

Internationalization at FEBA : beyond facts and figures

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- ✓ The **oldest** Romanian university
- ✓ **Full-range** and **high-quality** services for international students
- ✓ **Diplomas recognized** all over Europe
- ✓ **Top research** university of Romania
- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași is:
 - ✓ **a member** of:
 - **Coimbra Group**
 - **Utrecht Network**
 - **Balkan Universities Network**
 - ✓ **affiliated**, among others, to:
 - -**European University Association (EUA)**
 - -**International Association of Universities (IAU)**
 - -**Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)**
 - ✓ **the founding member** of the :
 - -**Francophone Universities Network (RUFAC)**

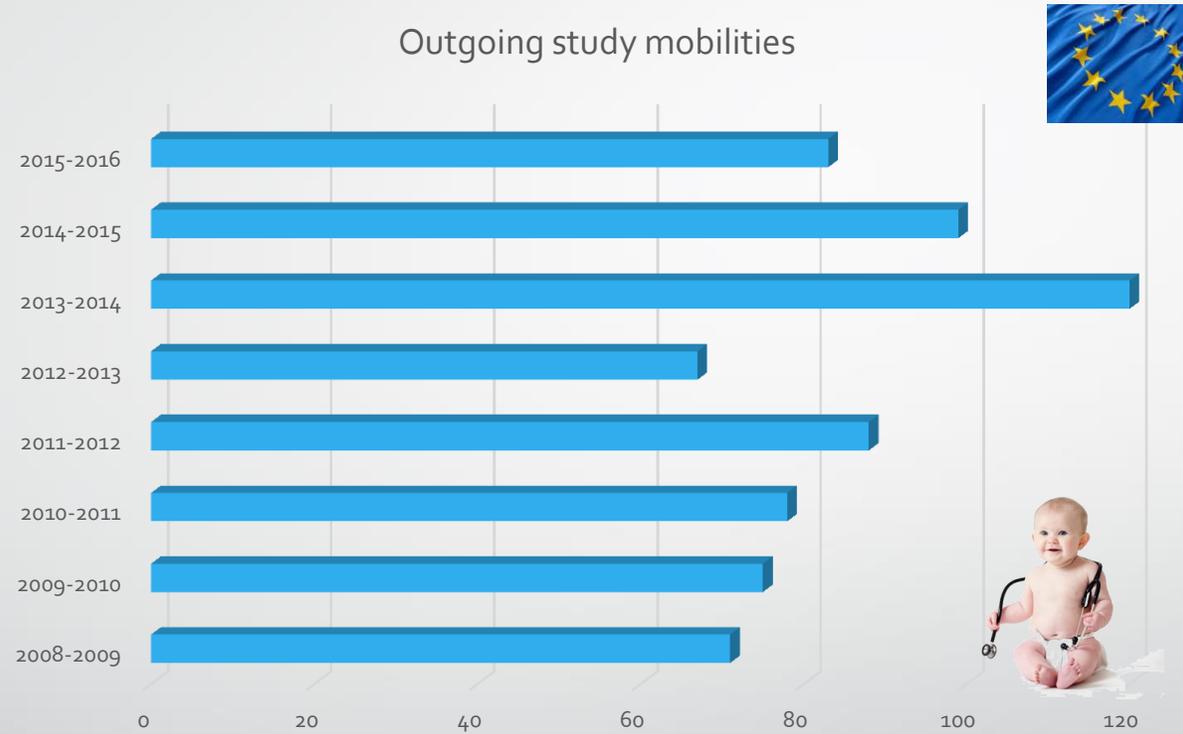
International Cooperation at UAIC

- **ERASMUS+ Programme 2015-2016 (EU and non-EU countries)**
 - ✓ **15%** of outgoing student mobility in Romania
 - ✓ **top 1** in the last 3 years
 - ✓ **635** Erasmus mobility agreements with **321** partner universities in **28** European countries
 - -349 study mobility exchanges for 1 semester or 1 academic year
 - -357 student internships (usually of 3 months)
 - -150 teaching assignments (usually of 1 week)
 - -63 staff training mobility (usually of 1 week)
- **Cooperation with the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein):** student and staff exchanges + projects of inter-institutional cooperation
- **“Eugene Ionesco” Programme :** doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships awarded by Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) – UAIC hosts yearly around 30 students from Sub-Saharan African countries
- **Other cooperation projects:** *Tempus, Jean Monnet, Erasmus Mundus (4 EMA2 projects coordinated by UAIC and partner in 3 more EMA2 projects), Erasmus+ KA2*
- **Other inter-institutional agreements** (USA, South Korea)

