of the total participants opted for the Erasmus+ program. Through detailed research to determine the specific types of Erasmus+ programs in which these participants were involved, it was found that 2.95% (40 individuals) participated in Erasmus+ projects, 12.32% (167 individuals) in Erasmus+ internships, and 84.73% (1149 individuals) in Erasmus+ exchange programs.

These data indicate that students predominantly prefer the Erasmus+ program and participate in various types of it. Particularly noteworthy is the significant majority of participants engaging in Erasmus+ exchange programs, reflecting a keen interest among students in international exchange opportunities.

## 2.1. Passport Types

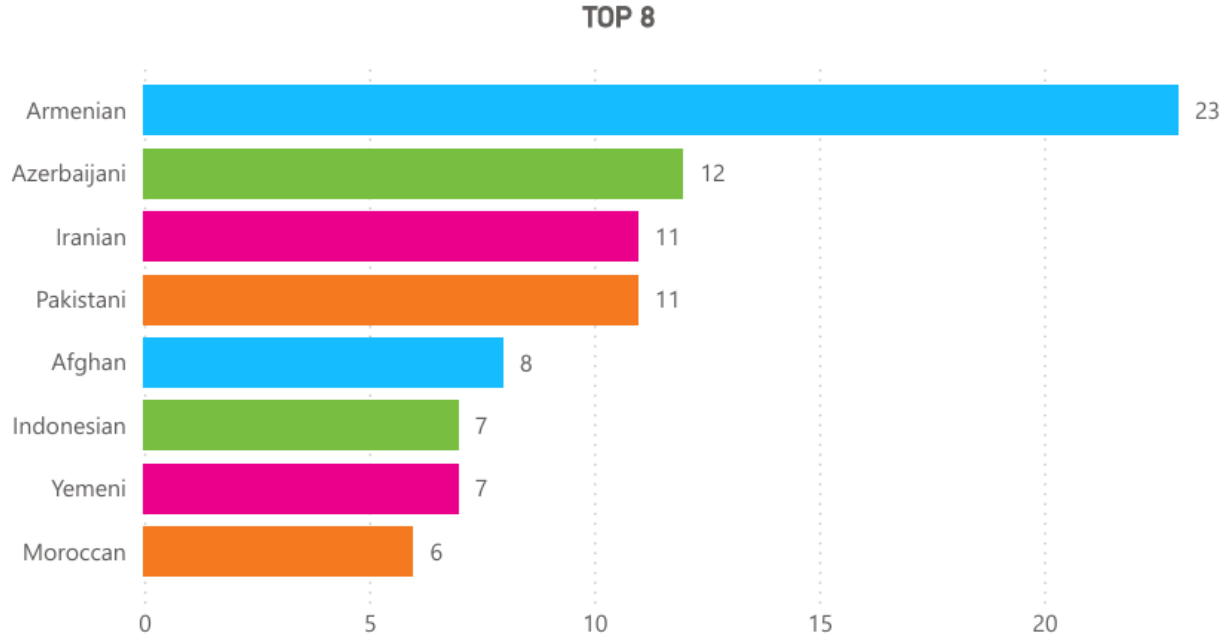


According to the responses obtained from the form, in terms of participants holding regular passports in the Erasmus+ program, the number stands at %77.29 (1038 individuals), while %22.34 (300 individuals) hold special passports, and %0.37 (5 individuals) hold service passports. For the ESC program, %55.56 (10 individuals) participants hold regular passports, and %44.44 (8 individuals) holds special passports. Regarding attendance at ESN events, %60.98 (25 individuals) hold regular passports, and %34.15 (14 individuals) hold special passports, and %4.88 (2 individuals) hold service passports. Furthermore, for other programs, %90.0 (18 individuals) hold regular passports, while %10.0 (2 individual) holds a special passport.

These observations reveal the distribution of passport types among participants in different mobility programs. When represented as percentages, it illustrates the predominant use of regular passports across various programs, with varying proportions of individuals holding special passports. This data provides valuable insights into the passport preferences among participants in mobility programs.

## 2.2. Nationality Distribution

### 2.2.1 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The Erasmus+ Programme



According to the responses obtained from the survey, the nationality distribution of individuals participating in the Erasmus+ program is as follows:

Armenian: 23 (1.8%), Azerbaijani: 12 (0.9%), Iranian: 11 (0.8%), Pakistani: 11 (0.8%)

Afghan: 8 (0.6%), Indonesian: 7 (0.5%), Yemeni: 7 (0.5%), Moroccan: 6 (0.4%)

Colombian: 4 (0.3%), Egyptian: 4 (0.3%), German: 4 (0.3%), Iraqi: 4 (0.3%)

Ghanaian: 3 (0.2%), Jordanian: 3 (0.2%), Russian: 3 (0.2%), Sudanese: 3 (0.2%)

Syrian: 3 (0.2%), Tunisian: 3 (0.2%), Albanian: 2 (0.1%), Algerian: 2 (0.1%)

American: 2 (0.1%), Gambian: 2 (0.1%), Georgian: 2 (0.1%), Kyrgyzstan: 2 (0.1%)

Lebanese: 2 (0.1%), Liberian: 2 (0.1%), Libyan: 2 (0.1%), Mauritanian: 2 (0.1%)

Palestinian: 2 (0.1%), Polish: 2 (0.1%), Somali: 2 (0.1%), Uzbekistani: 2 (0.1%)

Brazilian: 1 (0.1%), British: 1 (0.1%), Burundian: 1 (0.1%), Chadian: 1 (0.1%)

Czech Republic: 1 (0.1%), Ethiopian: 1 (0.1%), Filipino: 1 (0.1%), Guinea-Bissau: 1 (0.1%)

Indian: 1 (0.1%), Italian: 1 (0.1%), Japanese: 1 (0.1%), Kenyan: 1 (0.1%)

Namibian: 1 (0.1%), Nigerian: 1 (0.1%), Rwandan: 1 (0.1%), Saudi Arabian: 1 (0.1%)

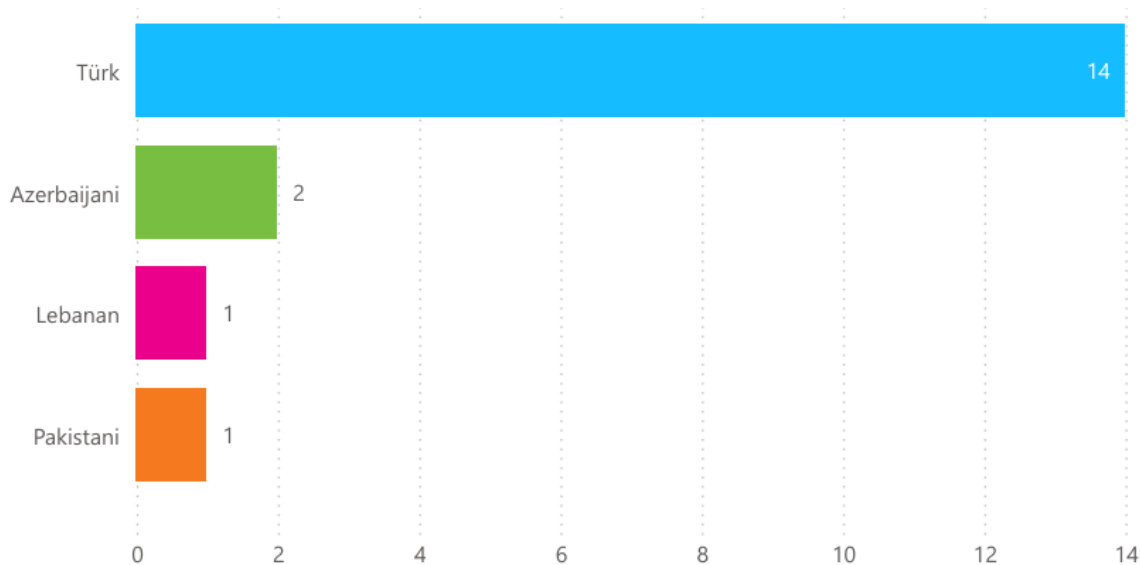


Senegalese: 1 (0.1%), Slovakian: 1 (0.1%), Thai: 1 (0.1%), Togolese: 1 (0.1%)

Ugandan: 1 (0.1%), Zimbabwean: 1 (0.1%), Türk: 1181 (87.9%),

These statistics provide valuable insights into the diversity of nationalities among participants in the Erasmus+ program. The majority of participants are Turkish, making up 87.9% of the total respondents, with various other nationalities representing smaller proportions of the total.

### 2.2.2 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The ESC Programme

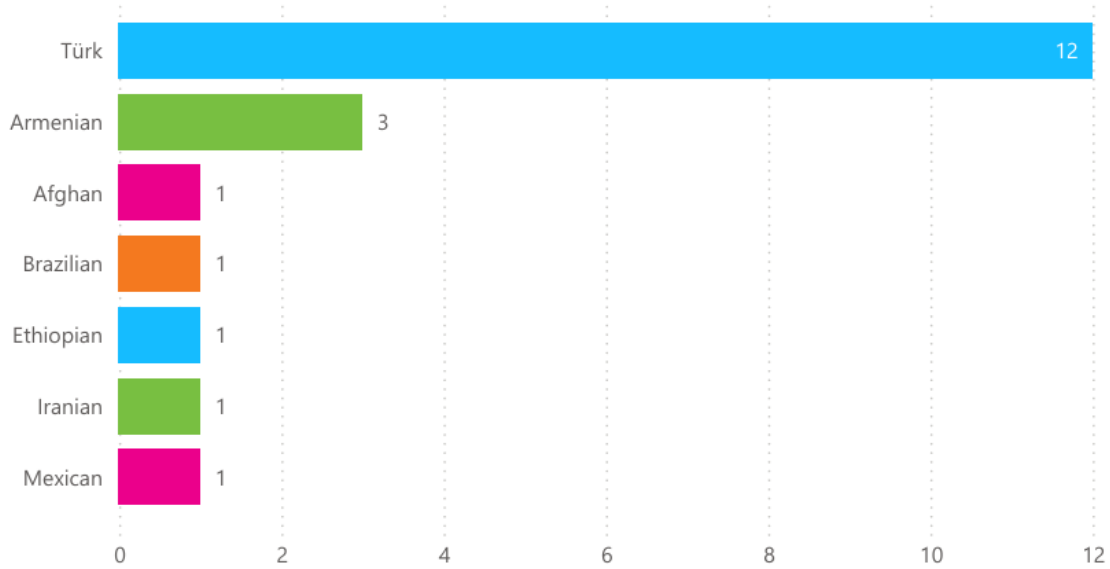


According to the responses obtained from the survey, the nationality distribution of individuals participating in the ESC program is as follows:

Turkish: 14 (78.6%), Azerbaijani: 2 (14.3%), Lebanese: 1 (7.1%), Pakistani: 1 (7.1%)

These observations indicate that the majority of participants in the ESC program are Turkish, comprising 78.6% of the total respondents. Azerbaijani, Lebanese, and Pakistani nationals each constitute 7.1% of the participants. This data highlights the representation of diverse nationalities within the ESC program, with Turkish nationals making up the largest group.

