

Students' Mobility Needs

Snapshots of a Eurail survey on participants in Erasmus+ Mobility Programmes

Brussels, July 2020

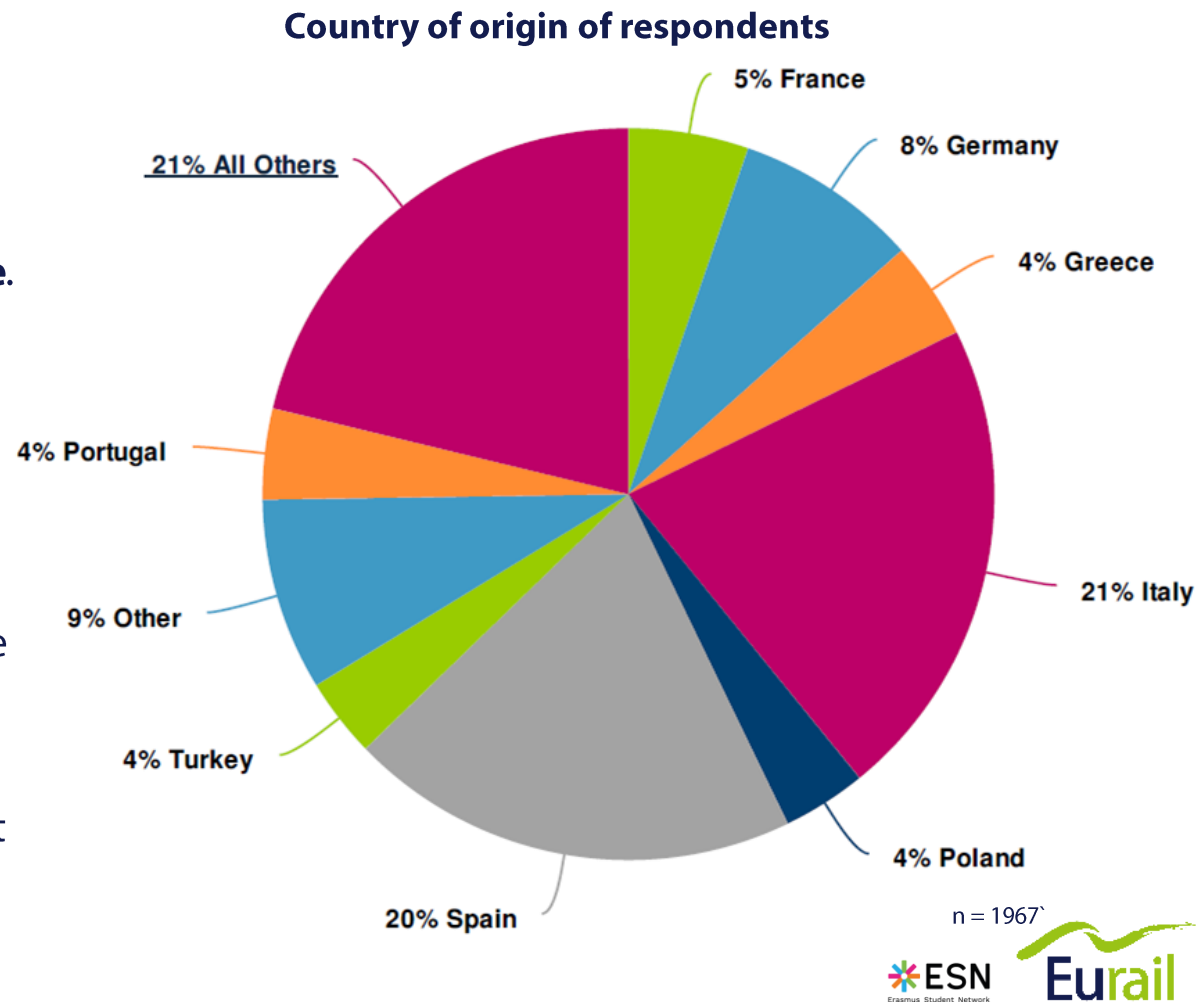
 ESN
Erasmus Student Network


Eurail

A look into Erasmus+ students' mobility needs

A Eurail survey realised in cooperation with the Erasmus Student Network

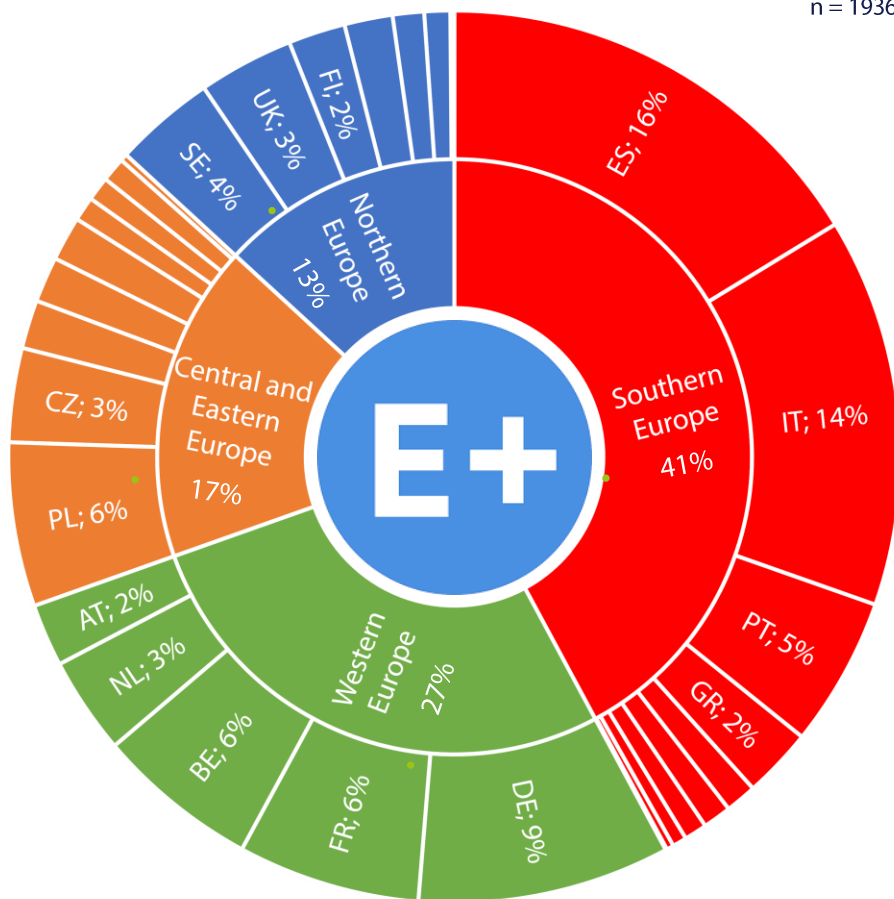
- Members of the Erasmus Student Network were [invited](#) to complete a survey on students' mobility needs between the 4th and the 26th of May 2020.
- 1,967 respondents completed the survey. All of them participated in **at least one Erasmus+ mobility programme**.
- Responses are based on the **longest and most recent exchange period**. For 56% of respondents this was taken during their bachelor studies, for 44% of them during their master studies.
- Responses were collected from young people from 20 different European countries, as illustrated in the chart on the right side. The survey was available in English only.