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA)

- ✓ **3**-cycle study system
 - ✓ Diploma Supplements issued for all degrees
 - ✓ **6** Programmes taught in foreign languages (2 at bachelor level and 3 at master level)
 - ✓ **11** Bachelor programs (including programs in foreign languages)
 - ✓ **20** Master's programs (including programs in foreign languages)
 - ✓ PhD programs (8 doctoral programs)
- ✓ **6,007** students:
 - **4,477** bachelor students
 - **1,390** master's students
 - **140** PhD students
 - ✓ Teaching staff:
 - **123** full-time faculty members
 - **98** teaching assistants, temporary teaching staff members

Outgoing study mobilities



Top 5 destination countries

1. Spain
2. France
3. Italy
4. Portugal
5. Poland

Profile of outgoing student

Typical Erasmus outgoing student 2013-2014



80 %

of Erasmus students are **women**

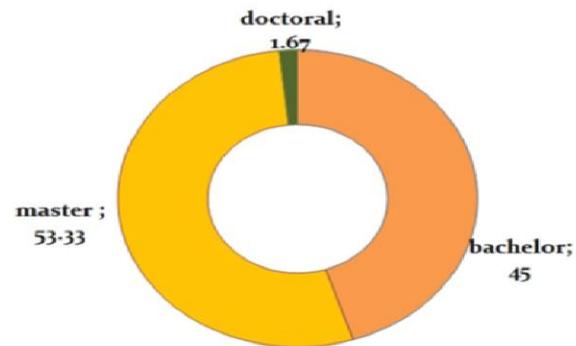


Age

23

years old

Erasmus student levels



Time abroad

6

months

Equipped with skills that boost employability

problem-solving

adaptability

organisational skills

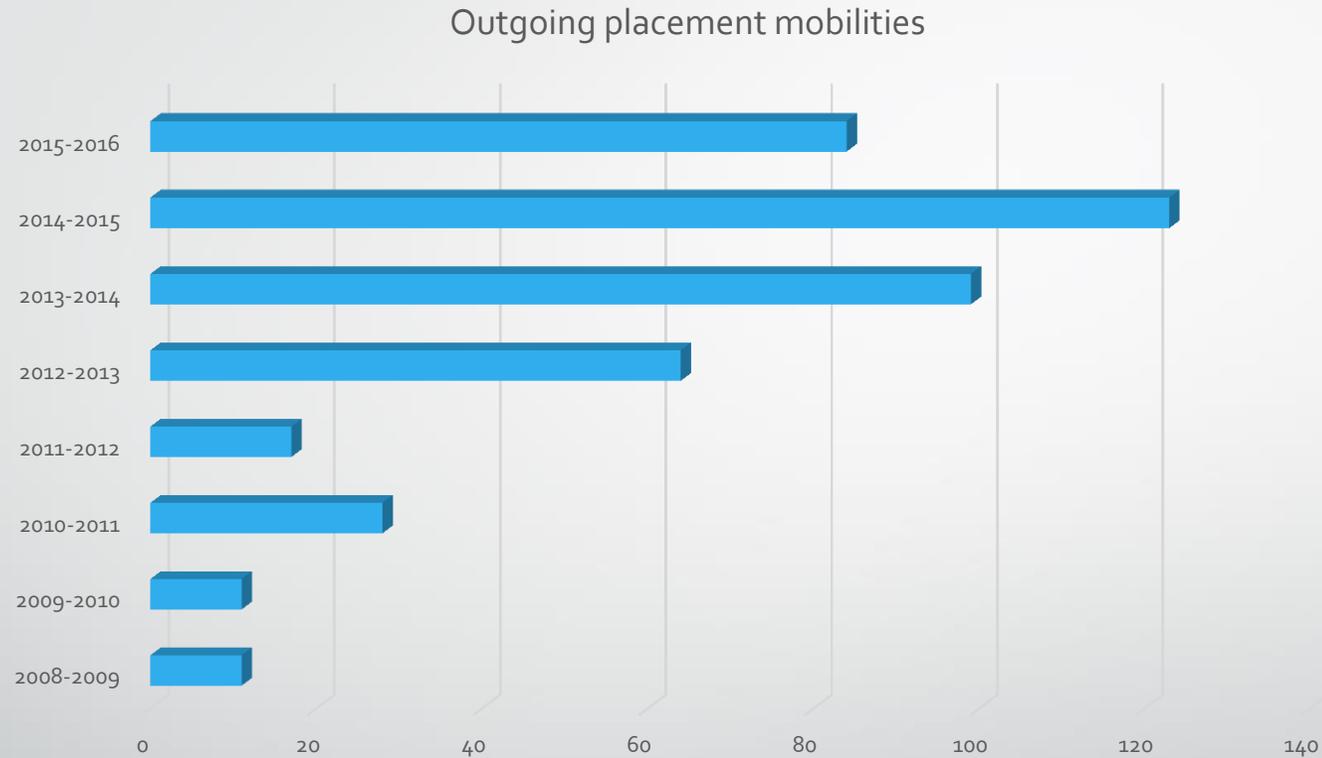
curiosity

Average grant per month

500

€

Outgoing placement mobilities



Top 5 destination countries

1. Greece
2. Spain
3. Turkey
4. France
5. misc.



Study abroad – brief outlines

Professional benefits

- Acquiring a new perspective over the world;
- Getting proficient in/Mastering/Learning a new foreign language;
- Getting in touch with and learning new methods of teaching and research;
- Getting a new sense of adaptation, initiative and self-confidence;
- Learning, deepening and refining decision-making and problem-solving skills ;
- Networking and making new, long-lasting professional contacts;
- Learning from students belonging to other cultures;
- Refining one's intercultural communication skills.

Personal benefits

- More self-confidence in personal qualities;
- Independence and maturity;
- A larger network of friends;
