

WEBINAR

On the impact of COVID-19
on student exchanges in Europe



Erasmus Student Network

Agenda

- Introduction by Kostis Giannidis
- Impact of COVID-19 on Exchange in Europe - Rasmus Benke-Aberg & Wim Gabriels
- Intervention from Mr. Milan Zver, MEP and Standing rapporteur of the European Parliament for Erasmus+ 2021-2027
- “The European Commission’s response to COVID-19 challenges on student mobility” by Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot, Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+ of DG EAC
- Q & A
- Closing

All presentations will be made available and circulated to participants online after the webinar.



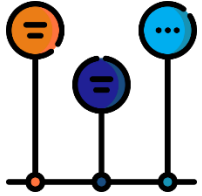
Introduction



Student Exchanges in Times of Crisis

Research report on the impact of COVID-19 on
student exchanges in Europe

METHODOLOGY



Survey open from
19 to 30 March 2020



22.000 respondents
International exchange students in Europe



125 nationalities

94% Erasmus students

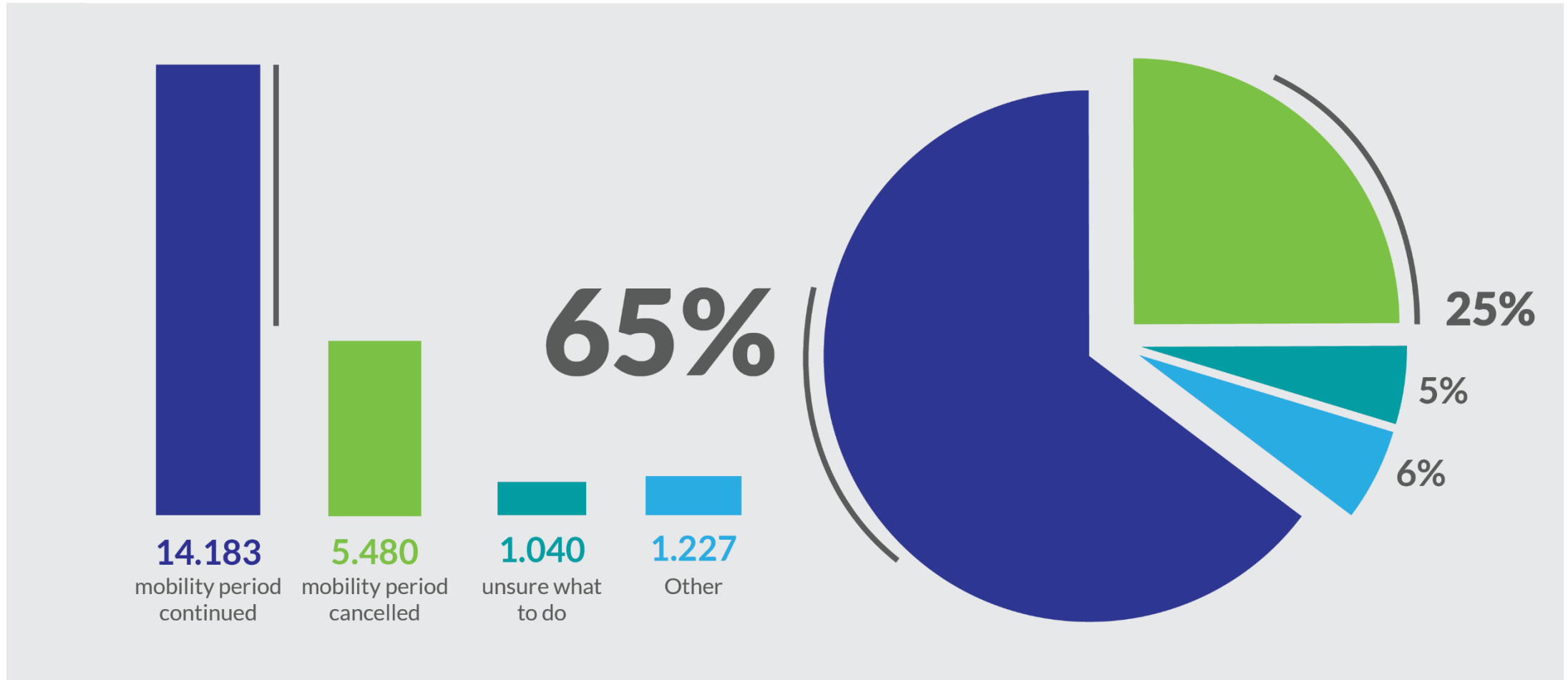
99% on exchange in one of the 42 ESN countries