- The sample distribution of respondents by host country mirrors the one of the Erasmus+ population of students (next slide).



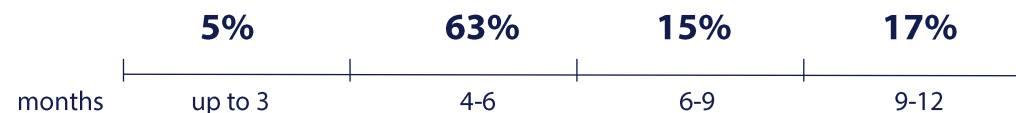
Characteristics of respondents and their exchange period

Countries where respondents spent a period abroad

n = 1936



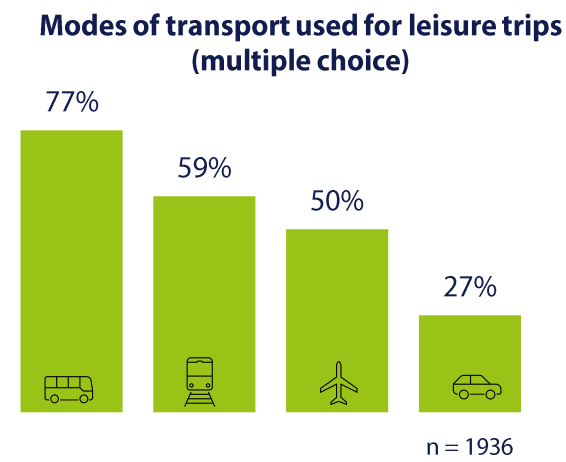
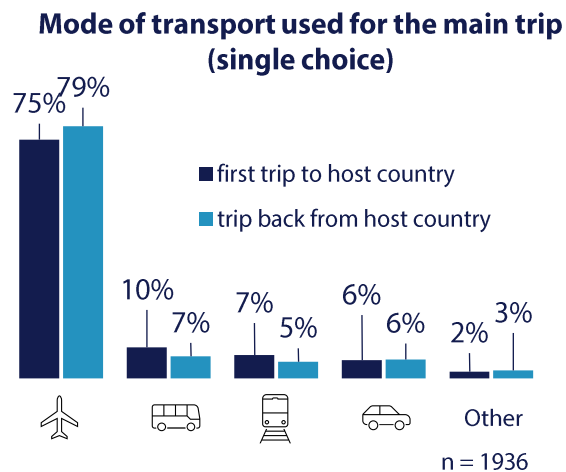
- 2 in 3 respondents spent 4 to 6 months abroad.



- Southern European (41%) and Western European (27%) countries are popular destinations among respondents.
- Most Respondents spent at least one period abroad during their bachelor studies (79%). 1 in 3 respondents went abroad during their master studies (30%) or doctoral studies (1%). 1 in 10 respondents went abroad across different study cycles ([overview](#)).
- 87% of respondents participated in a **student exchange**, 9% in a traineeship and 4% in Erasmus Mundus.
- 45% of exchanges took place **during the latest academic year** (2019/2020), 26% in 2018/2019 and 16% in 2017/2018.
- 58% of respondents were **20-21 years old** at the time of the exchange, another 23% were 22 years old.