### 2.2.3 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The Other Programs



According to the responses obtained from the survey, the nationality distribution of individuals participating in other mobility programs is as follows:

Turkish: 12 (56.3%), Armenian: 3 (18.8%), Afghan: 1 (6.3%), Brazilian: 1 (6.3%)

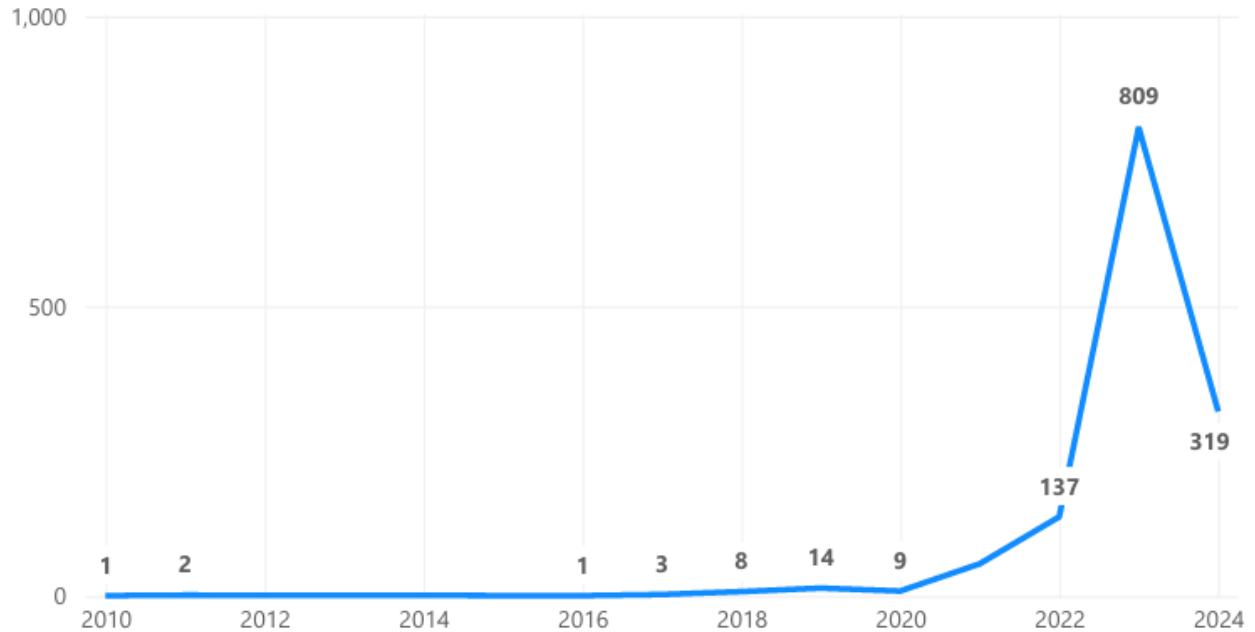
Ethiopian: 1 (6.3%), Iranian: 1 (6.3%), Mexican: 1 (6.3%)

These observations reveal that the majority of participants in other mobility programs are Turkish, comprising 56.3% of the total respondents. Armenian nationals represent 18.8% of participants, while Afghan, Brazilian, Ethiopian, Iranian, and Mexican nationals each constitute 6.3%. This data sheds light on the diverse nationalities represented among participants in other mobility programs, with Turkish nationals being the predominant group.

### 2.2.4 Nationality Distribution of People Participating in The ESN Events

Analysed responses from the survey indicate that all participants in ESN Events are of Turkish nationality. This observation underscores the homogeneous composition of nationalities among individuals engaging in ESN Events, with Turkish nationals representing the entire cohort. This data highlights the strong involvement of Turkish students in ESN Events, suggesting a significant level of participation and interest within this demographic.

### 2.3. Time Scale of Participation in Programs



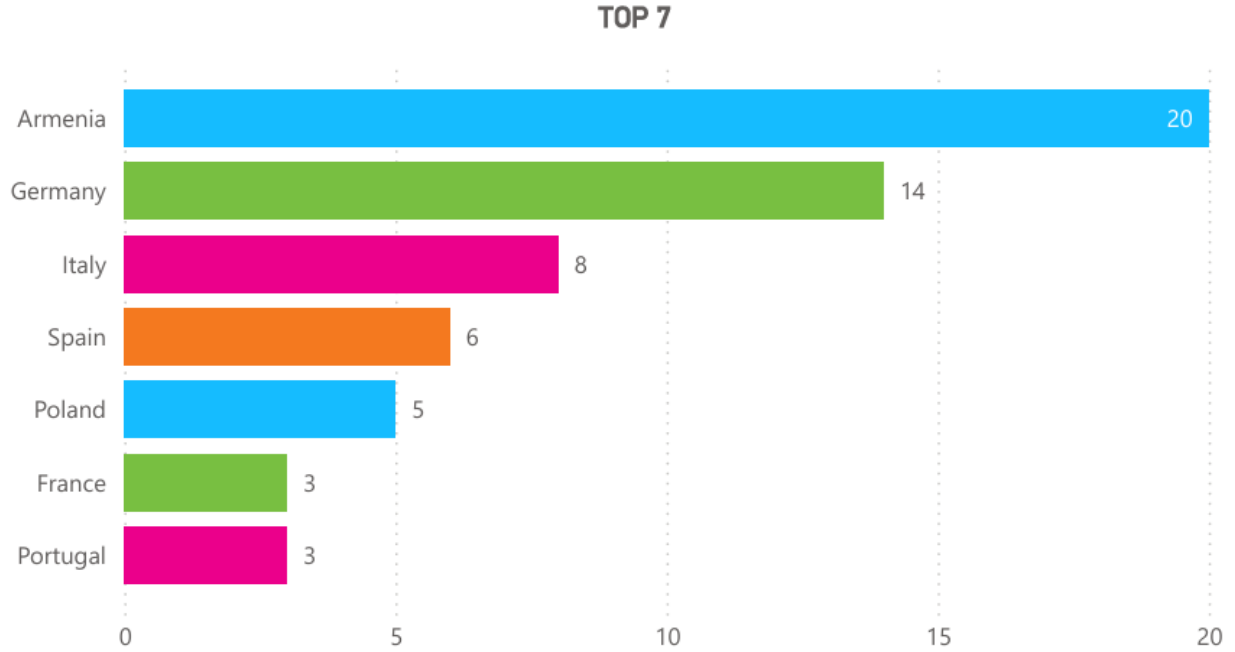
In terms of Erasmus+ participation, I found that there was 1 participant in 2010, 2 in 2011, 1 in 2016, 3 in 2017, 6 in 2018, 14 in 2019, 8 in 2020, 54 in 2021, 130 in 2022, 787 in 2023, and 316 in 2024. For ESC participation, there was 1 participant in 2018, 1 in 2020, 3 in 2022, and 13 in 2023. In the case of other programmes, there was 1 participant in 2018, 2 in 2021, 4 in 2022, 9 in 2023, and 3 in 2024.

When comparing these figures as percentages, I observed that participants in Erasmus+ accounted for 58.2% of the total, ESC participants made up 1.8%, ESN Events participants comprised 0.8%, and participants in other programmes constituted 0.4%. Additionally, there was a notable increase in the number of participants in the Erasmus+ programme over time, particularly in 2023, although there was a slight decrease in 2024. Participation in the ESC programme also saw an increase, while participation in other programmes remained relatively stable.

## 2.4. Country Distribution

### 2.4.1. Home Countries of Students

#### 2.4.1.1. Home Countries of Students for Erasmus+ Program)



Upon examining the country distribution of students participating in the Erasmus+ program, we found that the highest participation was from Türkiye, with 1296 students (97.5%). Following this, there were 24 students (1.8%) from Armenia, 4 students (0.3%) from Italy, 3 students from Germany, and 2 students (0.2%) from Colombia. These findings indicate that the majority of students participating in the Erasmus+ program are from Türkiye.

Additionally, the distribution of students by their sending institutions is as follows:

Armenia: 20 students, Germany: 14 students, Italy: 8 students, Spain: 6 students

Poland: 5 students, France: 3 students, Portugal: 3 students, Austria: 2 students

Colombia: 2 students, Czech Republic: 2 students, Hungary: 2 students, Lithuania: 2 students

Slovenia: 2 students, Brazil: 1 student, Georgia: 1 student, Greece: 1 student, Japan: 1 student

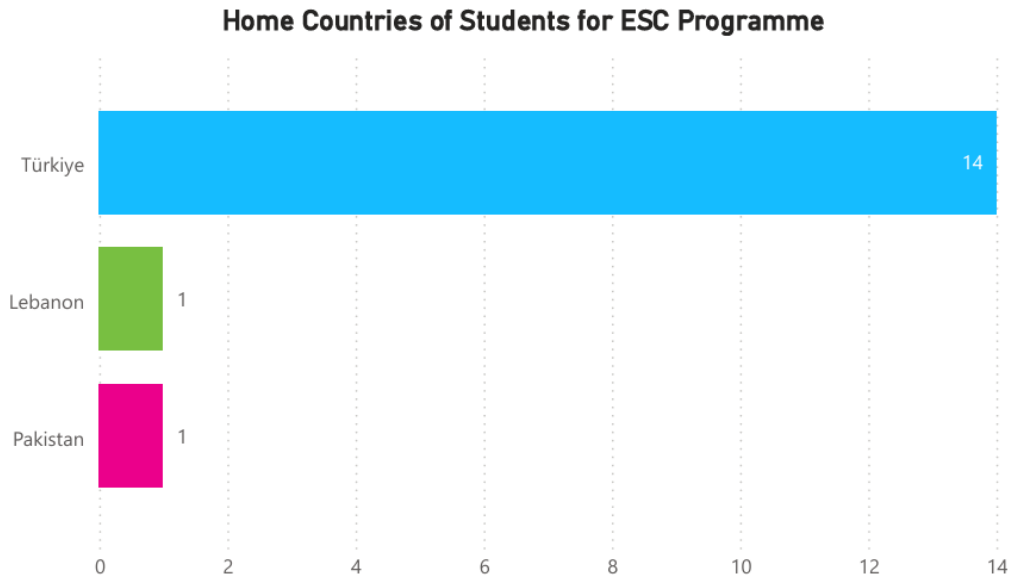
Jordan: 1 student, Latvia: 1 student, Namibia: 1 student, Netherlands: 1 student,

Pakistan: 1 student, Philippines: 1 student, Romania: 1 student, Sweden: 1 student

United Kingdom: 1 student

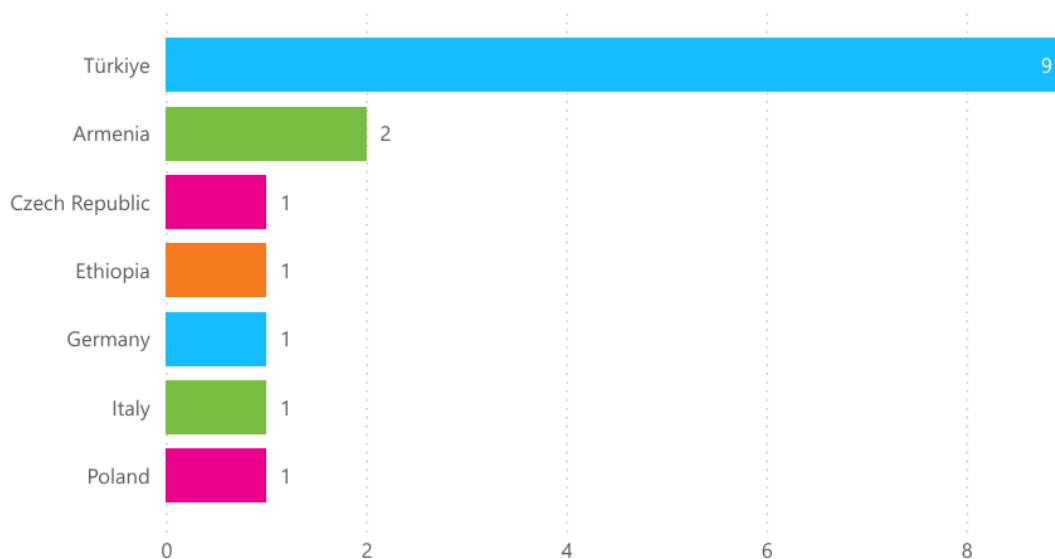
This data highlights the diverse range of sending institutions represented by the Erasmus+ program participants. However, Turkish institutions remain the dominant source of students

#### 2.4.1.2. Home Countries of Students for ESC Program



Upon analysing the country distribution of students participating in the ESC programme, it is evident that the majority of participants are from **Türkiye**, comprising **14 students (78.6%)**. Additionally, there is **one student each** from **Lebanon (7.1%)** and **Pakistan (7.1%)**. These findings underscore the significant representation of Turkish students in the ESC programme, with a small presence from Lebanon and Pakistan.

