



## Internationalization and Globalization in the Field of Education

Arian Dedej<sup>1</sup>

Lorenzo Medici<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dr., Lecturer-Department of Public Administration  
Aleksander Moisiu University

<sup>2</sup>Prof. Asoc. Dr., Associate Professor Ph. D.,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Perugia, Italy

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Received: 25 December 2023 / Accepted: 25 February 2024 / Published: 23 April 2024  
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Doi: 10.56345/ijrdv11n1s103

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### Abstract

*The internationalization of educational programs is an important commitment that aims to develop an ever more dynamic and competitive knowledge to face the challenges of globalization and rapid social transformation by finding the right balances, critical and conscientious skills. Students, lecturers and the territory benefit greatly from the implementation of a system which favors the exchange of knowledge, didactic and scientific experiences. To strengthen the internationalization of the educational offer and the mobility of students means to intensify the international exchanges of students and at the same time to strengthen the international attractiveness of study courses with well-oriented initiatives. The era of globalization, understood as the fall of barriers in space and time that limited communication at the economic, institutional and social level, has produced important processes of transformation and change in educational institutions. The latter, accepting the challenges of globalization, have gradually expanded their educational commitment beyond national borders, giving the formation components, approaches, strategies and internationalizing tools, with the aim of favouring the full understanding of the students in one dimension more and more global opportunities to benefit and the role to play in the global society.*

**Keywords:** internationalization, globalization, education

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### 1. Introduction

In recent years, social-educational contexts have been affected by deep changes that have placed internationalization at the center of educational paths: educating a global citizen and making intercultural exchange seems to be the main objective of educational institutions that aim to educate competent people. and competitive in the labour market.

Student mobility allows the student to come into contact with different cultures and institutions, to acquire not only professional but also intercultural competences, to become more autonomous and independent through stimulation to find necessary strategies to adapt to a non-familial context, mobilizing all cognitive, emotional and functional resources to achieve the objectives of studies and personal growth. International mobility is a great opportunity for young people who can enrich themselves and prepare for an increasingly global job market. At the same time, international student mobility represents an essential element to move from an increasingly global and knowledge-based economy, to achieve greater diversity and intellectual wealth, and greater opportunities for cooperation and competition between institutions. , to allow the general quality of European education systems by facilitating mutual learning, cooperation and confrontation with

other educational institutions at the global level.

Awareness of global changes towards more sustainable development and the need for international cooperation are topics addressed through Pacts, declarations and campaigns promoted mainly by international organizations. In this regard, it is appropriate to mention the program proposed during the Bologna Process, whose reforms were signed in the form of final declarations by the Ministers of Education of the participating European countries. The Bologna Process aimed primarily at developing student mobility through the establishment of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which aims to promote the mobility and employment of citizens.

At the same time, the Bologna Process called for a series of optional commitments aimed mainly at strengthening European cooperation, offering a response to globalization, through a general improvement in the attractiveness of higher education systems in Europe.

The EU has long experience in supporting learning mobility through various programs and initiatives. One of them is the program in the field of lifelong learning, also called the Life Learning Program (LLP), created by the European Parliament for the period 2007-2013 and divided into four sub-programmes: Comenius, for school education, from nursery to end of upper secondary studies; Erasmus, for higher education, referring to higher, professional and third-level education, i.e. postgraduate; Leonardo da Vinci, initial and continuing training, referring to vocational education and training; Grundtvig, referring to adult education. The four sub-programmes are coordinated at national level by the Member States and are complemented by a transversal programme, designed to promote actions of common interest, focusing on cross-sectoral areas (political cooperation and innovation in lifelong learning, languages, development of innovation, dissemination and use of results), and by the Jean Monnet program which encourages reflection and debate on the process of European integration in higher education institutions and aims to support teaching, scientific research and integration between the member states of the European Union.

The European Commission launched a strategy in 2013 entitled 'European Higher Education in the World', which aims to ensure that European graduates acquire the international skills they need to work anywhere in the world, while at the same time promoting Europe's attractiveness to international students.

The European Commission has sought to strengthen academic partnerships on a global scale by contributing to the development of a number of tools aimed at facilitating the mobility of students and researchers, such as Europass, the ECTS system for higher education (transfer and accumulation of European credits), the Diploma Supplement, European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), Youthpass, EURAXESS, Student Visa Directive and Scientific Visa Package.

The Erasmus+ program for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020 aimed to promote skills and employability for students from non-European countries to complete part of their university career at a European university or vice versa, and to modernize education systems high.