- A deeper appreciation of other cultures and at the same time of one's own;
- A better preparation for future challenges;
- Learning to solve problems in a creative manner;
- A better understanding of one's own strengths and weaknesses.



Strategies to increase the flow of outgoing students

- **Financial support**

- monthly grant of 450/ 500 € - higher than in most European universities;
- UAIC funded for several years the travel costs (up to 200 €);
- additional funds for low-income students (200 €/month);
- students' associations provide support in finding best deals for accommodation (ex.: ESN).

- **Recognition of academic achievements**

- flexibility in choosing the corresponding courses the Learning Agreement;
- ECTS are recognized by a recognition committee led by the dean and not by each course professor; full recognition of credits;
- additional ECTS can be recognized in the upcoming semesters;
- preservation of acquired benefits at home university (scholarship, accommodation, budgeted students).



Strategies to increase the flow of outgoing students

- **Insufficient language knowledge**

- access to EILC/language courses provided by the host university, language courses and tests during the mobility - OLS;
- ease of access to language courses at UAIC Foreign Language Center;
- development of programs taught in English language (at bachelor level: Business Administration, Economics and Finance; at master level: Finance and Risk Management; Strategic Human Resource Management in Europe; Software Development and Business Information Systems).

- **Selection process**

- the proper balance between criteria;
- weights between academic performance, language proficiency and personal motivation);
- simplification of the application process thus eliminating unnecessary paperwork;
- accuracy and transparency of the selection process (the students' averages and options are processed through a special software).

