

Erasmus+ traineeship in Italy

In the 2nd year of implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme credit mobility has shown very positive results in Italy. **34.237 students have been abroad both for study and traineeship purposes¹**, with an increase of 10% as compared to the previous year.

As a consequence, Higher Education Institutions have managed a huge amount of grants, in order to answer to such a high request from students.

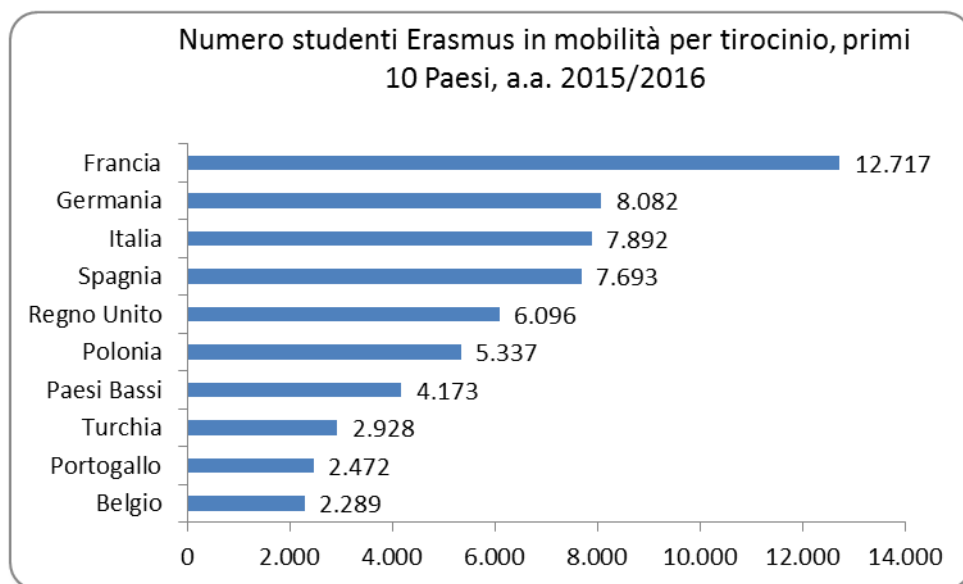
Regarding traineeship mobilities at the premises of an enterprise abroad, a steady growth has been registered: 7.892 Erasmus+ grants have been distributed, +1.385 with respect to 2014 (an increase of 20%).

If confronted with countries having a long-standing tradition in such a kind of mobility, in 2015/2016 Italy has improved its position - as compared to the first years of activity² - being immediately after France and Germany, with respectively 12.717 and 8.082 students going abroad for traineeship purposes.

Furthermore, together with the EU grant, students can benefit from national cofunding of Ministry of Education, University and Research ("Fondo del MIUR per il sostegno dei giovani e la mobilità degli studenti" *ex lege* no. 170/2003) totalling up to 150.000.000 Euros for 2014-2016 and from a special fund dedicated to traineeships ("Fondo di rotazione" *ex lege* no. 183/87).

¹ Last update from the 2015 Call: May 2 2017.

² Traineeship mobility has been first introduced in 2007 with the Lifelong Learning Programme, following Socrates 2.



(Last update: May 2 2017)

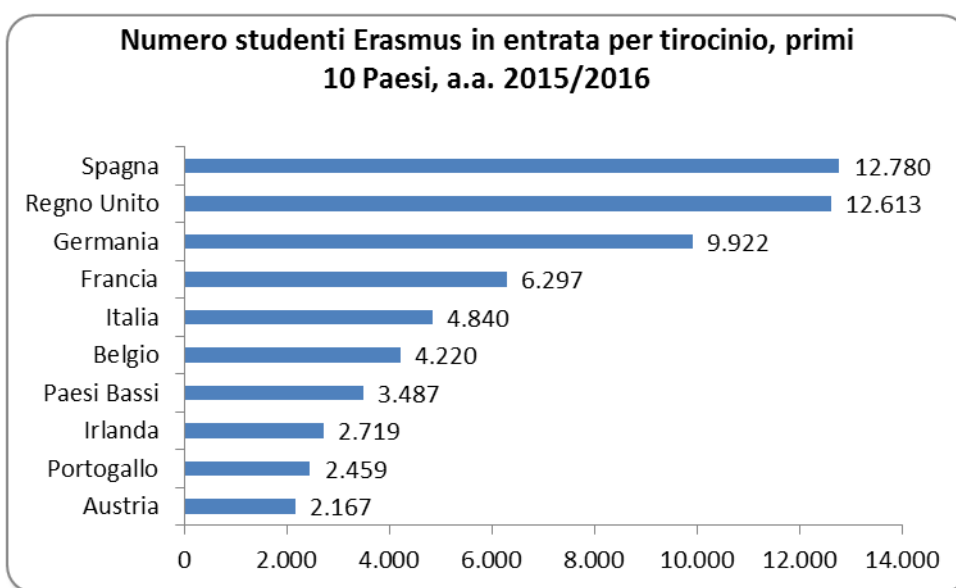
Taking into account the level of participation in traineeship mobility as compared to Erasmus+ mobility as a whole, figures show that in Italy 23,1% of grants are used up for traineeship activities abroad; looking at the countries having the best performance with regard to this type of mobility, lower numbers can be seen only for Germany, Spain and Turkey.