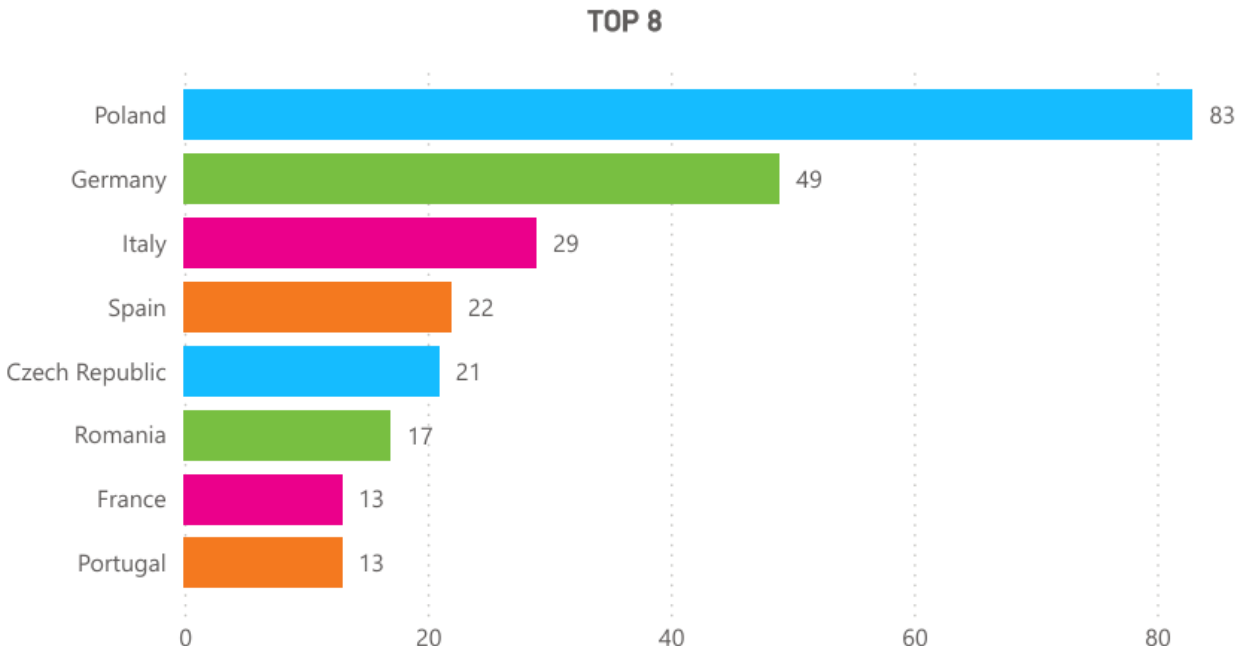
#### 2.4.1.3. Home Countries of Students for Other Programs



Upon examining the country distribution of students participating in other mobility programs, it is notable that the majority of participants are from **Türkiye**, accounting for **9 students** (60.0%). Furthermore, there are **2 students** from **Armenia** (13.3%), and **1 student** each from **Czech Republic** (6.7%), **Ethiopia** (6.7%), **Germany** (6.7%), **Italy** (6.7%), and **Poland** (6.7%). This data highlights the significant representation of Turkish students in other mobility programs, with smaller contributions from a variety of countries.

## 2.4.2. Host Countries of Students

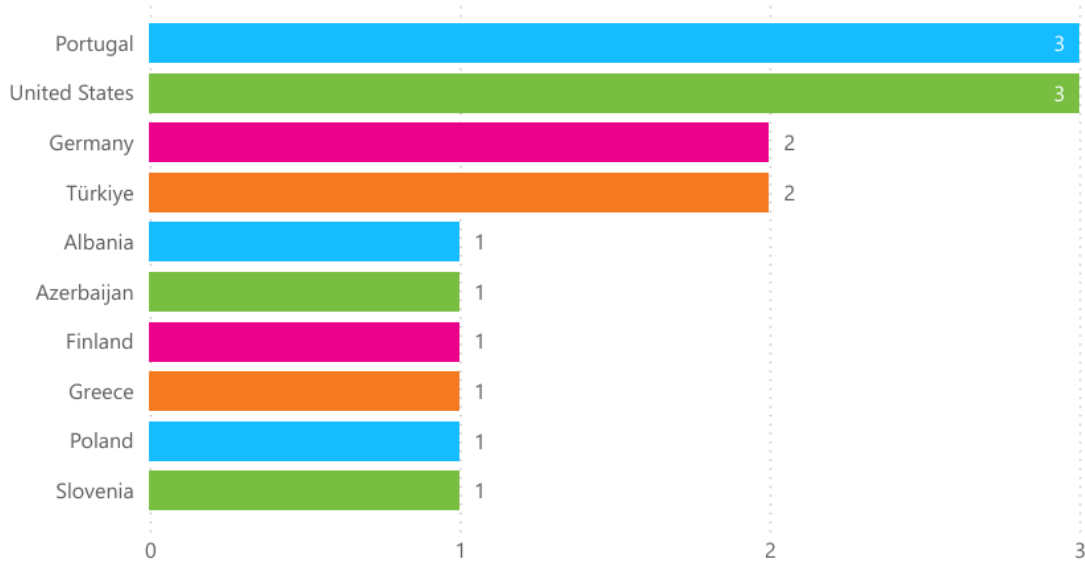
### 2.4.2.1. Host Countries of Students for Erasmus+ Programme



Upon analysing the host country distribution of students participating in the Erasmus+ program, it is evident that **Poland** hosts the highest number of students, with **83 individuals** (24.4%). Following closely, **Germany** accommodates **49 students** (15.7%), while **Italy** hosts **29 students** (10.6%). Additionally, **Spain** and the **Czech Republic** host **22** (6.3%) and **21** (5.4%) students, respectively. These top five host countries collectively account for **62.4%** of the total participants in the Erasmus+ program. The remaining participants are distributed across various other countries, with **Romania**, **France**, and **Portugal** also hosting significant numbers of students.

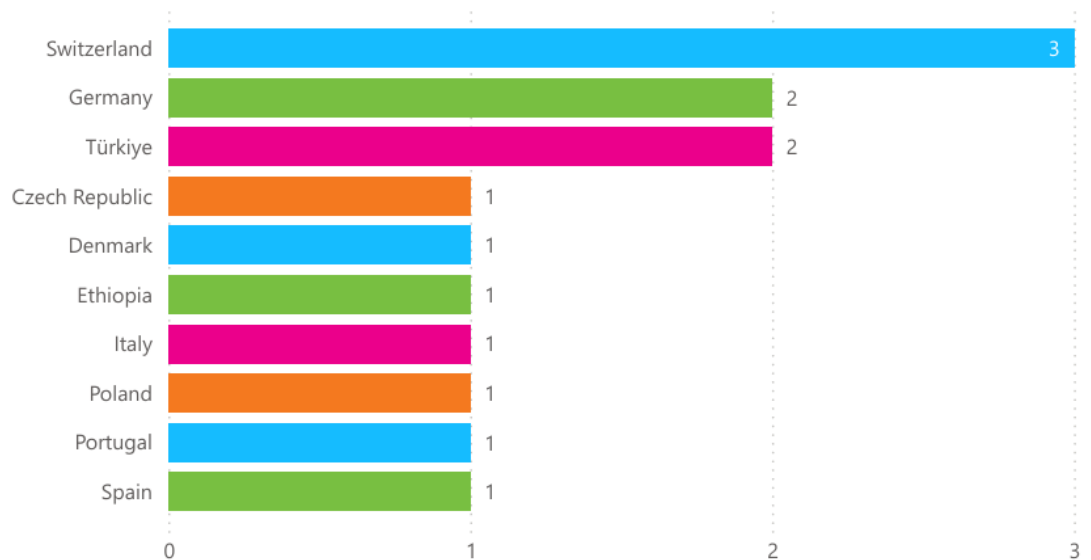


#### 2.4.2.2. Host Countries of Students for ESC Programme (Top 5)



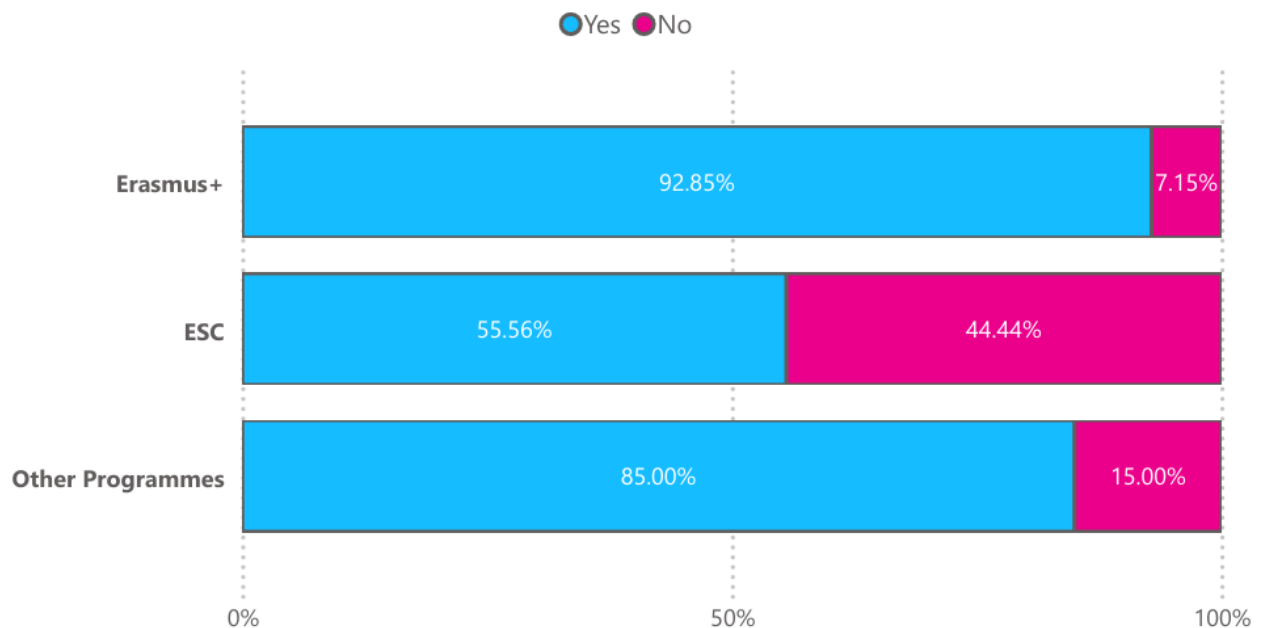
In the ESC program, **Portugal** is the primary host with **3** students (66.7%), followed by **the United States** with **3** students, and **Germany** with **2** students (16.7% each). **Türkiye** also hosts **2** students, while other countries like **Albania**, **Azerbaijan**, **Finland**, **Greece**, **Poland**, and **Slovenia** each host **1** student.

#### 2.4.2.3. Host Countries of Students for Other Program's (Top 5)



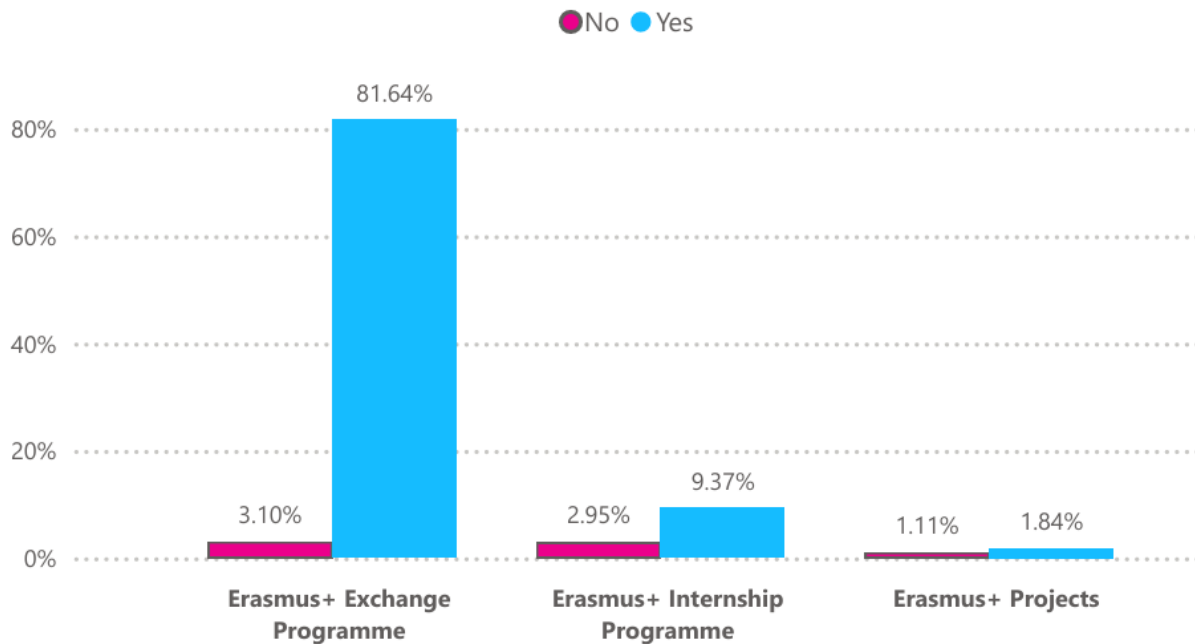
Upon analysing the host country distribution of students participating in other mobility programs, it is evident that **Germany** hosts the highest number of students, with **2** individuals (20%). Following this, **Switzerland** and the **United States** each host **2** students (20%). Additionally, **South Africa**, **Portugal**, and **Poland** host **1** student each (10% each). These top five host countries collectively account for 100% of the total participants in other mobility programs.