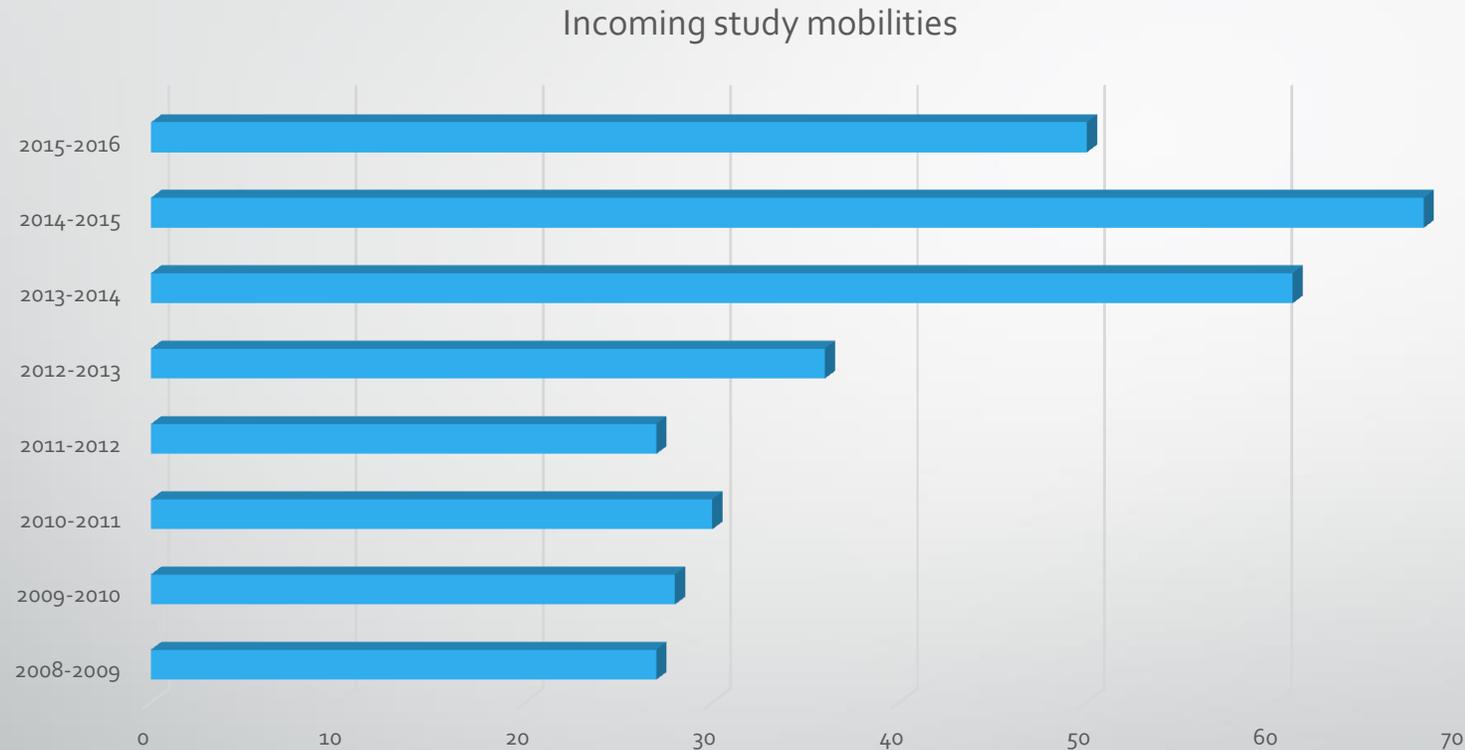
Strategies to increase the flow of outgoing students

- **Fear of studying abroad**

- development of students' networks (ESN, IEI, AIESEC, LSE);
- Erasmus introduction courses for students at earlier stages (promotion during courses, on social media i.e. Facebook);
- counselling services;
- social events with the participation of incoming and former outgoing students; facilitating interaction between Romanian students and incoming foreign ones;
- making non -mobile students benefit from Erasmus and other projects, e.g., through lectures initially held by incoming teaching staff and later included in the local curricula
- diversification of the portfolio of partners, beyond the traditional and popular ones (ex.: encouraging students to go to countries less “famous” such as Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Turkey and in the current year, Israel and South Korea)



Incoming student mobilities



Top 5 origin countries

1. France
2. Spain
3. Turkey
4. Portugal
5. Republic of Moldova

Profile of incoming student

Typical incoming student -
2013/2014



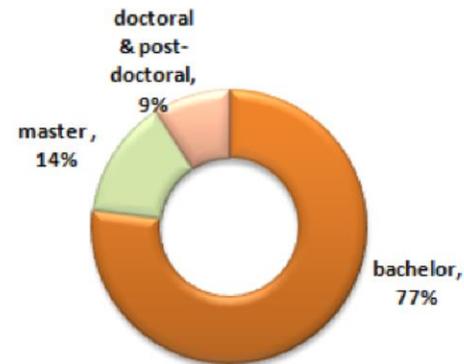
68.5
of Erasmus students are **men**



Age

22
years old

Erasmus student levels



Time at FEBA

9
months

Equipped with



Average grant
per month

272
€

Strategies to attract incoming students

- **development of programs taught in foreign languages at bachelor and master level;**
- **tutorial courses for incoming students** (currently 65 courses that can be delivered in English on a tutorial-based system)
- **Buddy System** - upon request, ensured by student associations;
- **academic and administrative counseling;**
- **accommodation in campus;**
- **support with residence permit** - assistance from the Department of International Relations for obtaining the residence permit;
- **medical assistance** - ensured by the Student Medical Center on campus;
- **Romanian Intensive Language Courses** provided to all incoming students (at the beginning of the mobility and throughout the mobility period).

Testimonial 1

When I was told that I would go with a mobility in Romania after the selection process, I was run down. I didn't feel like going mostly due to the prejudices (East European country meaning poverty), weather (very cold winters) and moreover being Black I also thought of racism... In reality nothing of this was true, or ok maybe the weather but with a thick, woolen coat, you survive.