Most respondents (92%) went on leisure trips while abroad

Air transport is a popular choice for the main trip, other modes are more relevant for leisure trips



- Most respondents **travelled by plane** to reach their host country or travel back home at the end of the exchange period (main trip).
- 92% of respondents took on average **7 additional trips during the period abroad** (leisure trips). Trips were made to visit the host country (93%), other foreign countries (88%) and to visit friends and family back in the home country (75%).
- When on a leisure trip, most respondents (73%) used a **mix of modes of transport**. Bus and trains were chosen more frequently for leisure trips than for the main trip.
- Students with a relatively low income seem to travel less by train and more by bus than students with a relatively high income.

Note: "Car" refers to travel by own car, by car sharing or by rented car.

The exchange period is an opportunity to explore Europe

Most leisure trips are within the host country or to other foreign countries

Number of leisure trips by duration of the grant

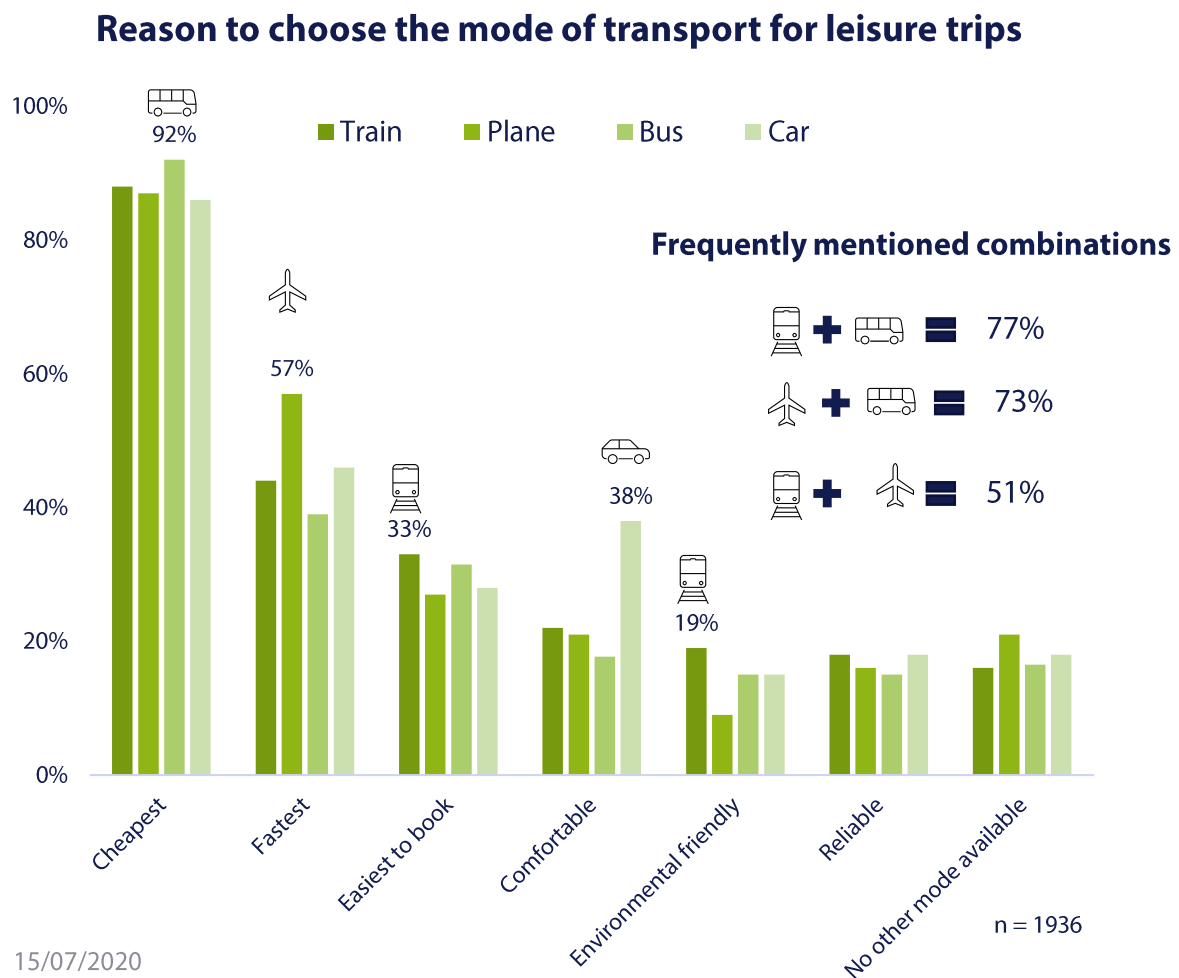
	N of Trips	Total	Up to 3 M	4-6 M	6-9 M	9-12 M
Back home	1	51%	67%	64%	38%	28%
	2	30%	16%	26%	38%	37%
	3	11%	13%	6%	15%	21%
	4+	7%	3%	4%	9%	15%
Host country	1	17%	19%	20%	14%	10%
	2	18%	26%	20%	17%	12%
	3	18%	25%	19%	19%	14%
	4+	47%	30%	42%	51%	65%
Other countries	1	23%	36%	25%	20%	17%
	2	22%	24%	24%	19%	20%
	3	15%	12%	15%	18%	12%
	4+	40%	29%	38%	43%	51%