IMPACT

*EXPERIENCED IMPACT, ISSUES AND SUPPORT
DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK*

IMPACT ON EXCHANGES



IMPACT ON EXCHANGES

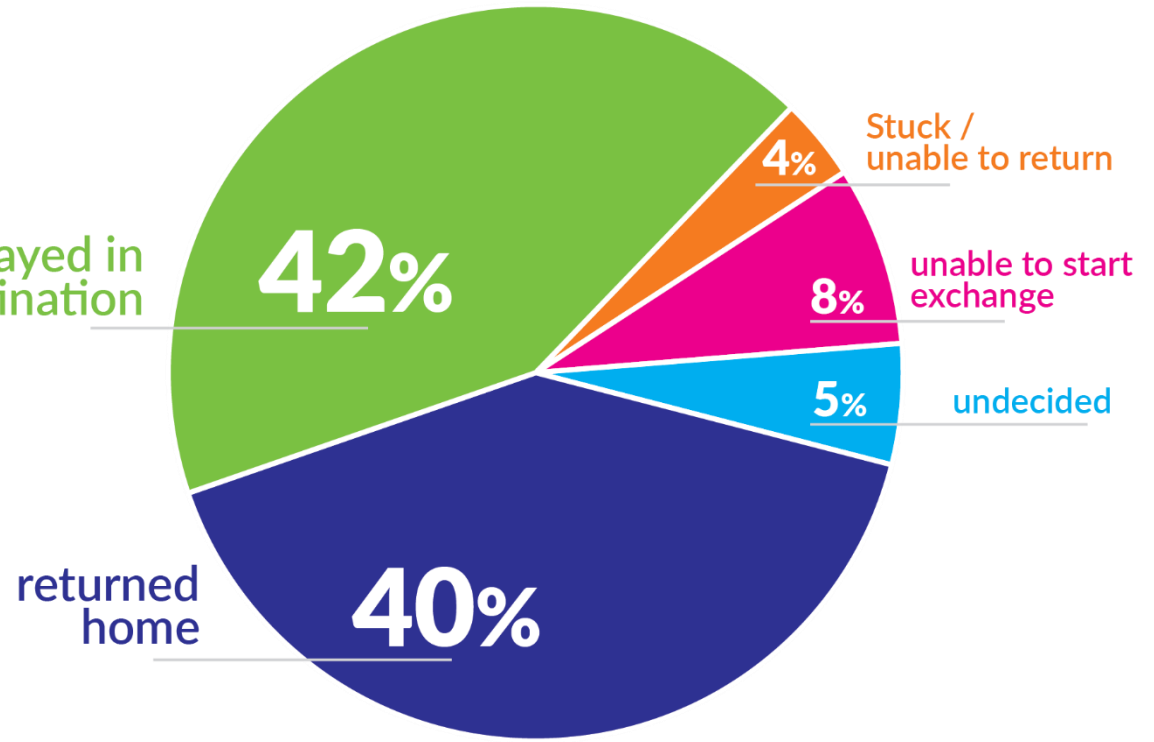
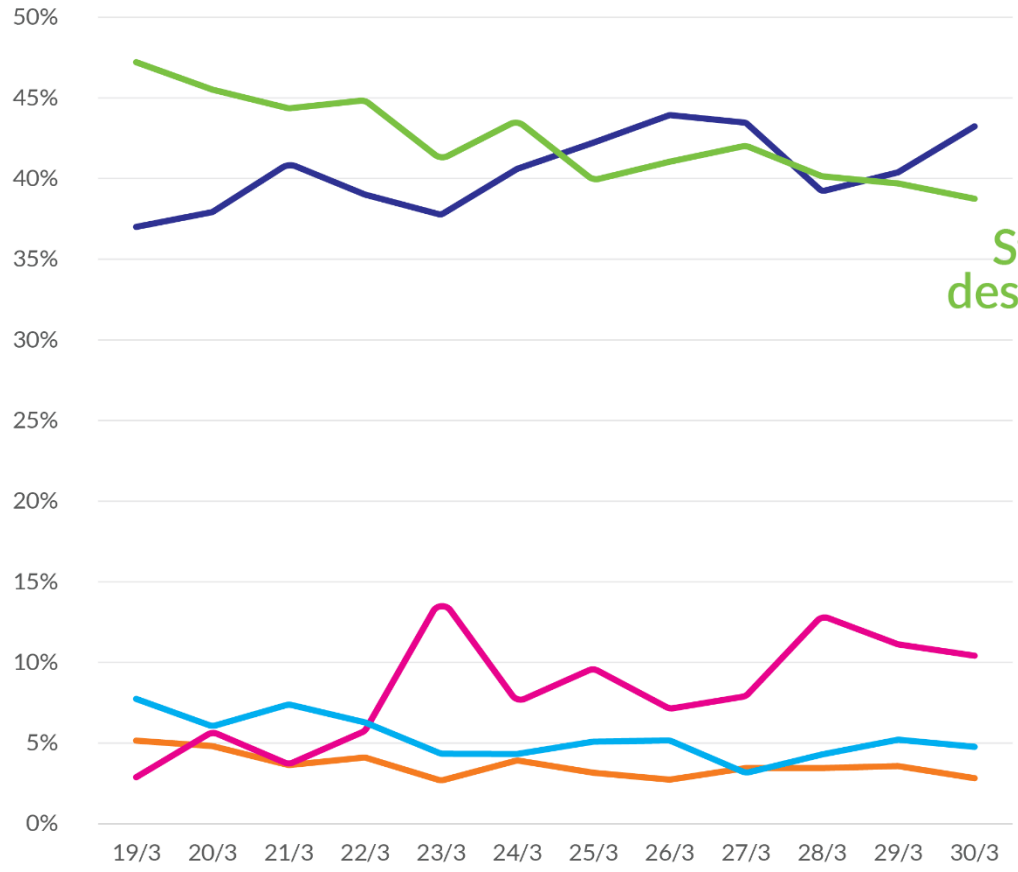
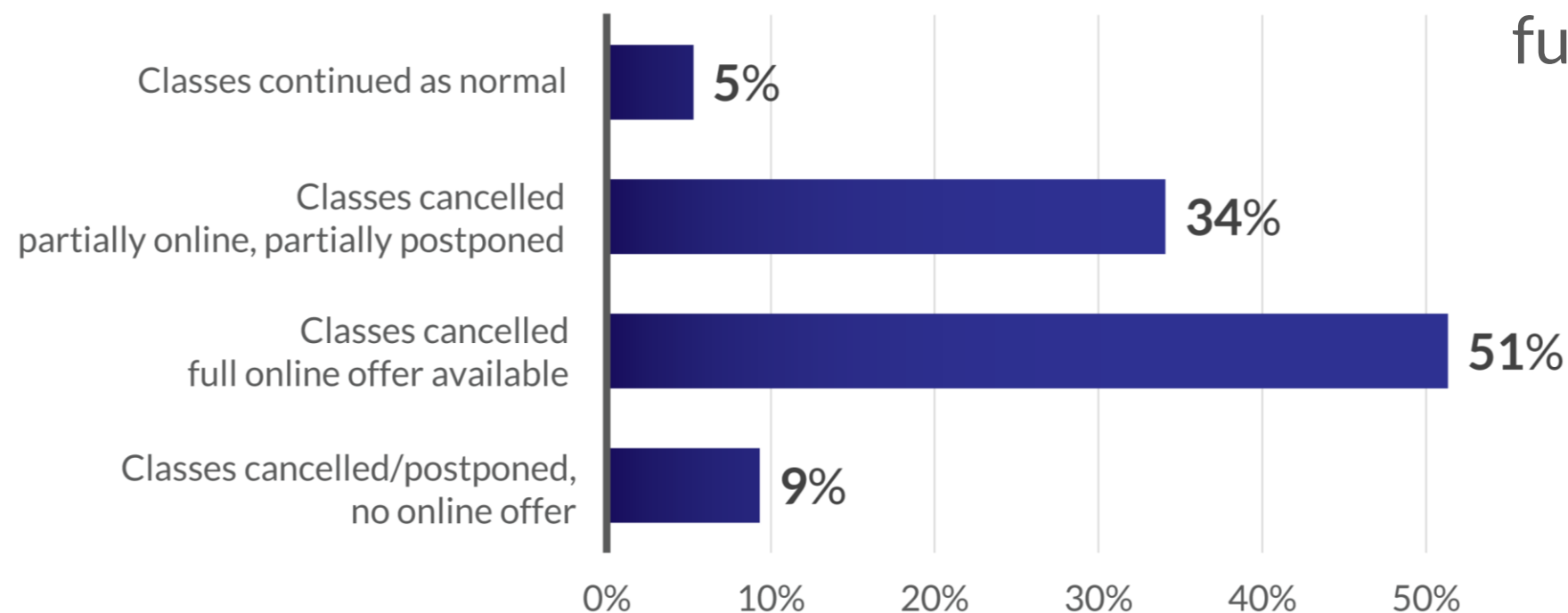