Outgoing students

Paese	N. Studenti Erasmus (a)	di cui in mobilità per tirocinio (b)	b/a
Francia	40.946	12.717	31,1%
Germania	40.200	8.082	20,1%
Spagna	39.079	7.693	19,7%
Italia	34.237	7.892	23,1%

Polonia	16.563	5.337	32,2%
Turchia	15.681	2.928	18,7%
Regno Unito	15.654	6.096	38,9%
Paesi Bassi	13.265	4.173	31,5%
Belgio	9.028	2.289	25,4%
Portogallo	8.670	2.472	28,5%

Spain, UK and Germany are among the hosting countries giving more opportunities to students wishing to go abroad for a traineeship period. Italy finds itself at the 5th position, with 4.840 foreign students having benefitted from such an experience in Italy (1/3 among them spent a traineeship period in a Higher Education Institution).



(Last update: May 2 2017)

Incoming students

Paese di partenza	Numero tirocinanti Erasmus
Spagna	12.780
Regno Unito	12.613
Germania	9.922
Francia	6.297
Italia	4.840
Belgio	4.220
Paesi Bassi	3.487
Irlanda	2.719
Portogallo	2.459
Austria	2.167

Erasmus+ traineeships' main features

Under the Erasmus+ programme it is worth mentioning the level of participation of recent graduates in traineeship mobilities. Indeed, in the very first years of implementation of Erasmus+ 3.000 students (1.688 recent graduates in 2015/2016) have been granted an EU contribution in order to go abroad for a traineeship mobility within 12 months of obtaining their graduation.

Furthermore, Erasmus+ traineeship mobility – as well as Erasmus+ study mobility – has registered higher levels of participation in the second cycle, as compared to the first one: 67% of students going abroad are enrolled in one-cycle/second cycle study programmes, 26% in the first cycle and 7% in the third one.

Moreover, the percentage of female students participating in such a mobility abroad is among the highest ones.

Top destination countries are: Spain (1.743), UK (1.537), Germany (789), France (703) and Belgium (463).

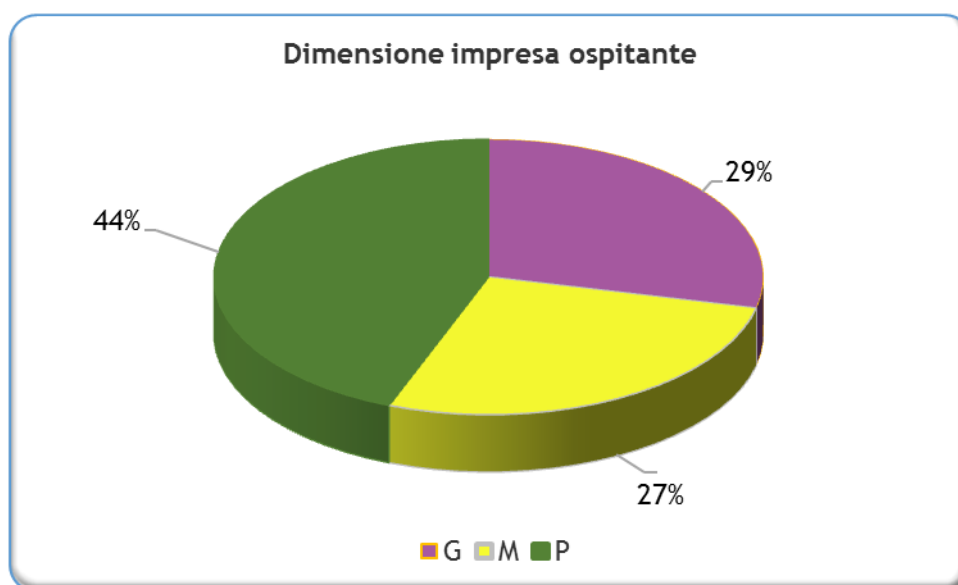
Looking at the disciplinary areas, a strong heterogeneity can be observed: indeed traineeships are usually intended as extra-curricular activities.