n = 1569

- On average, respondents took 1 trip back to their home country, 4 trips within the host country and 3 trips to other countries during their period abroad. The average number of leisure trips increases with the duration of the grant:
 - Up to 3 months: 6 trips** (1 back home, 3 within the host country, 2 in other countries).
 - 4-6 months: 7 trips** (1 back home, 3 within the host country, 3 in other countries).
 - 6-9 months and 9-12 months: 8 trips** (2 back home, 3 within the host country, 3 in other countries).
- On average, 4 out of 7 leisure trips last longer than 3 nights. The number of trips with at least 3 overnights increases with the duration of the grant. No significant change is observed across income levels.

Impact of transport on the environment is overlooked

The choice of the mode of transport largely depends on price and speed



- When choosing a mode of transport for their leisure trips, most respondents mention the **cheap price as the main driver** across all modes of transport.
- Speed of travel stands out as a key driver in choosing air transport, while comfort is a decisive factor for choosing the car*.
- **The impact of transport on the environment is overlooked.** Only 15% of respondents factor the mode's impact on the environment in their decision about transport.

Leisure trips were an opportunity to dive into culture

Trips are taken to visit historic or cultural sites, to relax and to experience local life



What was the main reason for taking leisure trips during your period abroad?
Reasons ranked from most frequent to least frequent.

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score	No. of Rankings
Culture and history (historical sites and monuments, museums and cultural events, etc.)	1		8,210	1,727
Relax and fun (e.g. beach, sightseeing, shopping, nightlife, etc.)	2		7,512	1,655
"Slow" travel (e.g. experiencing local life and cultures, engage with locals, road trips, backpacking, etc.)	3		6,657	1,475
Visiting family / friends	4		5,311	1,370
Nature (e.g. wild landscapes, eco-tourism, hiking, etc.)	5		5,279	1,338
Other	6		990	612

Lowest Rank Highest Rank

n = 1569

Leisure trips contribute to cultural understanding

Most respondents think leisure trips were fundamental to become more open to different cultures

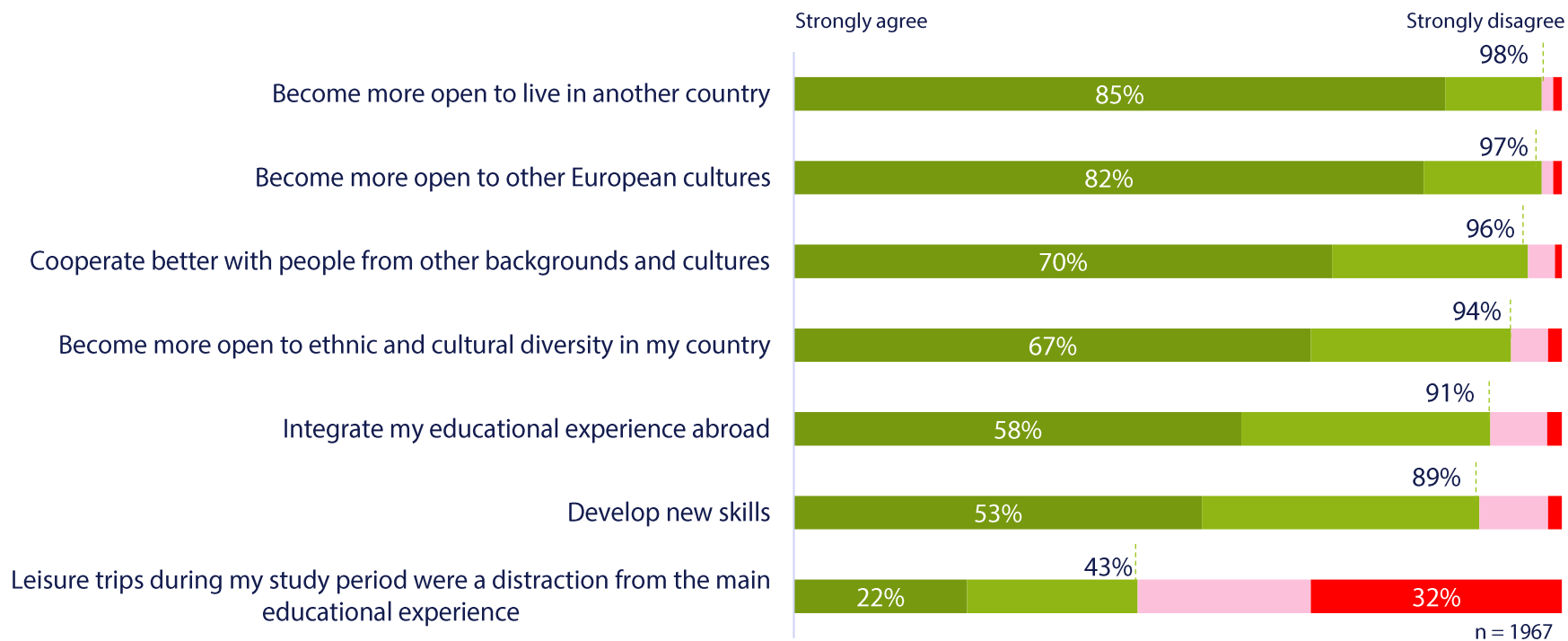


[euranetplus](#)