## 2.5. Long-Term Visa Requirement



The investigation into long-term visa requirements reveals varying needs among participants across different mobility programs. For the Erasmus+ program, the majority of respondents, totalling 1259 individuals (92.85%), indicated a necessity for long-term visas, while 97 individuals (7.15%) stated otherwise. In contrast, for the ESC program, 10 participants (55.56%) reported a requirement for long-term visas, while 8 participants (44.44%) did not. Similarly, in other mobility programs, 17 individuals (85%) confirmed the need for long-term visas, while 3 individuals (15%) did not. These findings underscore the significance of addressing long-term visa requirements, particularly for participants in the Erasmus+ program, to facilitate smoother mobility experiences.

### 2.5.1. Long-Term Visa Requirement for Types of Erasmus+ Programs

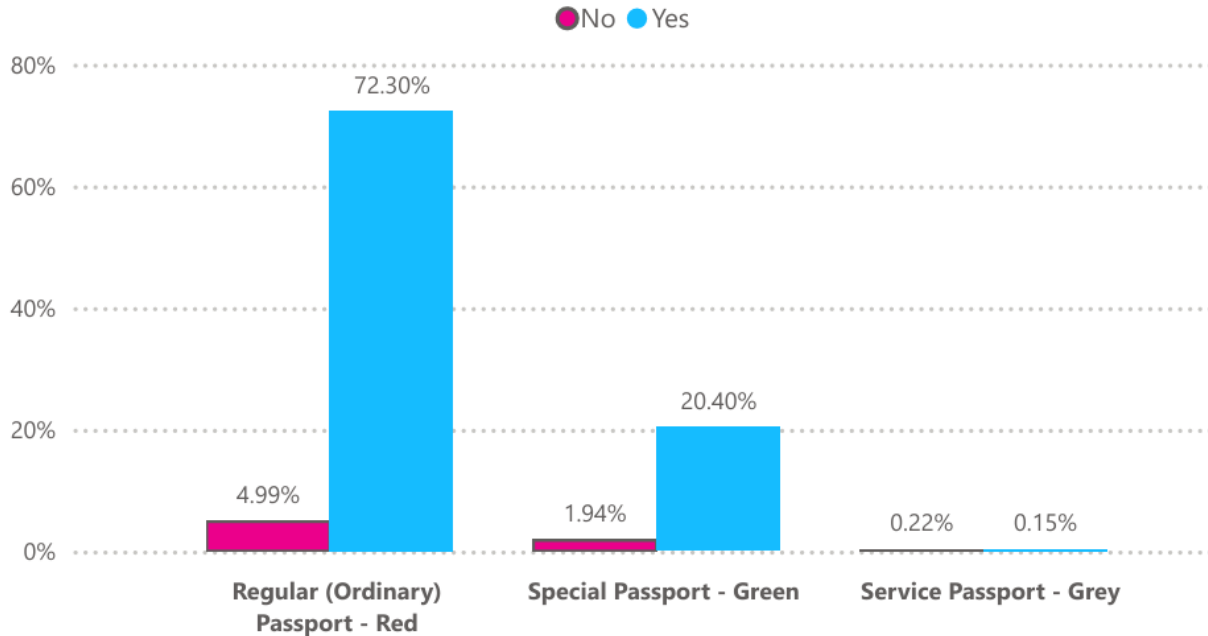


The survey delved into the necessity of long-term visas among participants in various Erasmus+ programs. For the Erasmus+ Exchange program, out of 1149 respondents, 1107 individuals (96.4%) expressed a need for long-term visas, while 42 individuals (3.6%) did not.

In the Erasmus+ Internship program, 127 out of 167 participants (76.5%) reported requiring long-term visas, whereas 40 participants (23.5%) did not.

Lastly, in the Erasmus+ Projects category, 25 out of 40 respondents (65.8%) confirmed the need for long-term visas, while 15 respondents (39.5%) did not. These findings underscore the significance of addressing long-term visa requirements across different Erasmus+ programs to ensure smoother mobility experiences.

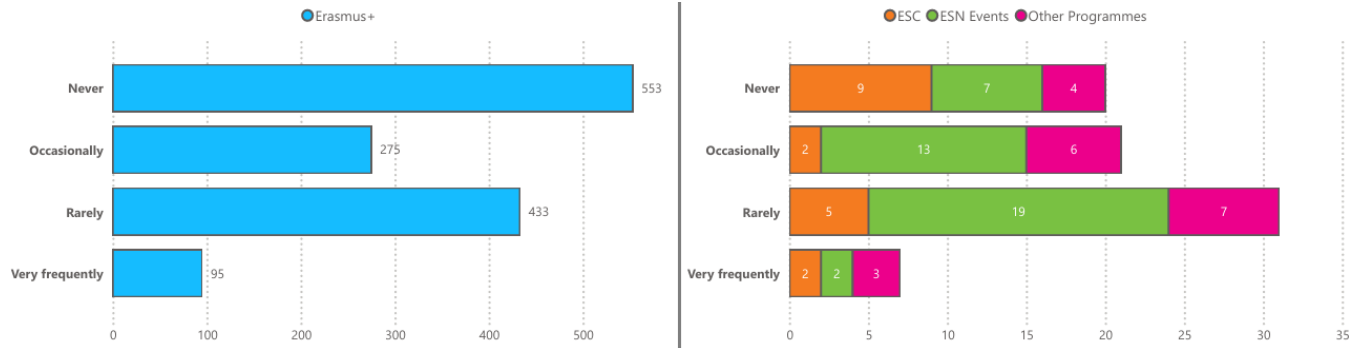
### 2.5.2. Long-Term Visa Requirement Types of Passports for Erasmus+ Programme



The analysis of passport types among respondents in the Erasmus+ program revealed notable insights. Among participants with regular passports, a significant majority, constituting 93.5%, or 971 individuals, affirmed possessing a regular passport, while a smaller fraction of 6.5%, or 67 individuals, indicated otherwise. On the other hand, for participants with special passports, 91.6% (274 individuals) confirmed holding a special passport, while 8.4% (26 individuals) reported otherwise. Moreover, a minimal percentage of participants, comprising 0.6%, or 2 individuals, reported having both regular and special passports, with only 0.3%, or 3 individuals, stating otherwise.

These findings highlight the predominance of regular passports among Erasmus+ participants and the noteworthy presence of special passports, indicating a diverse demographic within the program. Such insights contribute to a better understanding of the passport landscape among non-EU students participating in mobility programs.

## 2.6. Travel Experiences Beyond Program's



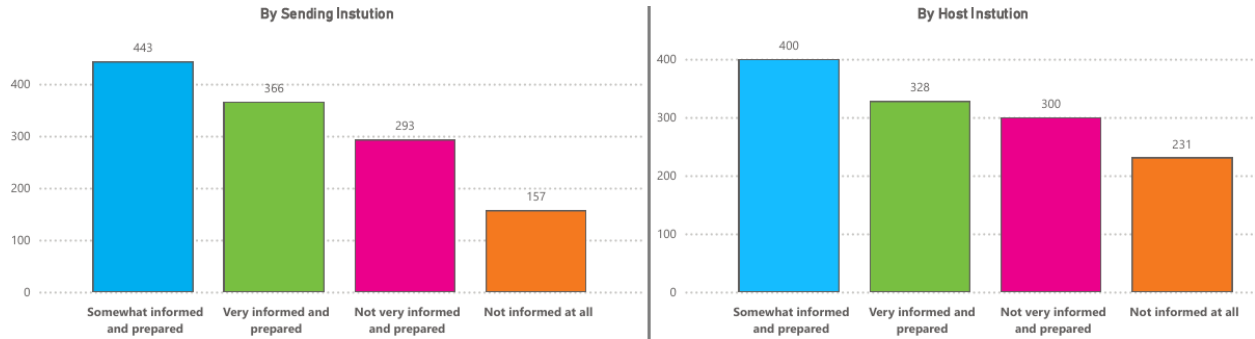
The report examines the travel habits of students participating in mobility programs outside of their programs. Among Erasmus+ program participants, a total of 553 individuals (48.5%) indicated that they never travel, while 275 individuals (24.0%) stated that they occasionally travel, 433 individuals (37.7%) rarely travel, and 95 individuals (8.3%) travel quite frequently. Among ESC program participants, 9 individuals (75.0%) stated that they never travel, 2 individuals (16.7%) occasionally travel, 5 individuals (41.7%) rarely travel, and 2 individuals (16.7%) travel very frequently. Among participants of ESN events, 7 individuals (30.4%) stated that they never travel, 13 individuals (56.5%) occasionally travel, 19 individuals (43.5%) rarely travel, and 2 individuals (8.7%) travel very frequently. Among participants of other programs, 4 individuals (28.6%) stated that they never travel, 6 individuals (42.9%) occasionally travel, 7 individuals (50.0%) rarely travel, and 3 individuals (21.4%) travel very frequently.

These data indicate that the travel habits of students participating in mobility programs vary widely across different programs.

### 3. VISA PROCESS

#### 3.1. Level Of Information During the Visa Process

##### 3.1.1. Level Of Information During the Visa Process for Erasmus+ Programme



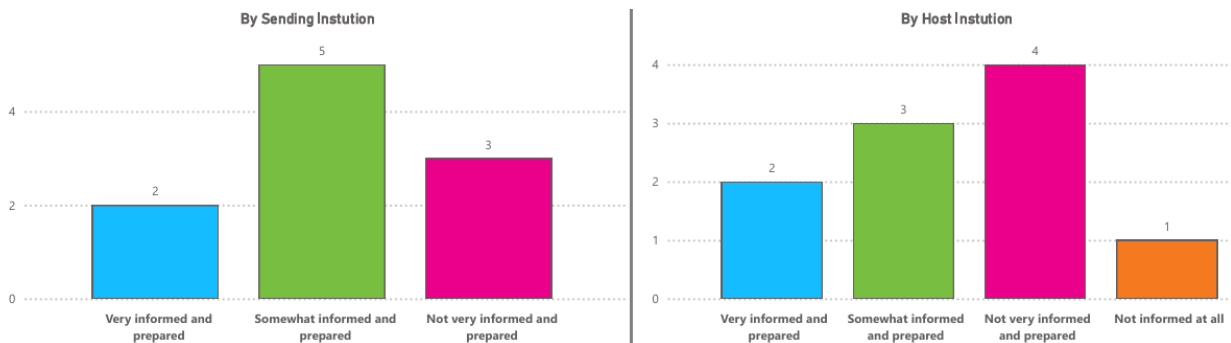
Upon examination of the levels of information provision and preparedness among students participating in the Erasmus+ program, various levels of information and preparedness emerge. When the level of information provision by the sending institution is considered, 12.3% (157 participants) indicated that they were not informed at all, while 22.7% (293 participants) stated that they were not very informed and prepared. The highest proportion in terms of information provision and preparedness levels is 34.4% (443 participants), falling into the category of "somewhat informed and prepared." A segment of 27.6% (366 participants) also expressed that they were very informed and prepared by the sending institution.

In terms of the level of information provision by the host institution, 18.0% (231 participants) indicated that they were not informed at all, while 23.4% (300 participants) stated that they were not sufficiently informed and prepared. 29.4% (400 participants) mentioned that they were somewhat informed and prepared. The highest proportion, at 25.2% (328 participants), falls into the category of "very well informed and prepared."

These findings underscore the significance of the information provision and preparedness levels provided by sending and host institutions during students' participation in the Erasmus+ program. A good information and preparedness process can enable students to derive maximum benefit from the program and minimize potential issues. Therefore, it is crucial for both sending and host institutions to focus on improving their information and preparedness processes.