Figure 2 & 3 – physical whereabouts of students

IMPACT ON CLASS SCHEDULE



Most classes moved fully or partially, **online**

Some even started mobility that way

Expressions of **dissapointment**

Figure 8 – impact on class schedule

STUDENT VOICES



One of the most important reason for me to attend this Erasmus program was to find new friends around the world and socialize with them. But, due to isolation, I cannot do that now.

I am very disappointed and because of that I feel very depressed.”

Turkish student in Belgium

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS: FINANCES

Many **costs comitted** before start of mobility.
Students are **worried** about not being able pay
accommodation, flights, ...



Figure 9 – financial impact

MAJOR PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED

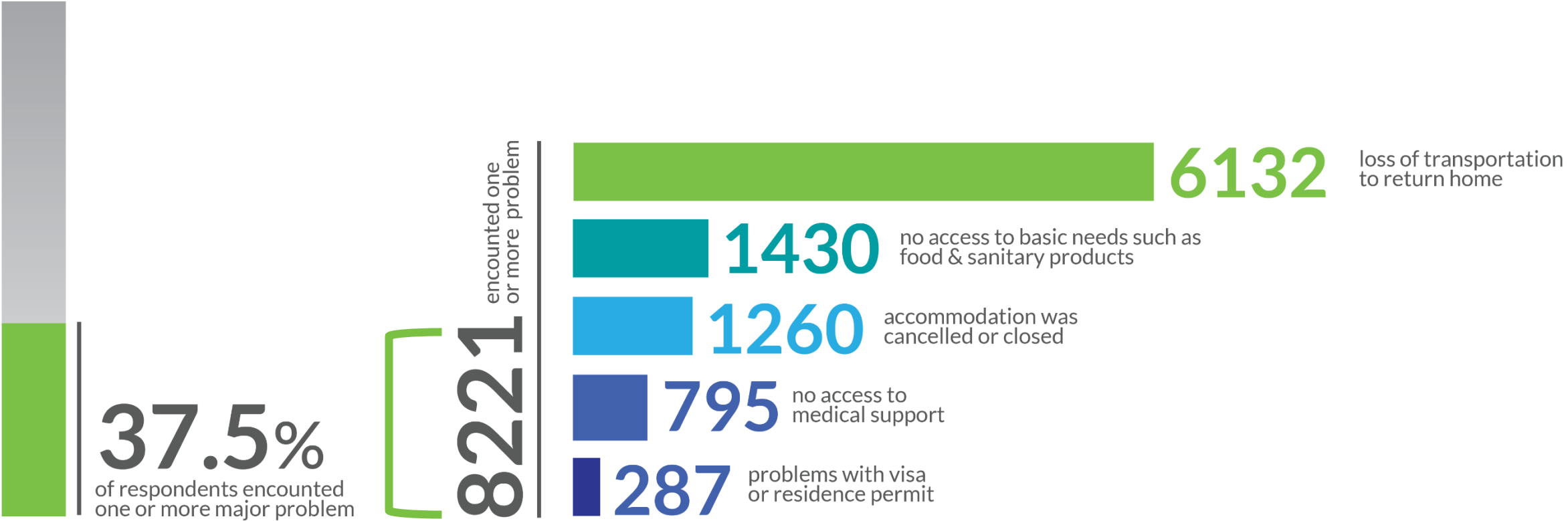


Figure 10 – major problem encountered by students



SUPPORT RECEIVED

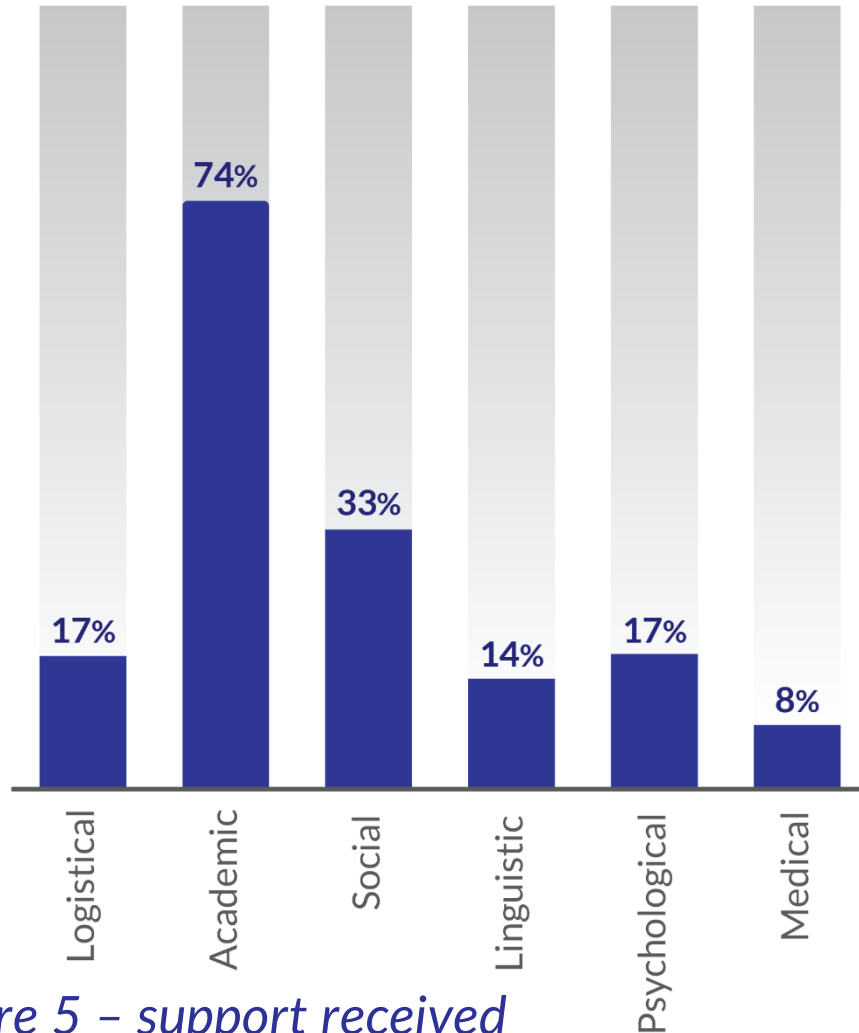


Figure 5 – support received



Most support came from:

Family and/or friends (69%)

Host university (58%)

Home university (45%)

Student organisations (24%)

SUPPORT RECEIVED

78%

Enough information available on health and safety

50%

Sufficient information in English / accessible language for international student



STUDENT VOICES

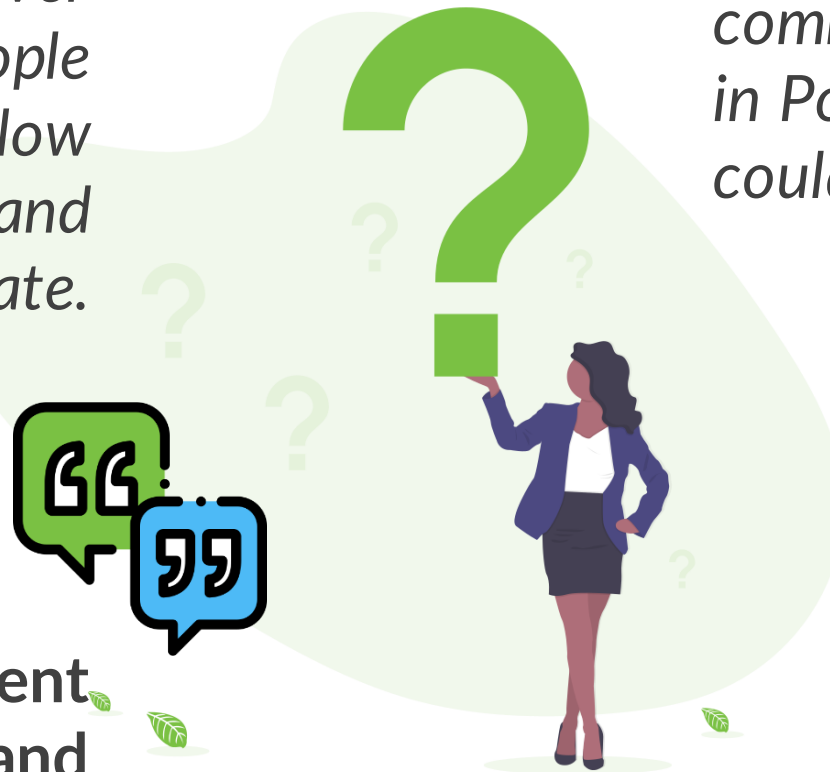
“Every store has its own regulations which are never written down in English, so people start to get rude if we don’t follow rules, we don’t know about and people do not or can not translate. It is really uncomfortable and makes me not want go to the stores.”