Erasmus+ is the European program for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. The program represents a key tool for building a European education area, supporting European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training and related sector programs, promoting youth cooperation as part of the Union's youth strategy 2019-2027 and the development of the European dimension of sport.

The Erasmus+ program represents an important opportunity for the vocational education and training sector, because it offers young people in vocational training, apprentices, recent high school graduates and newly qualified people, but also teachers, trainers and vocational training operators the opportunity to participate in international initiatives. mobility aimed at strengthening professional skills and so-called soft skills, with positive effects in terms of personal and professional development, employment, confidence, independence, innovation, understanding of other people and a sense of European belonging. The program also supports transnational cooperation actions aimed at supporting the modernization and strengthening of education and training systems in response to the current challenges of employment, economic growth, green and digital transition and participation in democratic life. The 2021-2027 programming phase of Erasmus+ offers great prospects, starting with a financial availability of over 28 billion euros, almost, confirming the great value attributed to the Program by the Member States and the European Commission. Erasmus+ continues to offer opportunities for studies, training and internships abroad, including classes outside Europe, and supports international cooperation and exchange projects between organizations, confirming itself as a key tool in support of the European Education Area. Erasmus+ also aims to be even more inclusive for people with fewer opportunities and more accessible for small organisations, support the green and digital transition and promote the participation of young people by strengthening their sense of European citizenship.

Also worth mentioning is TEMPUS, an EU-funded program to support the modernization of higher education in partner countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region, mainly through

university cooperation projects.

Studying abroad, that is, being part of these international study programs, has its advantages and benefits for each participating student, such as:

- Speak the foreign language fluently

It's no secret: the longer you stay abroad to study, the more you will learn to speak fluently and easily. Through a daily cocktail of lessons and real-life interactions (every day for several months), you will notice a tremendous improvement in your language skills, but also in your confidence.

- Bring self-esteem to the highest levels

It won't just be communication skills that will be boosted: one of the biggest benefits of living abroad is a boost in self-esteem. Exploring different cultures, meeting new people, and managing a budget are all activities that will help you become a more confident and independent citizen of the world.

- Learn the language the locals speak

There is a big difference between learning a language and living it. By spending an extended period in another country, you find yourself using tics, slang, and a much more authentic language accent. This is how you will learn to speak like the locals, understand their idiomatic expressions and hints, and understand their body language and speech. Thus, understanding the local language will increasingly allow you to feel at home even abroad.

- Immerse yourself fully in a new way of life

Studying abroad for a week or two allows you to get a glimpse of a new culture; with a longer stay, you will fully immerse yourself in the lifestyle of the host country. You will learn to see the world from a different perspective and explore every aspect of your new "home" away from home. While studying abroad for a few weeks is likely to go away just as the bartender starts remembering our name and knowing what we order each morning, students staying abroad on long-term programs have plenty of time to find the right bar, to know where to order a pizza to eat while watching a series on Netflix on rainy evenings, to know who to call to reserve a good fashionable breakfast.

- You have more time to explore

Going through destinations to visit and activities to do while traveling is easier for those studying abroad for more than a few weeks. After all, there are so many trips that can be arranged on a weekend! Students staying abroad for an extended period can take advantage of quarterly breaks to explore new cities and environments. At the same time, friends and family can come to visit you and you can show them around, acting as a guide.

- Start your career

Ask any graduate... it's a competitive world out there. Everyone is looking for that special something to make their CV stand out. Add a perfect command of a language to your skill set and you have the key to landing the career of your dreams. In addition to bilingualism, your experience abroad will help you develop a toolkit of intercultural skills: exactly what companies around the world are looking for!

- Clarify your ideas about your future

A long-term program will help you get an idea of the profession you want to pursue in the future. Some courses will allow you to test your language skills thanks to exercises and lessons of special interest. You will come into contact with the reality of work and at the same time, you will enrich your CV with international experiences of essential importance.

- Certify your language skills

Universities and employers want official proof of a candidate's language skills. By studying abroad for an extended period, you will have time to prepare for exams to obtain internationally recognized certificates, which will be useful both academically and professionally.

- Get super smart

It's a fact: learning a language makes you more intelligent, more empathetic, etc. Solving problems, multitasking, making decisions quickly... Everything will become easier because your brain will be more flexible and alert in its cognitive processes.

- Also improve your mother tongue

Anyone who learns a new language becomes a good communicator himself. By studying a foreign language, one reflects simultaneously, consciously or unconsciously, on the structures of the two systems, thus perfecting the knowledge of both.

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