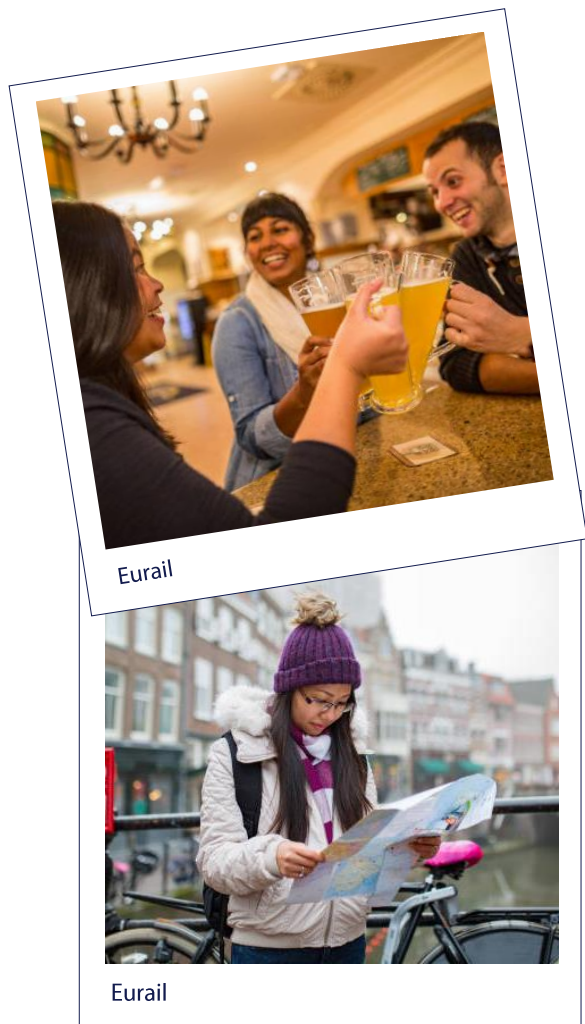
[sprucecraft](#)

To what extent do you agree with the following statements? Leisure trips made during my study period abroad were fundamental to...



Respondents think leisure trips contribute to improve skills

Capability to adapt and communicate with others improved thanks to leisure trips



Which of the following have you improved in a positive way as a result of leisure trips made during your study period abroad?



n = 1967s

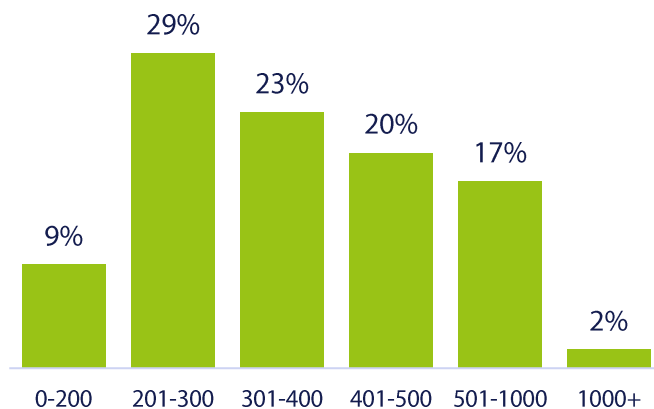
The grant covers up to 50% of costs half of respondents

Remaining costs were mainly covered by parents and / or with personal savings

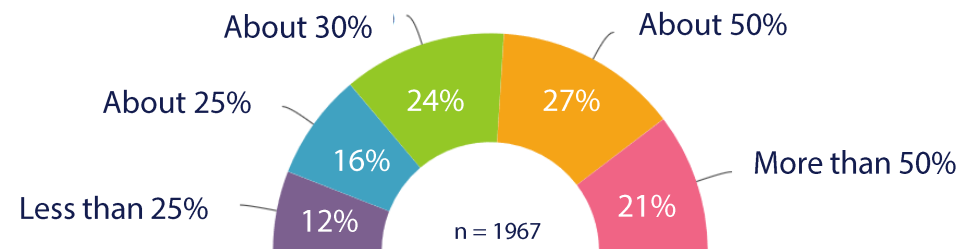


Approximate grant amount per month (€)

n = 1715

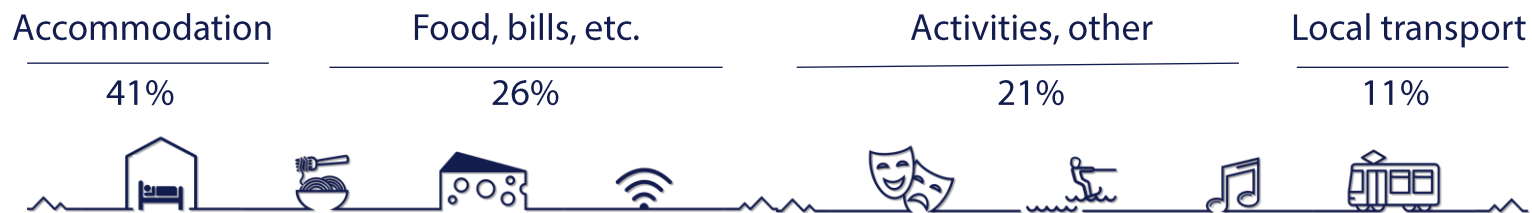


Percentage of total expenses made during the period abroad covered by the grant



Only 9% of respondents received a bonus to cover mobility costs (€ 260 on average)