Top 5 Fields of Education

Area disciplinare	Nr. tirocinanti Erasmus a.a. 2015/2016
Corso di Laurea in Lingue	428
Giurisprudenza	421
Medicina	398
Architettura	379
Scienze Politiche	347

According to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community, in line with the disciplinary areas, M (professional, scientific and technical activities) and P (training) are among the most requested economic sectors.

Regarding students' distribution with respect to the size of the enterprise, 44% of students have experienced a traineeship mobility in small enterprises, while 27% in medium ones. Big enterprises count for approximately 1/3 in terms of students' participation.



With reference to the number of Italian students going abroad for a traineeship mobility, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna is at the top of the list, with 436 students, followed by the University of Sassari (361 trainees) and Sapienza University of Rome (335).

Ateneo	N. Tirocinanti Erasmus a.a. 2015/2016
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA	436
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI SASSARI	361
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA	335
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA	310
UNIVERSITA DI PISA	303
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE	302
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PERUGIA	261
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO	248
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI	223
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA	212

Erasmus+ Mobility Consortia

Within E+, the organization of student traineeships is also possible through Erasmus Mobility Consortia: an opportunity that Italian HEIs have appreciated also in the LLP programme.

Looking at the awarded Consortia's composition, the following features can be observed in terms of coordinating organizations: 2 consortia are coordinated - and also composed - by organizations from the Fine Arts; 6 have coordinating organizations not belonging to the Higher Education sector; one is coordinated by a

local authority and another one by a Higher Education Institution awarding a short-cycle degree; the remaining ones are all Higher Education Institutions that already had benefitted from the action under the former LLP.

Regarding the type of activities undertaken, all the consortia mentioned above foresee and carry out traineeship mobilities for students and recent graduates; in some cases previous experiences of partnership under the former Leonardo Programme have been confirmed and shared among partners within the new Erasmus+ framework. One consortium is specifically devoted only to International Credit Mobility activities. As underlined before, partnership's composition within consortia reveals a great variety of organizations: it mainly reflects the consortium needs, while taking into account the specificities of the areas where the participating organizations are located. That means consortia with a strong geographical profile – that is “territory-oriented” consortia – are the most represented ones, but also consortia focusing on peculiar topics or with the aim of training students for specific job positions can be observed.

This trend has been maintained also in the applications received within the 2017 Call: partnerships usually reflect a strong linkage to the territory and, more in general, to the region they belong to. At the same time, Consortia often target students from specific areas of study: for instance, doctoral students enrolled in chemistry and pharmacy courses, in order to help them experience a traineeship mobility in renown research centres.

Consortia which are composed by organisations other than HEIs can also be observed: they mainly benefit from the expertise acquired in the VET sector, with the consequence to be well equipped in finding the most suitable hosting enterprise according to students' needs. Among the Italian Mobility Consortia, it is worth mentioning that one Consortium is made up of institutions all belonging to the Fine Arts sector. It provides for traineeship mobilities regarding both students and recent graduates. It is through such a partnership that participating organisations get the opportunity to sign inter-institutional agreements and to cooperate with other institutions abroad.

Furthermore, participating in a Mobility Consortium can also help organisations ease the internal administrative procedures related to the organisation of mobilities. Indeed, they can confront each other and get useful information.