People here are very welcoming, students, professors or people on the street. They are kind and they like foreigners and in particular the French. Students always come to you to ask if you need some help.

I adjusted very quickly. At first when I arrived I couldn't make a single, correct sentence in English and at the end of two weeks I was able to attend and participate in discussions in English without any problem.

On a personal level, this experience allowed me to assert myself, to have confidence, to be independent and autonomous, to improve my language competences, to make new friends...and the most important aspect in my eyes is the cheap life standard. For instance, with 200 Euros per month you can pay your accommodation and eat each evening in town and go out whenever you feel like.

Charline - Université de Bordeaux IV, France

Testimonial 2

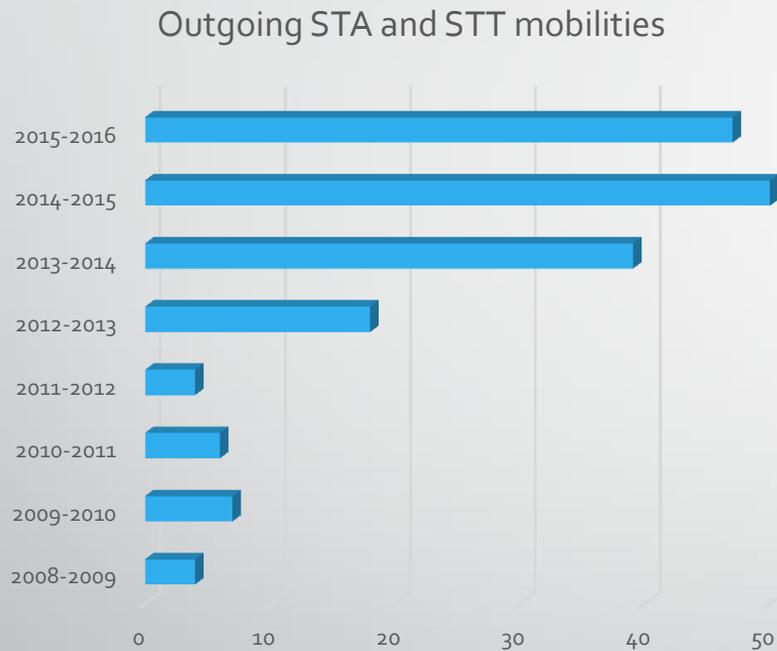
An American's Experience in Iași, Romania

I'm truly thankful for all of the people and experiences that entered my life while spending 5 months in Iași, Romania. The experience was invaluable, irreplaceable, and incomparable to any other I or anyone else has ever had. I learned so much about myself and others, more than I ever imagined possible. I have a clearer outlook on life and the planet we all live on. I now realize we are all connected one way or another, like one big family. Every person on this earth can relate to at least one other. There is a common thread running through each and every one of us, which is such a beautiful and secure feeling. Whenever I feel alone all I have to do is remember this, and know that I am not alone, nor will I ever be. I've met some of the best people I've ever known in Iași. I've built strong, lasting relationships with people from all over the world. We all carry something within us to remember this experience by and our big family will always be connected through these thoughts, memories, and experiences. There is no doubt that I will miss the beautiful city of Iași very dearly. It was my home and the first place and time I ever lived on my own. I'm thankful to have mastered the 24-hour clock, the metric system, and Celsius temperature. A few of my word pronunciations have changed as well; most notably kilometer and kilogram. I've picked up a lot of British English because that is what all Europeans learn when they study English. I never realized how much of a difference there could be between two languages that are seemingly the exact same. I'm learning to like and appreciate the culture of the UK and I would really like to visit someday. I'm coming back to the United States with a whole new outlook on life. I will be arriving with an open-mind and looking at life through a globalized lens. I can no longer ignore the world outside of the US. My eyes have been opened and I can never look at the world the same way ever again. This new perspective is permanently etched into my brain. Every thought and action will be a product of this 5-month experience living abroad in the beautiful country of Romania.