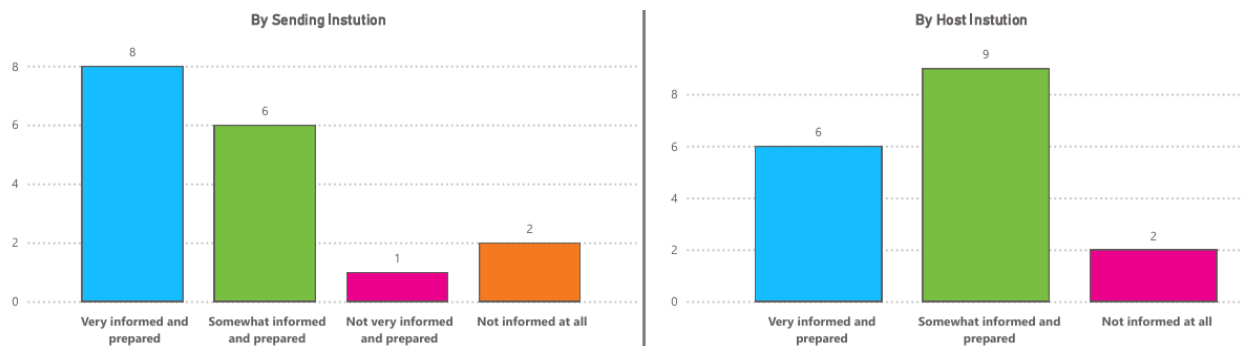


### 3.1.2. Level Of Information During the Visa Process for ESC Programme



The examination of information provision and preparedness for ESC program participants shows that both sending and host institutions provide high levels of support. All students reported being at least partially informed and prepared by the sending institution, with 50% (5 participants) indicating they were somewhat informed, and 20% (2 participants) very well informed. Similarly, for the host institution, 30% (3 participants) were somewhat informed, 20% (2 participants) very well informed, and 40% (4 participants) reported being not very informed. These findings highlight the strong support students receive from both institutions, which helps them maximize the benefits of the program.

### 3.1.3. Level Of Information During the Visa Process for Other Program's

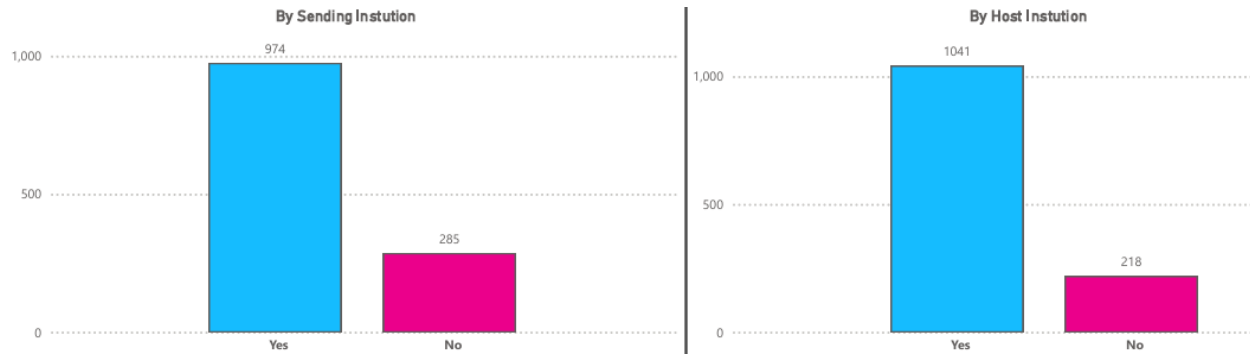


The levels of information provision and preparedness among students in other mobility programs show variation. For the sending institution, 27% (2 individuals) reported not being informed at all, while 73% (6 individuals) felt somewhat or very informed. Similarly, 18% (2 individuals) felt uninformed by the host institution, with 82% (8 individuals) reporting adequate information and preparedness.

These findings highlight the varying levels of support students receive, suggesting a need for more consistent information provision from both sending and host institutions to enhance the mobility experience.

## 3.2. Support From Institutions on Visa Process

### 3.2.1. Support From Institutions on Visa Process for Erasmus+ Programme

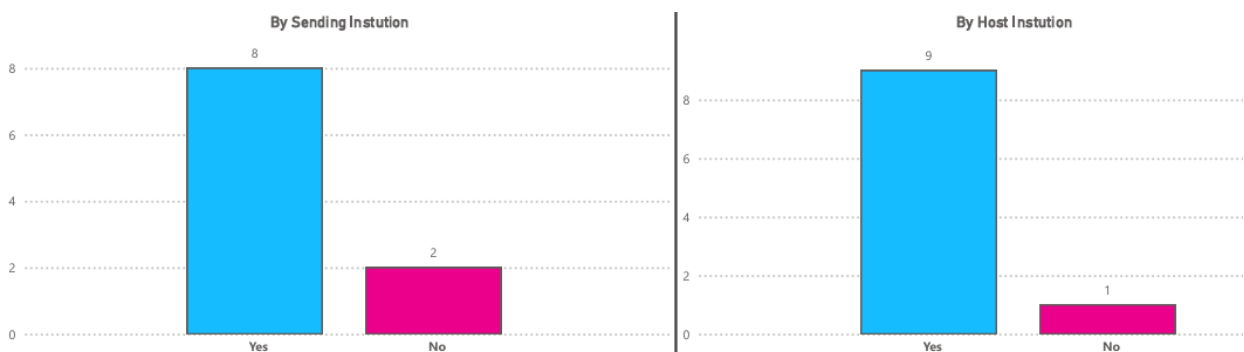


Upon examination of the support received by students participating in the Erasmus+ program, it becomes evident that the level of support provided by both sending and host institutions is crucial. When evaluating whether they received adequate support from the sending institution, 77.4% of students (974 individuals) responded with "yes," while 22.6% (285 individuals) chose "no."

A similar trend is observed in the assessment of support provided by the host institution. 82.9% (1041 individuals) responded with "yes," while 17.1% (218 individuals) selected "no."

These findings indicate that the majority of students participating in the Erasmus+ program are satisfied with the support provided by both sending and host institutions. However, there remains a significant minority expressing concerns, particularly regarding the support from the sending institution. Therefore, there may be a need for further development and improvement of the support processes.

### 3.2.2. Support From Institutions on Visa Process for ESC Program

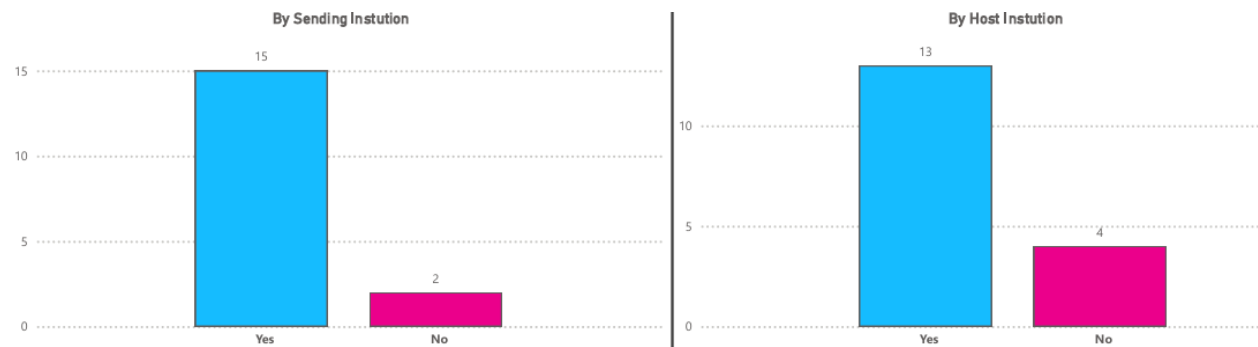


Upon examining the evaluations of support provided by both sending and host institutions among students participating in the ESC program, it is generally observed that satisfaction levels are high. In the assessment of support provided by the sending institution, 80% of students (8 individuals) responded with "yes," while 20% (2 individuals) preferred "no."

A similar trend is evident in the evaluation of support provided by the host institution. 90% (9 individuals) responded with "yes," while 10% (1 individual) chose "no."

These findings indicate that students participating in the ESC program are generally satisfied with the support provided by both sending and host institutions. However, as these data were obtained from a limited number of participants, caution should be exercised regarding the generalizability of the results.

### 3.2.3. Support From Institutions on Visa Process for Other Program's



Upon examination of the evaluations regarding the support provided by both sending and host institutions among students participating in other mobility programs, it is generally observed that satisfaction levels are high. In the assessment of support provided by the sending institution, 88% of students (15 individuals) responded with "yes," while 12% (2 individuals) preferred "no." A similar trend is evident in the evaluation of support provided by the host institution. 76% (13 individuals) responded with "yes," while 24% (4 individuals) chose "no."

These findings indicate that students participating in other mobility programs are generally satisfied with the support provided by both sending and host institutions. However, as these data were obtained from a limited number of participants, caution should be exercised regarding the generalizability of the results.

#### 3.2.4. Support From Institutions on Visa Process for ESN Events

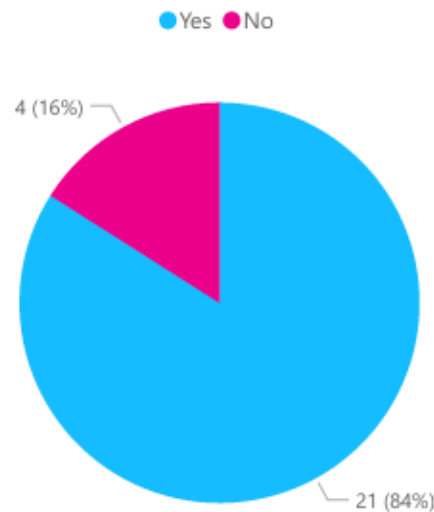


When evaluating whether they received sufficient support from program organizers to address visa-related challenges, opinions among participants who attended ESN events vary. According to the assessment, 52% (13 individuals) responded with "yes," while 48% (12 individuals) preferred "no."

These findings indicate that among students who participated in ESN events, there is no consensus on whether they received sufficient support from program organizers to address visa-related challenges. While 48% of participants expressed that they did not receive the expected support from program organizers, 52% believed they did.

These results underscore the necessity of establishing a more effective visa support mechanism in the planning and implementation of future ESN events.

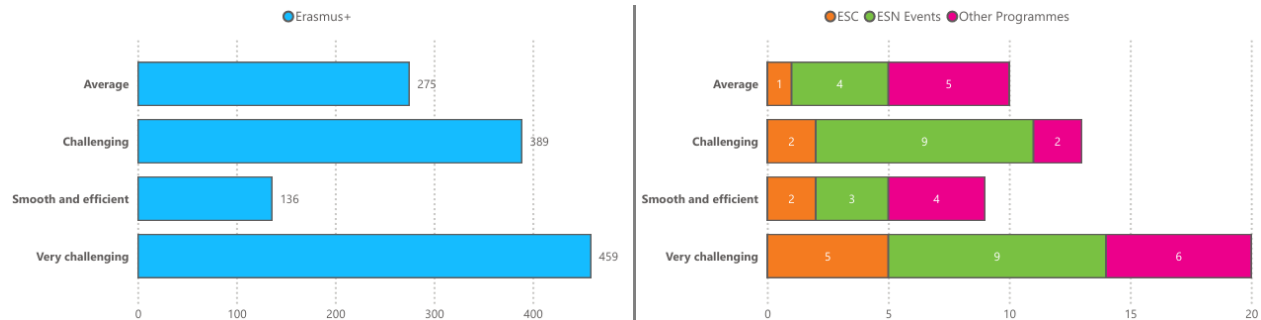
### 3.2.5. Additional Document Support from Institutions for ESN Event



When examining the views of participants attending ESN events regarding whether they received an invitation letter from the inviting institution, a predominantly positive picture emerges. According to the evaluation results, 84% (21 individuals) responded with "yes," while 16% (4 individuals) preferred "no."

These findings indicate that among participants attending ESN events, the majority believe they received an invitation letter from the inviting institution. However, these results are based on a limited number of participants, so caution should be exercised when generalizing.

### 3.3. Overall Experience About Visa Process



When examining the overall experiences regarding the visa process, the views of students participating in various mobility programs display diversity. For the Erasmus+ program, 23% (275 individuals) rated their experience as "average," 32% (389 individuals) found it "challenging," 10% (136 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 35% (459 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

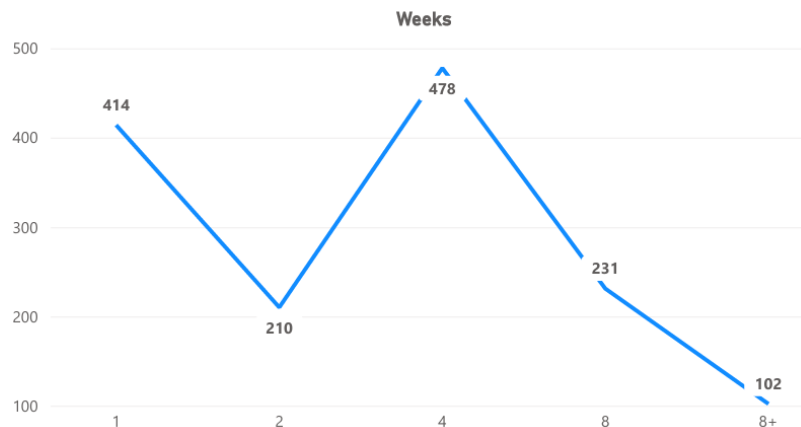
In the case of the ESC program, 25% of participants (1 individual) rated their experience as "average," 25% (2 individuals) found it "challenging," 25% (2 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 50% (5 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

For ESN events, 20% of participants (4 individuals) rated their experience as "average," 40% (9 individuals) found it "challenging," 15% (3 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 35% (9 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

Regarding other programs, 36% of participants (5 individuals) rated their experience as "average," 18% (2 individuals) found it "challenging," 27% (4 individuals) described it as "smooth and efficient," and 45% (6 individuals) considered it "very challenging."