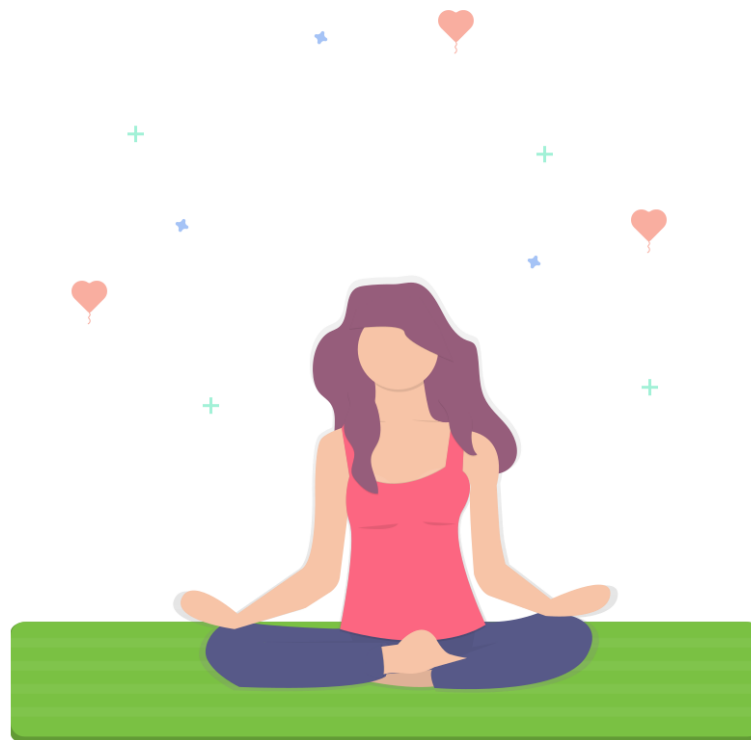
**German student
in Poland**



My host University communicated a lot in Portuguese, which I couldn’t understand.”