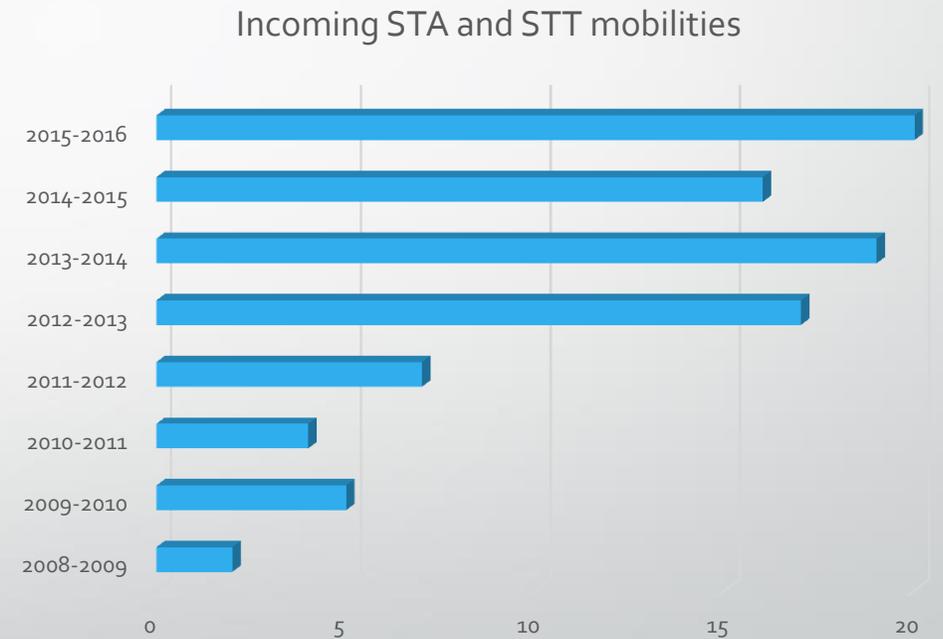
John-Paul – University of Michigan-Flint, USA

Staff mobilities

Outgoing



Incoming



Strategies to increase the flow of staff mobilities

- development of programs taught in foreign languages which ensures a greater insertion of incoming STA and STT;
- development of professional networks (workshops and conferences held at FEBA);
- professors who work with foreign students are rewarded with additional points in their yearly self-assessment evaluation form;
- professors who are involved in international activities in the faculty are given priority and encouraged to participate in staff teaching mobilities abroad;
- raise of awareness regarding the benefits of international exchanges to the academic career and personal development.

International Weeks organized by FEBA

HUMINT International Week – 15th - 18th of November 2015

- Network formed of 7 universities: Saxion University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands, UC Leuven-Limburg, Belgium, FH bfi Wien, Austria, Universite de Bretagne Occidentale, IUT Quimper, France, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, St. Mary's University College Belfast, Ireland, UAIC of Iași, Romania
- Participants: 36 students (26 foreigners and 10 Romanian) and 6 lecturers; 1 keynote speaker and 3 company representatives
- Topic: « Say No to Discrimination » (pre-readings, discussions and teamwork presentations of case studies on HRM)
- Brochure made by students and sent to participants in advance, cultural activities (tour of the city of Iasi and visit of the university's museum), good-bye party
- Costs covered from the students' participation fee – 130 €/person

International Weeks organized by FEBA

SECOND PILOT INTENSIVE PROGRAMME "ADVANCED TOPICS IN BANK RISK MANAGEMENT"

10-23 July 2016 (within the Erasmus+ KA2 Programme "Creating an International Semester for Master Programmes in Quantitative Finance" (INTQUANT))

- **Partner universities:** University of Applied Sciences bfi Vienna, Austria, Alma Mater Studiorum Universita di Bologna, Italy, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland and UAIC of Iasi, Romania
- Participants: 22 students (16 foreign and 6 Romanian), 4 lecturers and 2 International Relations Officers
- 1st week: workshop on intercultural communication and lectures held by professors and a company representative
- 2nd week: team work and discussions with instructors; oral presentations of the case report by individual teams
- social and cultural activities: tour of the city of Iasi, trip to the Bukovina region, good-bye party in a club in Iasi

Concluding remarks

- Motivators and de-motivators are constantly changing, so we need to adapt quickly to such changes;
- Students' reasons for participation in the programme are primarily for personal development; the expected benefits to the future career rank lower in terms of individual priorities, but remain an important factor for most students;
- Internalization of study programmes and fresh academic pathways represent the key factors for increasing mobility flow;
- Other important factors that can boost Erasmus flows are sharing experiences and practical information provided by participants (staff and alumni), strengthening and professionalizing student organisations such as ESN.
- The mobility aims to better prepare the students for an international life, not only by attending courses abroad, but also by performing internships in foreign companies and thus gaining international experience.
- The mission of universities has evolved, it does not cover only the theoretical learning, it also prepares the students for their professional life in a world much more open to internationalization.

**Thank you for your
attention!**