Grant amount distribution by cost item



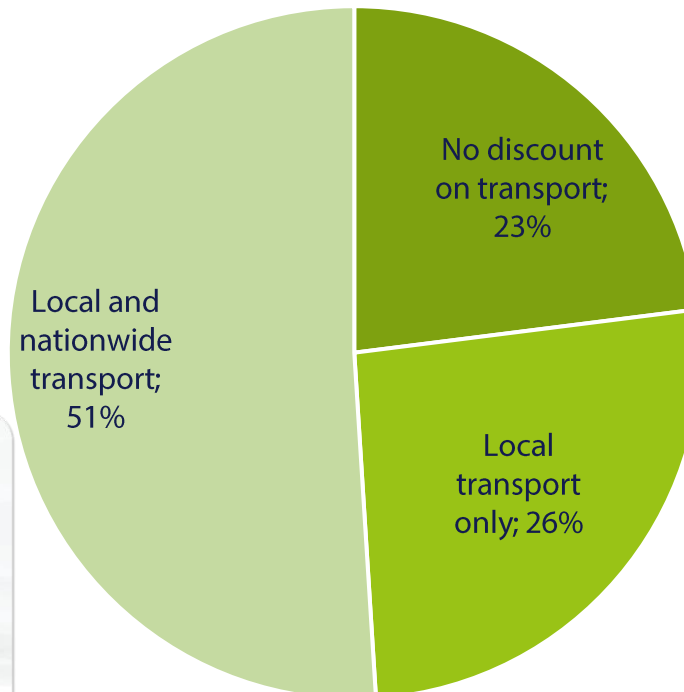
n = 1967

Student Cards offer valuable discounts on local transport

82% of Respondents made use of a student card



Did the student card give you discount on transport in the host country (e.g. trains, planes, buses, etc.)?



n = 1967s

- Virtually all respondents (90%) used a student card during the exchange period. No significant difference is observed across different income segments.
- Half of respondents used cards that offered discounts on both local and nationwide transport. 1 in 5 respondents chose with no discount on transport.
- A below average use of the card is observed for respondents who were on a short-term grant and did no or limited travel during their stay.

Interrail Pass and Erasmus+

Respondents were asked to express their interest in a regular Interrail Pass and in a revised concept that would cover the duration of Erasmus+ grants.

Text describing the regular Interrail Pass



“The Interrail Pass offers you the possibility to freely discover Europe by train. With just one rail pass, you can travel through 35 different European countries. You can select the countries you want to visit during travel, you only need to decide upfront for how long you want to travel. With an extended rail network in Europe, you have the freedom to travel as much as you like.”

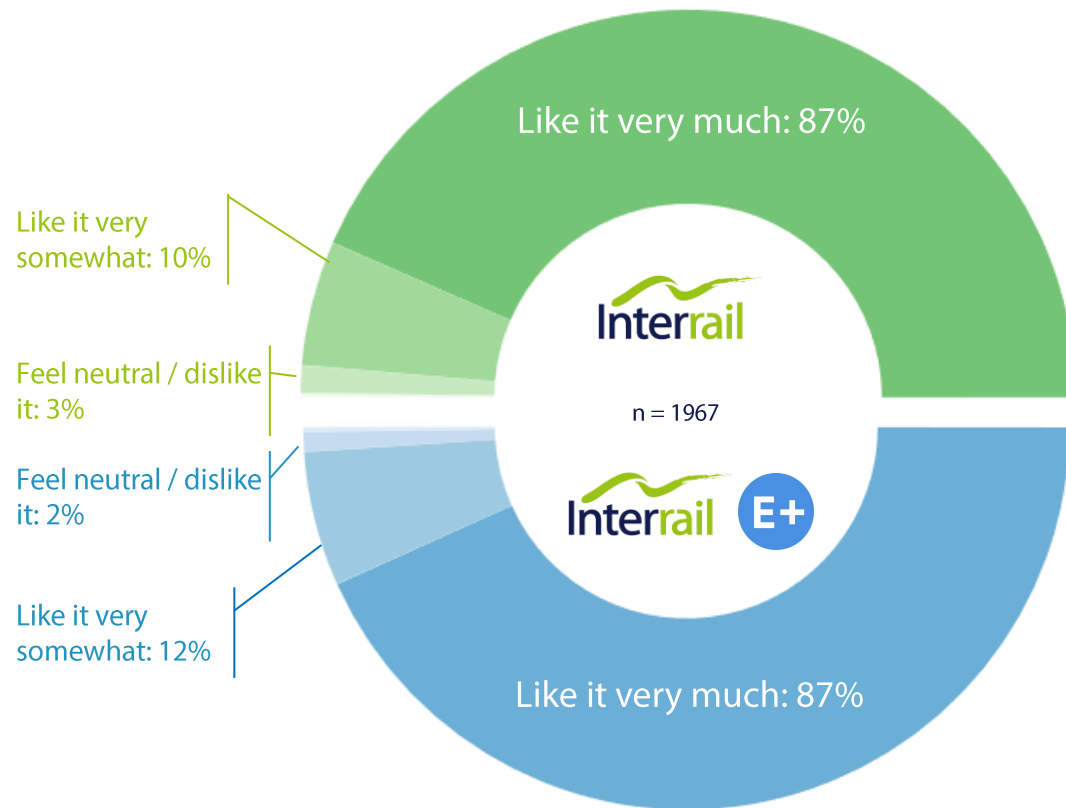
Text describing the Interrail Pass for Erasmus+