These findings illustrate the diversity of experiences among students participating in different mobility programs regarding the visa process, with some finding it considerably challenging.

### 3.4. Visa Processing Duration



When evaluating the duration of the visa process, there is a diversity of experiences among students participating in different mobility programs.

Among those in the Erasmus+ program, 34% (414 individuals) indicated that their visa process lasted between 1-2 weeks, while 38% (478 individuals) stated it fell within the 4-week range. Additionally, 11% (210 individuals) reported a duration of 4-8 weeks, 8% (231 individuals) experienced 8 weeks or more, and 2% (50 individuals) spent more than 8 weeks on the process.

For participants in the ESC program, it is observed that visa processing times tend to be shorter. Half of the participants (3 individuals) reported a duration of 1-2 weeks, while the other half (3 individuals) stated it was between 2-4 weeks.

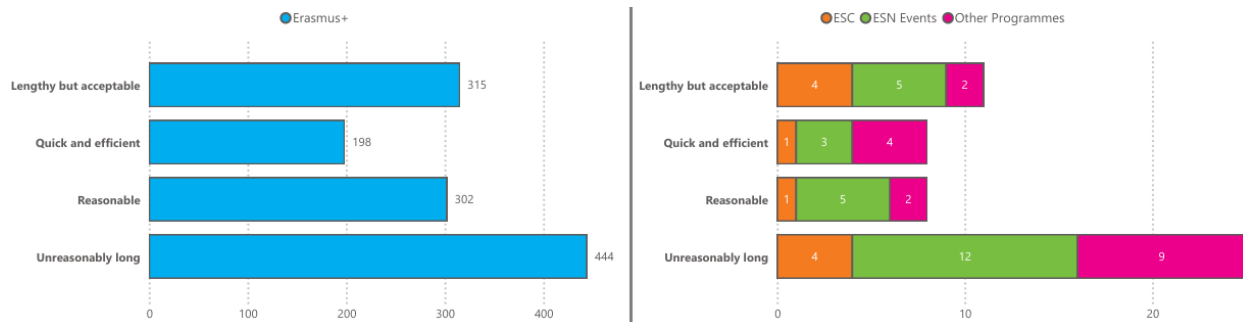
Similarly, among students in other mobility programs, a variety of visa processing times were noted. In this group, 40% (2 individuals) reported a duration of 1-2 weeks, 20% (1 individual)



experienced 2-4 weeks, 60% (3 individuals) faced 4-8 weeks, 20% (1 individual) encountered 8+ weeks, and 80% (4 individuals) had a process lasting 8+ weeks.

These findings underscore the variability in visa processing times experienced by students across different mobility programs, with some students encountering prolonged waits.

### 3.5. Visa Approval Time



Assessments regarding visa approval times vary among students participating in different mobility programs.

For students in the Erasmus+ program, 32% (315 individuals) described the process as "lengthy but acceptable," while 20% (198 individuals) found it "quick and efficient," 25% (302 individuals) deemed it "reasonable," and 23% (444 individuals) considered it "unreasonably long."

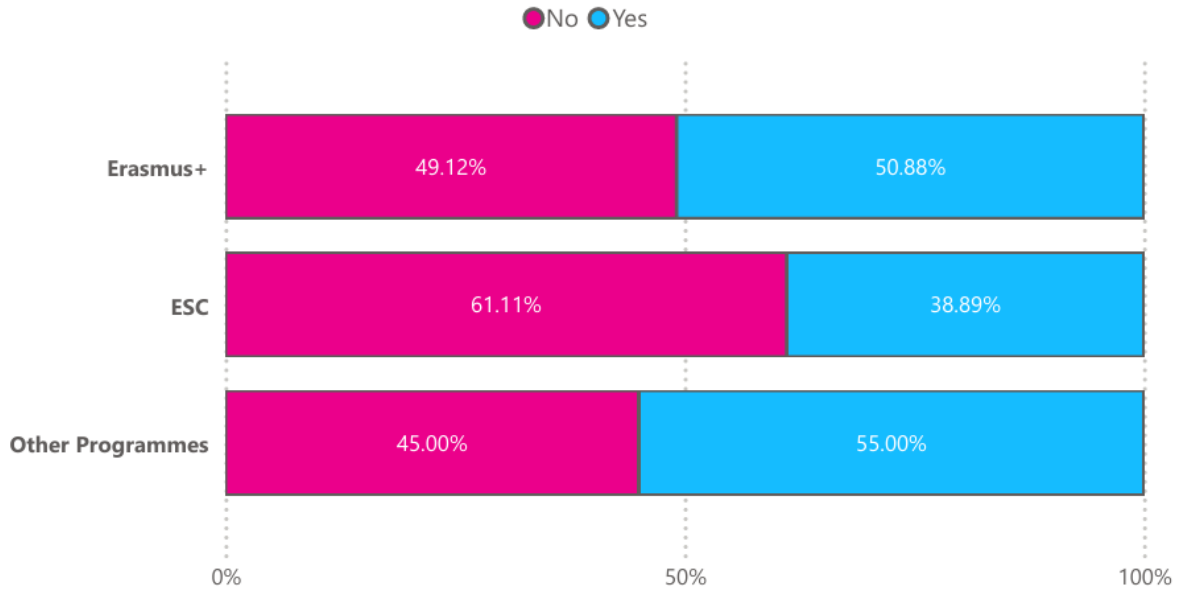
Among students in the ESC program, assessments were generally positive. Half of the participants (4 individuals) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," while the other half (4 individuals) perceived it as "quick and efficient." Additionally, 17% (1 individual) considered it "reasonable," and another 17% (1 individual) found it "unreasonably long."

Evaluations were predominantly negative among students in other mobility programs. In this group, 12% (2 individuals) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," 37% (4 individuals) described it as "quick and efficient," 25% (2 individuals) considered it "reasonable," and 25% (9 individuals) perceived it as "unreasonably long."

These findings highlight the variability in perceptions of visa approval times among students in different mobility programs and indicate that some students find the process to be lengthy.

## 4. OTHER NEEDED REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1. Residence Permit Requirement



Assessments regarding residence permit requirements show diversity among students participating in different mobility programs.

Among students in the Erasmus+ program, 51% (690 individuals) indicated having this requirement, while 49% (666 individuals) stated otherwise.

In the ESC program, this requirement appears to be less prevalent. Of the participants, 29% (7 individuals) reported having a residence permit requirement, while 71% (11 individuals) stated otherwise.

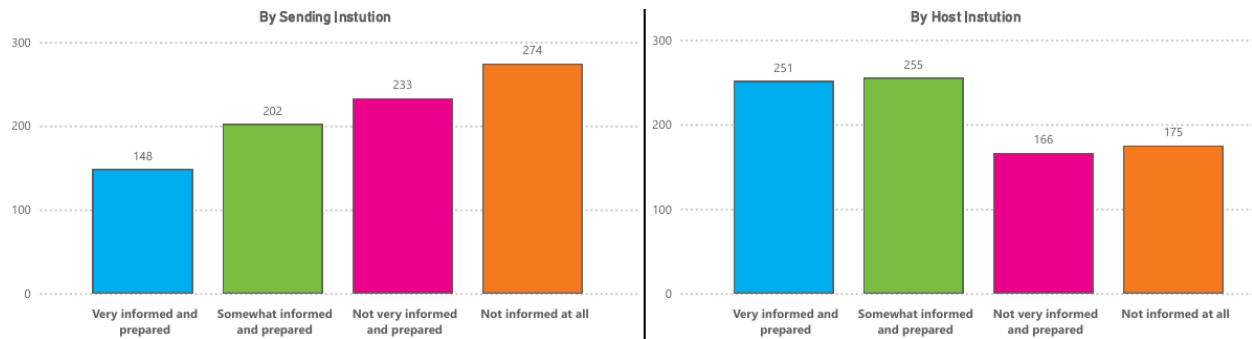
Among students participating in other mobility programs, this requirement seems to be more common. In this group, 56% (11 individuals) reported having a residence permit requirement, while 44% (9 individuals) stated otherwise.

These findings highlight the variation in residence permit requirements among students participating in different mobility programs.

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## 4.2. Level Of Information During the Residence Permit Process

### 4.2.1. Level Of Information During the Residence Permit Process for Erasmus+ Programme



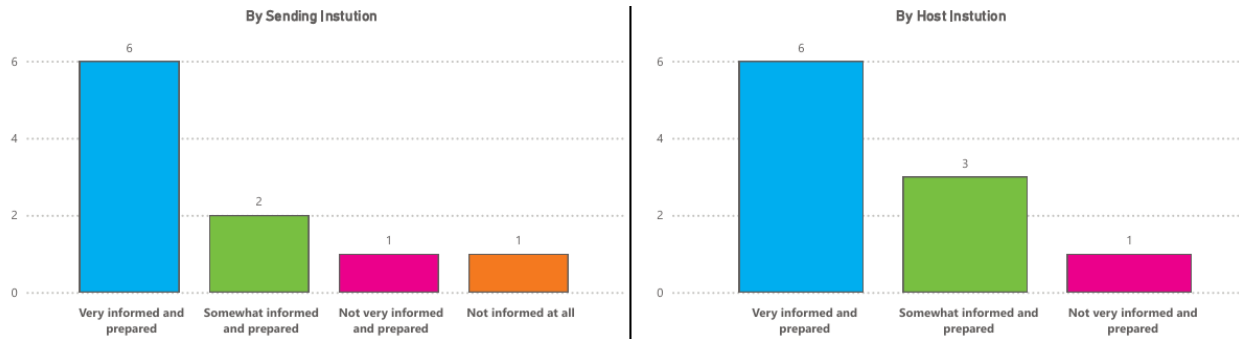
Residence permit process information evaluation among Erasmus+ participants reveals varying degrees of preparedness and awareness, both from sending and host institutions.

Regarding information provided by the sending institution, 37.8% (274 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, while 31.1% (233 individuals) felt very informed and prepared. However, a significant portion, 13.2% (274 individuals), stated they were not informed at all, and 24.8% (233 individuals) reported not feeling very informed and prepared.

Concerning information provided by the host institution, 39.5% (175 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, whereas 32.9% (166 individuals) felt very informed and prepared. However, 19.5% (229 individuals) stated they were not informed at all by the sending institution, and 25.1% (300 individuals) reported not feeling very informed and prepared.

These findings highlight that while a considerable number of Erasmus+ participants feel adequately informed and prepared by both sending and host institutions, there are still notable proportions who express dissatisfaction with the level of information provided. Ensuring comprehensive and clear communication channels from both institutions can enhance the overall experience and efficiency of the residence permit process for participants.

#### 4.2.2. Level Of Information During the Residence Permit Process for ESC Programme

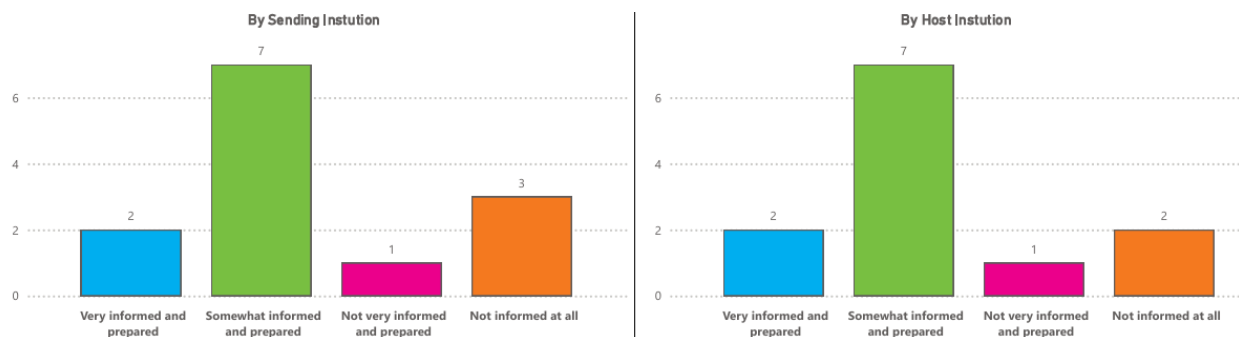


The assessment of the level of information during the residence permit process within the ESC program indicates that participants' perceptions vary.