**Dutch student
in Portugal**



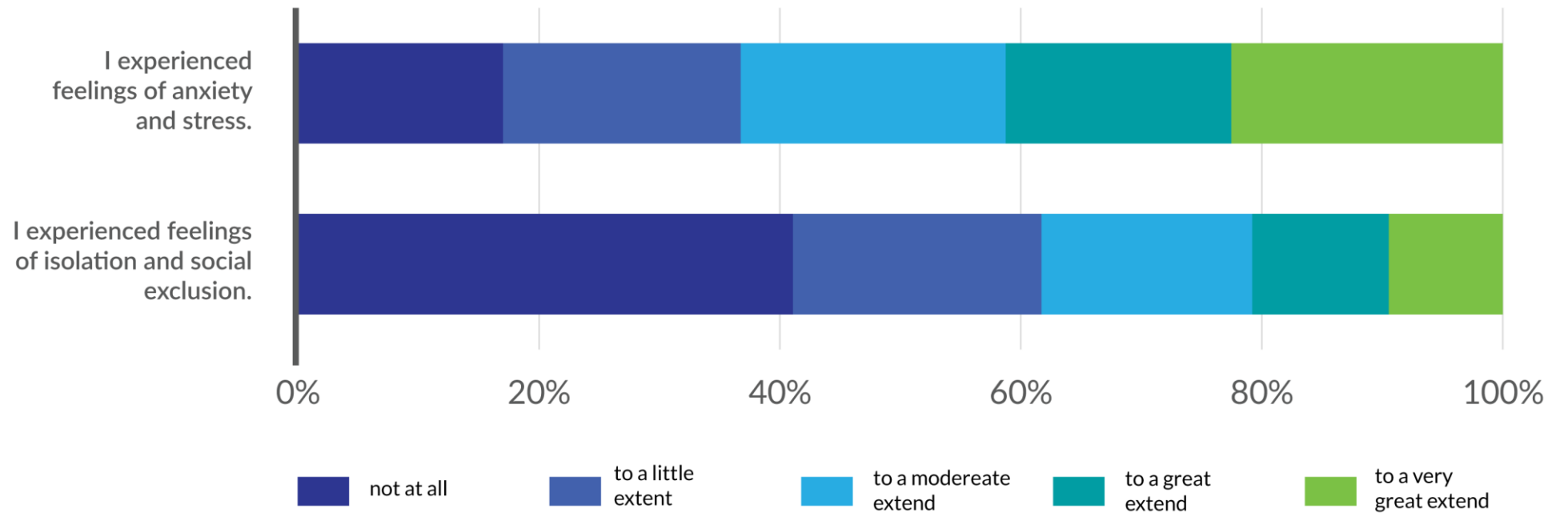


Health and Wellbeing

WELLBEING

41%
experiences anxiety
and stress.

21%
feels isolated and
excluded

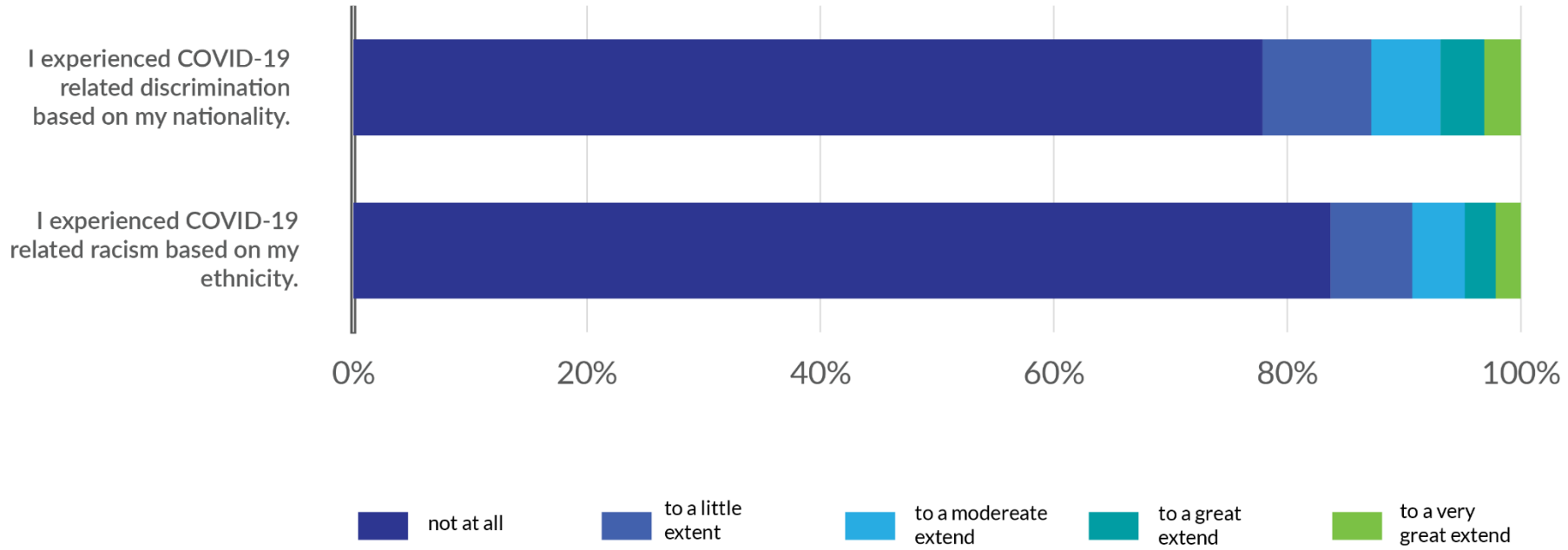


DISCRIMINATION & RACISM

6%
discrimination based on nationality

4,3%
racism based on ethnicity

Diverse response
large in-group variation dependent on nationality



STUDENT VOICES



One thing that struck me very much was the fact that one day I entered the classroom and my teacher didn't let me sit down, she immediately moved away, because I am Italian and according to her I could have the virus.