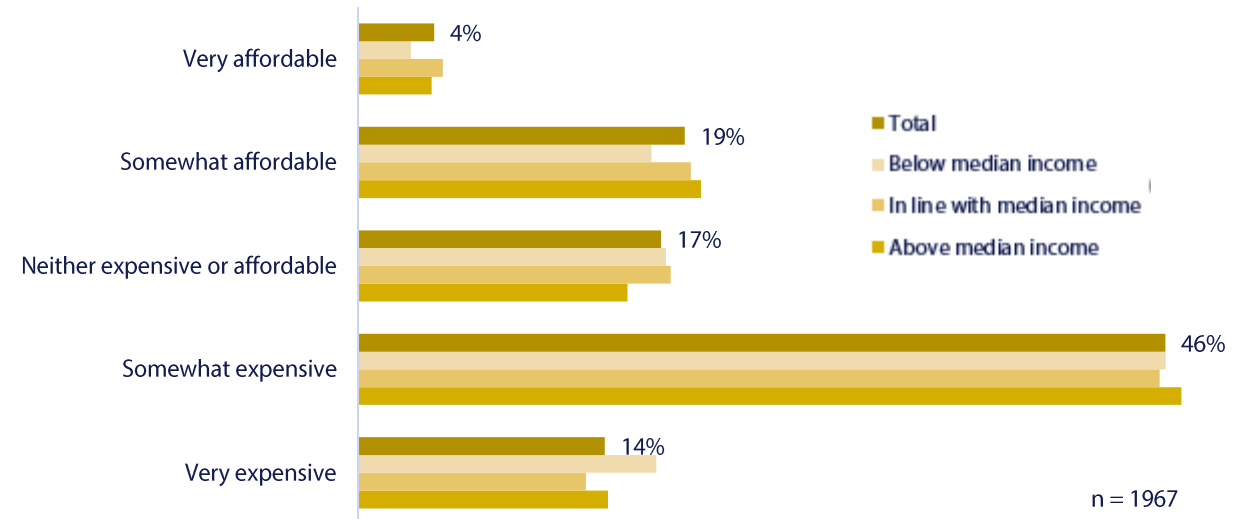
“Imagine Erasmus+ students and trainees would be offered the possibility to travel across Europe with an Interrail Pass valid for 7 non-consecutive days for a duration matching that of their grant (from 3 to 12 months). The Pass would allow Erasmus+ students and trainees to travel to and from the host university / workplace by train (i.e. “main trip”) and for other trips (e.g. visit friends and family, explore the host country, etc.).”

The Interrail Pass concept appeals to Erasmus+ participants

Respondents suggest a €50 to €100 contribution would make the Pass affordable*



- Most respondents very much like both the Interrail Pass concept and the Interrail Pass for Erasmus+ concept.
- The market price (€251,-) of the Interrail Pass 7 days in 1 month is affordable for 23% respondents. **46% of respondents find the price somewhat expensive** and only 14% find it very expensive.



Suggestions to improve the Interrail Pass for E+

My Interrail Pass
Includes Ticket & Travel Diary

Personal details Your personal details will be used to send you a gift and/or return your ticket and Pass Cover.

First name: _____ Age: under 26 26-44 45-59 60+
 Last name: _____ Mr Ms
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Country: _____
 Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____

Please send me a gift
 Please return my Pass Cover (€)
 I give Eurail Group G.I.E. permission to use my email address to contact me for research purposes and/or to send me information (see www.eurailgroup.org/privacy-policy)

Travel Diary The information in your Travel Diary helps motivate the European railways to continue to participate in the Interrail Pass system. When you've finished travelling, please send us this Pass Cover including your ticket (no postage stamp required) and get a gift in return! You can use the fields underneath your ticket to fill in your personal details.

Journey details Before boarding each new train, bus or boat, be sure to record the details of each trip below. Without these details, your Interrail Pass is not valid.

If you have an inbound Global Pass, fill in the outbound journey fields when leaving your country of residence. When returning, please complete the inbound journey fields.