Among respondents, 50% (3 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared by the sending institution, while another 50% (6 individuals) reported feeling very informed and prepared by the sending institution. Similarly, 50% (6 individuals) indicated being somewhat informed and prepared by the host institution, with another 50% (6 individuals) feeling very informed and prepared by the host institution.

These results suggest a balanced perception of the level of information and preparedness provided by both sending and host institutions among ESC program participants. Further insights could illuminate the effectiveness of information dissemination strategies for future planning and improvement.

#### 4.2.3. Level Of Information During the Residence Permit Process for Other Program's



The evaluation of the level of information during the residence permit process among participants in other mobility programs reveals varying perceptions. Regarding information provided by the sending institution, 16.7% (2 individuals) felt very informed and prepared, 58.3%

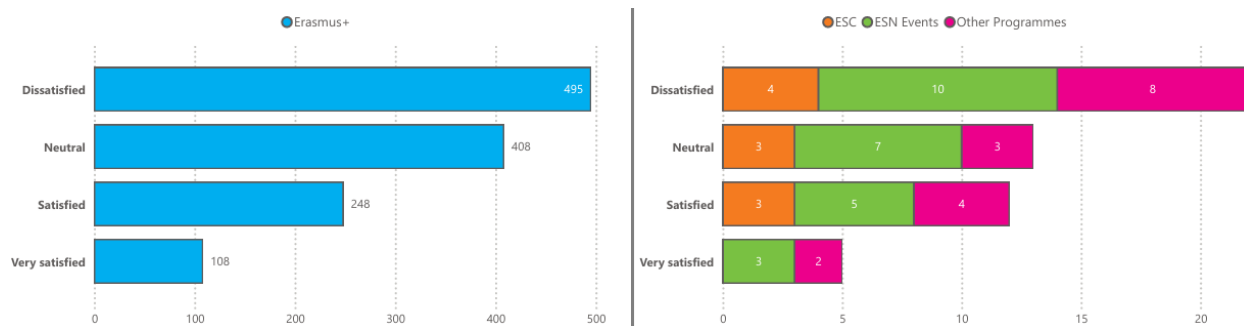
(7 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, 8.3% (1 individual) reported being not very informed and prepared, and 25% (3 individuals) stated they were not informed at all.

Concerning information provided by the host institution, 87.5% (7 individuals) felt somewhat informed and prepared, while 12.5% (1 individual) felt very informed and prepared. Additionally, 25% (2 individuals) stated they were not informed at all by the sending institution, and 12.5% (1 individual) reported being not very informed and prepared by the sending institution.

These findings suggest that while the majority of participants in other mobility programs feel somewhat informed and prepared by the host institution, there are mixed perceptions regarding the level of information provided by the sending institution. This underscores the importance of effective communication and support mechanisms from both sending and host institutions to ensure a smooth residence permit process for students participating in mobility programs.

## 5. SATISFACTION

### 5.1. Satisfaction About the Given Information



Satisfaction levels regarding the information provided vary across different mobility programs, indicating diverse experiences among participants.

For Erasmus+ participants, the responses are distributed as follows: 38.6% (495 individuals) expressed dissatisfaction, 31.9% (408 individuals) remained neutral, 19.4% (248 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and 10.1% (108 individuals) were very satisfied with the given information.

In the ESC program, all responses were generally positive, with no participants expressing dissatisfaction. 23.1% (3 individuals) remained neutral, 23.1% (3 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and none were very satisfied.

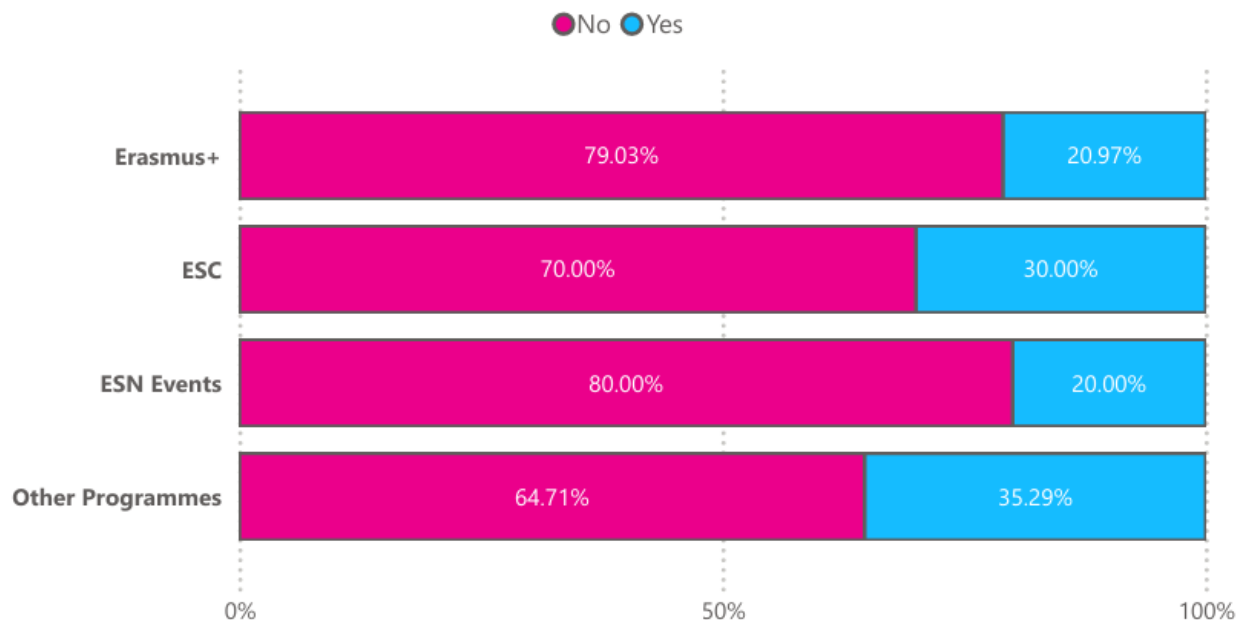
Regarding ESN Events, 28% (7 individuals) expressed dissatisfaction, the same percentage (7 individuals) remained neutral, 20% (5 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and 12% (3 individuals) were very satisfied.

In other mobility programs, 43.8% (7 individuals) expressed dissatisfaction, 12.5% (2 individuals) remained neutral, 18.8% (3 individuals) expressed satisfaction, and 12.5% (2 individuals) were very satisfied.

These results underscore the importance of tailored communication strategies and support mechanisms to address the varying information needs of participants across different mobility programs. Further efforts can be made to improve satisfaction levels, particularly among Erasmus+ and other program participants who expressed higher levels of dissatisfaction.

## 6. POTENTIAL SCENARIOS ARISING FROM VISA-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

### 6.1. Visa Rejection Alternative Plan



Visa rejection and the need for alternative plans in case of such rejections vary among participants across different mobility programs.



For Erasmus+ participants, the responses are as follows: 21% (264 individuals) indicated having alternative plans in case of visa rejection, while the majority, 79% (995 individuals), reported not having such plans.

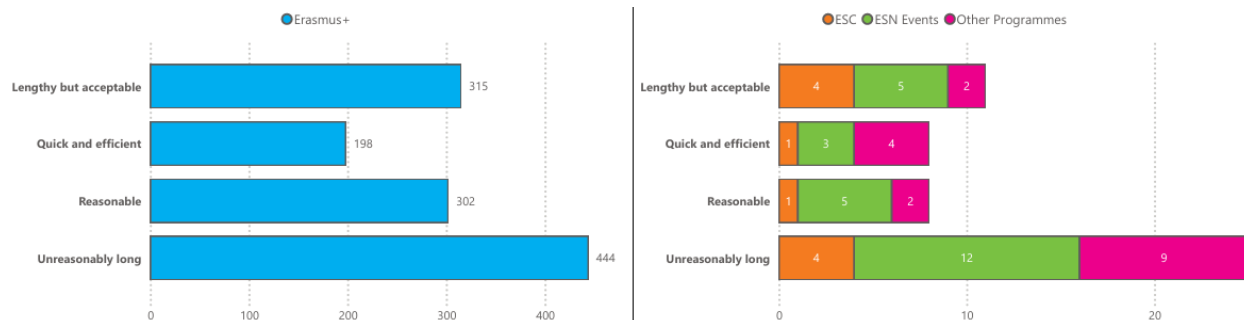
In the ESC program, 33.3% (3 individuals) stated having alternative plans, whereas 66.7% (7 individuals) did not have such plans.

For ESN Events, 22.7% (5 individuals) indicated having alternative plans, while 77.3% (20 individuals) reported not having them.

In other mobility programs, 21.4% (6 individuals) stated having alternative plans, whereas 78.6% (11 individuals) did not have them.

These results suggest that a considerable portion of participants across all programs do not have alternative plans in case of visa rejection. This underscores the importance of providing support and guidance to students to help them navigate visa-related challenges effectively and develop contingency plans where necessary.

## 6.2. Overall Visa Application Process Experience



The analysis of responses regarding the overall experience with the visa application process reveals varying perspectives among participants across different mobility programs.

Among Erasmus+ participants, the majority described the process as "unreasonably long," with 444 respondents (approximately 36%). Additionally, 315 individuals (around 26%) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," while 198 (approximately 16%) considered it "quick and efficient," and 302 (approximately 25%) deemed it "reasonable."

In contrast, ESC participants reported a less diverse range of experiences. Four respondents (around 57%) found the process "lengthy but acceptable," while one person (approximately 14%) described it as "quick and efficient" and another (approximately 14%) considered it "reasonable." One participant (around 14%) found it "unreasonably long."

For ESN Events attendees, opinions were more evenly distributed. Twelve participants (approximately 42%) regarded the process as "unreasonably long," followed by five individuals (around 17%) finding it "reasonable," and three respondents (around 10%) each describing it as "lengthy but acceptable" and "quick and efficient."

Participants in other mobility programs mostly viewed the process as "unreasonably long," with nine respondents (approximately 47%) expressing this sentiment. Four participants (around 21%) found it "quick and efficient," two (approximately 10%) considered it "reasonable," and two (around 10%) described it as "lengthy but acceptable."

These findings illustrate the varied experiences of participants in navigating the visa application process across different mobility programs. While some perceive the process as manageable or efficient, a significant proportion encountered challenges, particularly regarding the duration of the process.

### 6.3. Visa Rejection Reasons for Erasmus+ Programme

The analysis of visa rejection reasons provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by non-EU students in mobility programs. Among the various categories reported:

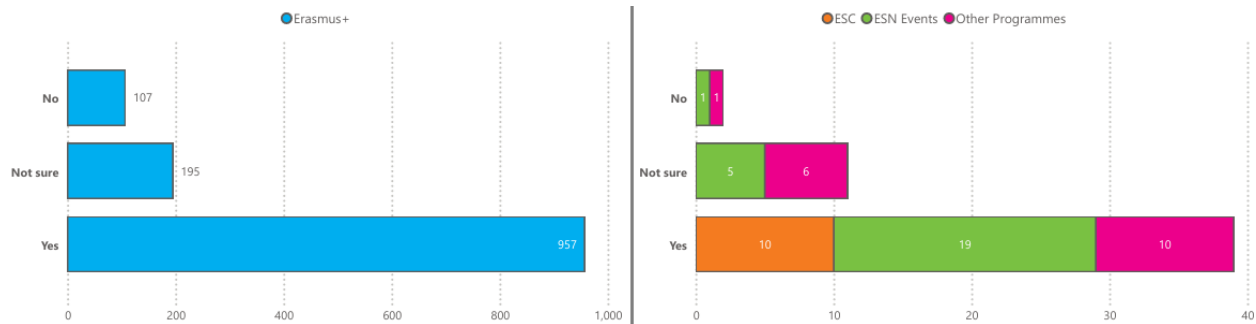
- **"Insufficient Documentation"** emerged as the most prevalent reason for visa rejection, with 111 instances, accounting for approximately **21.9%** of the responses.
- **"Financial Reasons"** followed closely, cited in 63 instances, representing around **12.4%** of the responses.
- **"Incomplete Application"** was another significant factor, reported 20 times, comprising about **3.9%** of the responses.
- Other reasons, such as **"Financial Insufficiency"** and **"Lack of Travel History"**, were also notable, with 19 and 12 instances, respectively, representing about **3.7%** and **2.4%** of the responses.