I didn't cough or have a fever. Besides, I hadn't been back in Italy for 4 months."

**Italian student
in Portugal**




24%

Of Italian students experienced discrimination based on nationality



21%

Of Asian students were affected by racism compared to 4.3%



What we learned

*First conclusion
& Recommendations*

Information provision & support measures



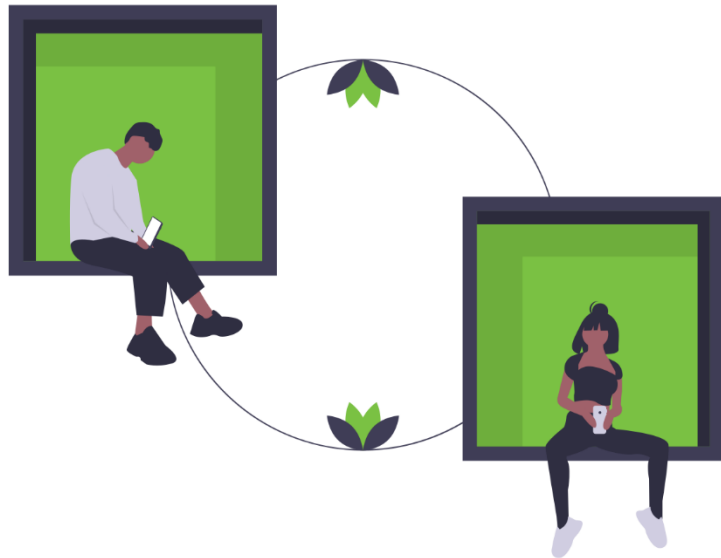
- 1.** information that **targets international student**, in **English** or other accessible language
- 2.** student support available for **domestic students**, also available for international students
- 3.** Inform students about **rights regarding accommodation** when a mobility period is interrupted

Financial Impact

4. All Erasmus students **should receive adequate funding** to cover the costs they have incurred.



Online Facilitation



5. Ensure *equal access* to *online learning* tools for students, be mindful of the *diversity in student populations*.

6. Implement *actions in learning activities* or elsewhere that encourage *interaction among students*.



#ErasmusAtHome

esn.org/erasmusathome

Collecting all online initiatives by ESN under the umbrella [#ErasmusAtHome](https://esn.org/erasmusathome)

ESN's online initiatives

Organising several online challenges & activities such as yoga classes, cooking shows or solidarity actions to support local communities.



Recovery Strategy

7. Supporting structures should be put in place in order to allow for **impact assessment** and to **support the recovery of international student mobility**.



Diversity and Inclusion



Women, children, people with disabilities, the marginalized and the displaced, all pay the highest price in conflicts and are also most at risk of suffering devastating losses from COVID-19,”

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General



Diversity and Inclusion

8. *Ensure solutions for students from less advantaged backgrounds in the emergency response offered.*

9. *Equity, diversity and inclusion in address the needs of disadvantaged students in the **recovery process**.*



Diversity & Inclusion

SiEM

Social Inclusion &
Engagement in Mobility

To support and enhance the participation of student mobility from disadvantaged background, ESN has started the “Social Inclusion and Engagement in Mobility” (siem-project.eu/) project.



Widening participation of less advantaged and underrepresented groups



Increase the **interaction** between International students and **local communities of underrepresented groups** in order to increase intercultural exchange and visibility of international student

Unity in Diversity

ESN believes in **Unity in Diversity**, that intercultural dialogue enriches society.



10. Transnational and cross-sectoral collaboration should be stimulated to overcome the impacts of the crisis.



First, thanks to ESN for conducting the research on Erasmus+ students in times of COVID19 crisis.

The Commission has now taken steps, but there is still a lot to be done. Students need to be 100% certain that all extra costs will be reimbursed and that they will receive their Erasmus+ grant. We need to do everything that is possible so that they don't lose the academic year.

I hope the new "corona-MFF" finds the right balance between addressing the crisis and supporting programmes that are vital for young people in EU.

I can assure you that the CULT committee will continue with its mission to work for the benefit of the whole Erasmus+ family and all European citizens.

Milan Zver

MEP & Standing rapporteur of the EP
for Erasmus+ 2021-2027



Thanks for your attention

more information at:

<https://esn.org/covidimpact-report>