Day	Month	Time	From	To	Train/Bus/Boat	Control area
T 1	07	09:22	V I E N N A	B U D A P E S T	X	

Interrail
CV 9902
VALID: 14.12.2015 - 04.01.2016
DATE OF BIRTH: 25.06.1988

FULL NAME: CUBREES, MARIA
COUNTRY: ANDORRA
PASS / ID-NR: 110855396

DATE	TIME	FROM	TO	DATE	TIME	CLASS					
*	*	Interrail	GLOBAL PASS	*	*	2					
*	*	TRAVEL CALENDAR BELOW MUST BE FILLED IN:				*	*				
10/22 DAYS		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
DAY:		15									
MONTH:		12									

VALID: ALL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN Interrail
 ONLY VALID WITH PASSPORT/ID AND COVER
 NOT VALID IN COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

PRICE EUR: ***399.00
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Current Interrail Global pass offer

Access to the transport network of 33 countries in Europe, mainly **rail** but also **buses** and **ferries** (on selected routes).

Unlimited travel for each day of validity of the Pass; validities range from a minimum of 3 days to a maximum of 3 months.

Flexibility to travel across all of Europe, itineraries can be decided last minute with **no impact on costs***.

Passes offer discounts for a broad range of benefits e.g. to send or store luggage, accommodation services, food, etc.

Respondents' suggestions

Make the pass more affordable e.g. E+ vouchers, some reservations included, etc.

Travel support: App for planning, booking and connecting with other students.

Itinerary suggestions, support for travel planning, meet-up events for E+ students.

Discounts for accommodation, attractions and other services at the destination.

Any questions?

For further information please contact:

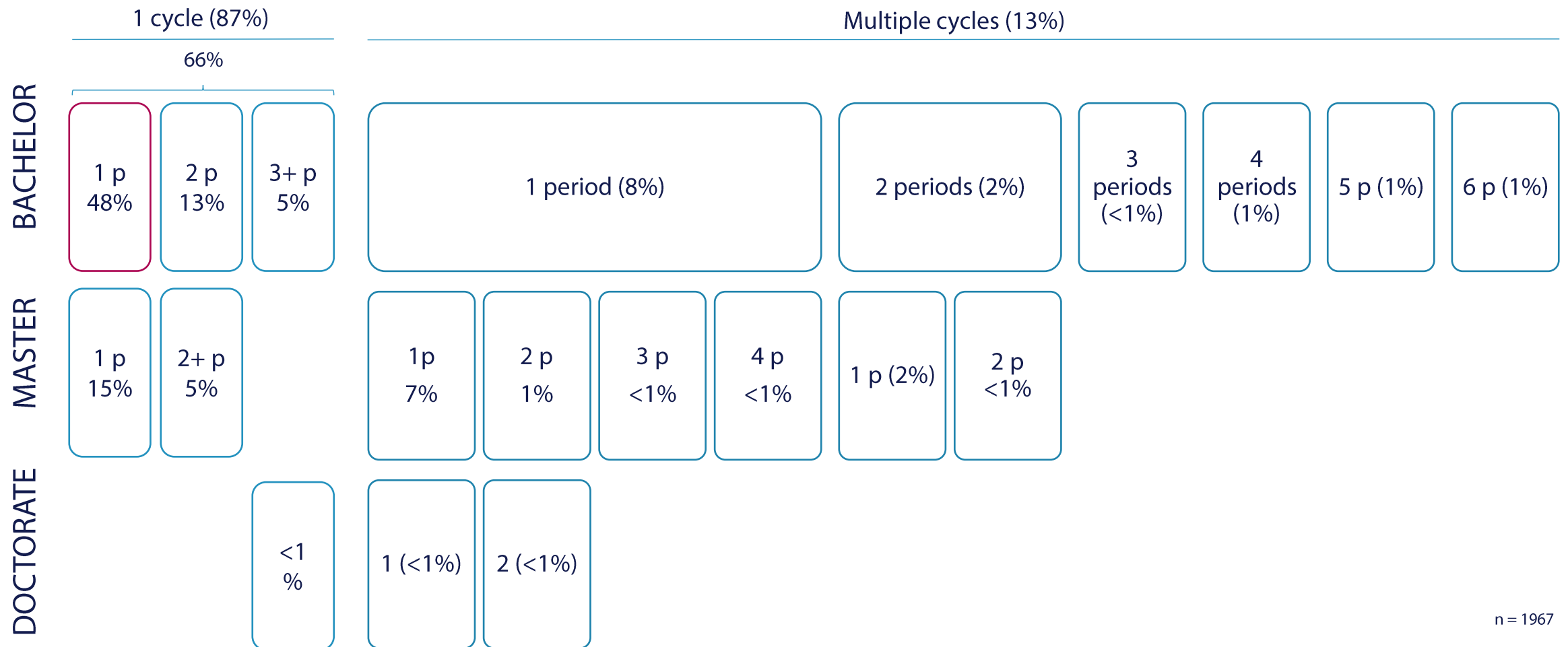
Valeria Croce (Manager International Relations & Insights)

Email: valeria.croce@eurail.com



1 in 2 respondents spends 1 period abroad during their Bachelor studies

Number of Periods Spent Abroad by Study Cycle, % values on total respondents



n = 1967