An interesting finding was that a substantial number of respondents (579 instances) reported **"Nothing"** as the reason for visa rejection. This suggests a lack of clarity or awareness regarding the specific causes for rejection, constituting about **113.9%** of the responses (as respondents could select multiple categories).

Other categories, such as **"Doubtful Application," "Process Delay,"** and **"Rejection,"** were also reported, but in smaller numbers.

These findings underscore the diverse range of challenges encountered by non-EU students during the visa application process, highlighting the need for improved support, clearer communication, and more effective guidance to help students navigate these challenges.

#### 6.4. Challenges Posed by Visa Requirements for Non-Eu Participants



The analysis of responses regarding the impact of visa-related issues on non-EU students' motivation to apply for mobility programs provides insights into the perceptions of participants across different mobility programs.

Among Erasmus+ participants, the majority, comprising 957 individuals (approximately 69%), expressed that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying for mobility programs. In contrast, 107 respondents (around 8%) disagreed with this notion, while 195 participants (approximately 21%) were unsure about its impact.

In the ESC program, all six respondents (100%) who answered the question indicated that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying for mobility programs.

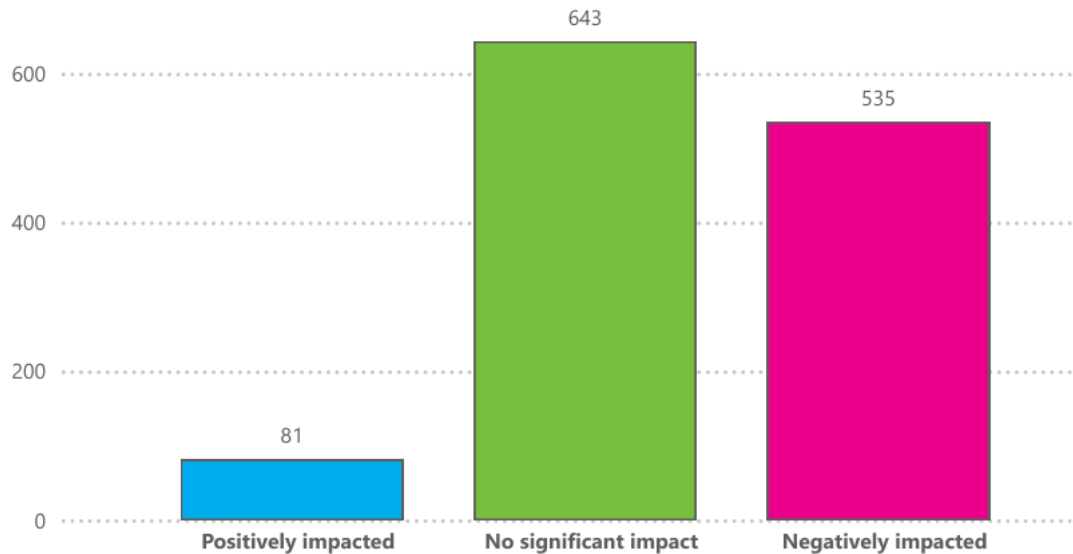
Among ESN Events participants, 19 individuals (approximately 73%) believed that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying, while only one person (around 5%) disagreed. Five participants (around 23%) were unsure about the impact.

Similarly, in other mobility programs, 10 respondents (approximately 64%) stated that visa-related issues discourage non-EU students from applying, while none of the participants disagreed. Six individuals (around 36%) were unsure about the impact.

These findings underscore a widespread perception across different mobility programs that visa-related issues negatively impact non-EU students' motivation to apply for mobility programs. While a significant number of participants believe in this deterrent effect, a notable proportion remains unsure about its influence, suggesting the need for further investigation or clarification.

## 7. EFFECT OF VISA ISSUES

### 7.1. Effect Of Visa Issues on Erasmus+ Programme Experience



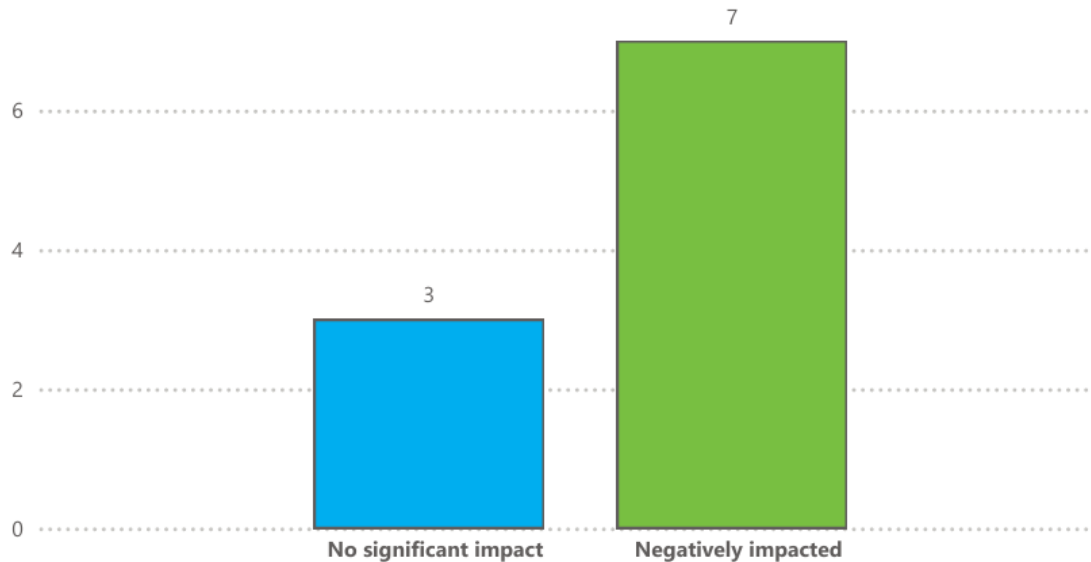
The survey responses regarding the overall experience with the visa application process in the Erasmus+ programme highlight a range of sentiments and experiences among participants. A significant portion of respondents, 535 individuals (48%), reported that their experience was negatively affected by the visa process. This group likely encountered challenges such as long processing times, complications in documentation, or other logistical issues that impacted their overall experience.

On the other hand, 643 individuals (57%) indicated that the visa process did not have any significant impact on their experience. This group may have found the process to be manageable or encountered fewer obstacles during the application procedure, suggesting a smoother experience with fewer delays or complications.

A smaller group, 81 individuals (7%), reported a positive impact, indicating that their visa experience was relatively seamless, fast, or even beneficial to their overall mobility process. These students likely faced fewer difficulties or found the process easier and more efficient.

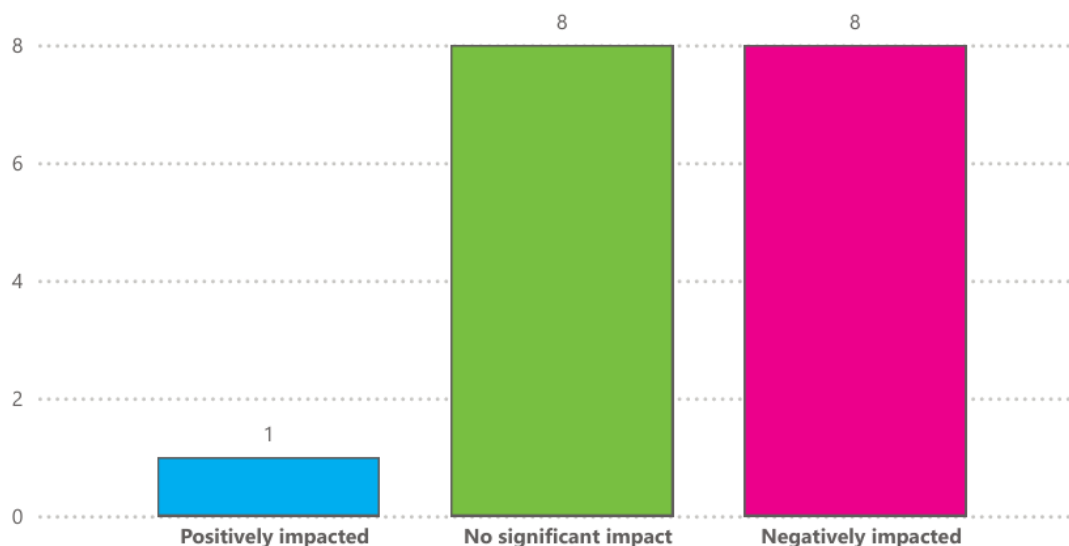
These findings underscore the wide range of experiences that participants in the Erasmus+ programme have with the visa application process, highlighting that while many students face challenges, others have a more positive experience. The variability suggests that improvements in the visa application process could help create a more consistent and efficient experience for all participants.

## 7.2. Effect Of Visa Issues on ESC Programme Experience



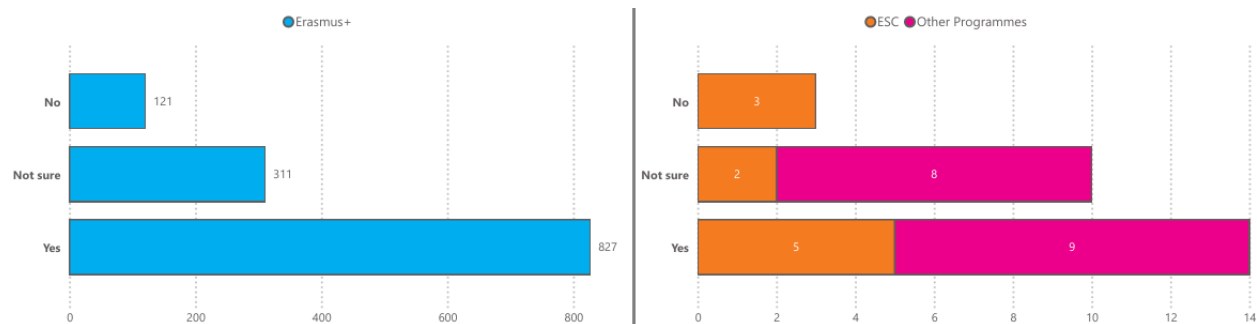
The responses concerning the overall experience with the visa application process in the ESC programme indicate relatively consistent sentiments among participants. Out of the respondents, 7 individuals (50%) reported a negative impact on their experience, while the remaining 3 individuals (50%) stated that there was no significant impact. These findings suggest a balanced perspective on the visa application process within the ESC programme.

## 7.3. Effect Of Visa Issues on Other Program's Experience



Analysis of responses regarding the overall experience with the visa application process in other mobility programs reveals diverse perceptions among participants. Out of the respondents, 8 individuals (50%) reported a negative impact on their experience, while 8 individuals (46%) stated that there was no significant impact. Only 1 individual (4%) expressed a positive impact on their experience. These findings suggest varying levels of satisfaction and challenges faced by participants in other mobility programs regarding the visa application process.

## 8. PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION INQUIRY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MOBILITY BARRIERS



Upon investigating participants' responses regarding their willingness to recommend the program within the framework of mobility barriers, significant insights emerged. In the Erasmus+ program, a majority of respondents, comprising 65% (827 individuals), expressed willingness to recommend the program. However, 9% (121 individuals) disagreed with the recommendation, and 26% (311 individuals) were uncertain.

For the ESC program, 50% (5 individuals) indicated their willingness to recommend, while 30% (3 individuals) expressed disagreement, and 20% (2 individuals) were unsure.

In the other mobility programs category, 56.25% (9 individuals) were in favour of recommending the program, while 50% (8 individuals) expressed disagreement.

These findings underscore the importance of addressing mobility barriers to enhance participant satisfaction and program recommendation rates, particularly within the Erasmus+ program, where the majority of respondents showed positive inclinations.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*The initial contributors to this research and analysis*

As we come to the end of this report, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the project.

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Written by: *Hazal PINAR* (Vice Chair of National Strategy Committee Survey Team of ESN Türkiye)

*Those who enriched the **enhanced edition** with their expertise*

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to

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Enchanted by: *Berker ÖZER* (Vice Chair of National Strategy Committee Survey Team of ESN Türkiye)