As a general trend in Mobility Consortia (MC), it has to be noted that when the coordinator is an organisation other than a HEI, active in the training or career guidance field, its involvement in the action is deeper. Indeed, the coordinator seems to be very accurate in the selection of the hosting enterprise, in the monitoring phase towards the student and towards the MC and often in managing the students' feedback after the Erasmus traineeship experience. This is also the case where the partnership is carefully selected and the partners show relevant expertise in the field of training useful for supporting the traineeship mobility, still the most requested one. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the coordinator is very much involved in the project also in terms of tasks, sometimes even in an unbalanced way, being its workload bigger as compared to the other participants. For the above mentioned reasons, the NA pays particular attention on giving advice to beneficiaries on the importance of the sending HEI's role in terms of monitoring of its students and on the responsibility for signing the student/HEI agreement.

As a general consideration, our beneficiaries consider the redistribution of funds among partners - in cases where one partner has not used them up - as a great opportunity; furthermore, the participation of enterprises has an undeniable added value in order to respond to the market's most pressing needs.

It is also worth mentioning that the action is a key instrument for small size, or less experienced institutions to integrate and confront with the most experienced ones; indeed, through such a partnership they have been given the possibility to become more visible at a European level and to develop networking opportunities with other institutions.

Furthermore, Erasmus+ has given wider opportunities to Mobility Consortia, being mobility for study purposes and for staff now open to consortia too.

Italian mobile students' feedback (Source: Participant Reports)

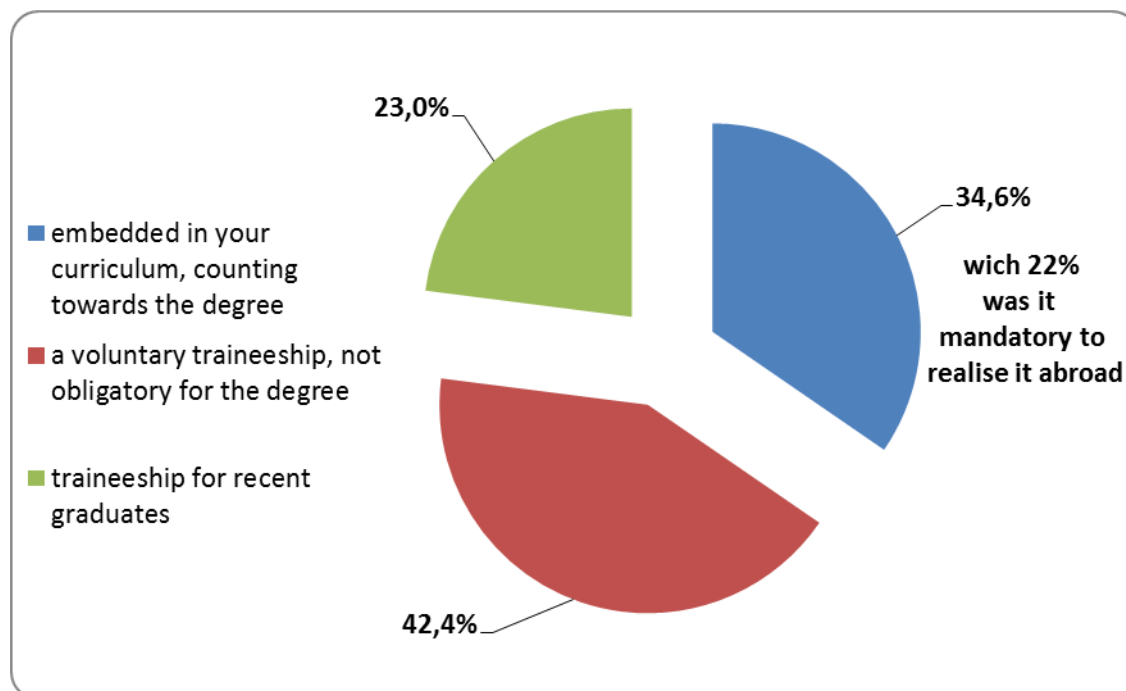
34,6% of students have participated in a traineeship mobility as a curricular activity, while 42,4% on a voluntary basis. The remaining 23% of trainees were recent graduates, whose participation in the mobility between 2014 and 2015 has increased by 30%.

More than 75% of students have declared that the activities undertaken during the mobility period abroad have been in line with their profile and studies; 25% of them believe such a participation should have been more focused in terms of activities.

A very high level of satisfaction can be observed among students after the mobility experience abroad, being around 96%. A great majority of them (67%) have confirmed they would have accepted any job offer from the enterprise, should there have been the opportunity.

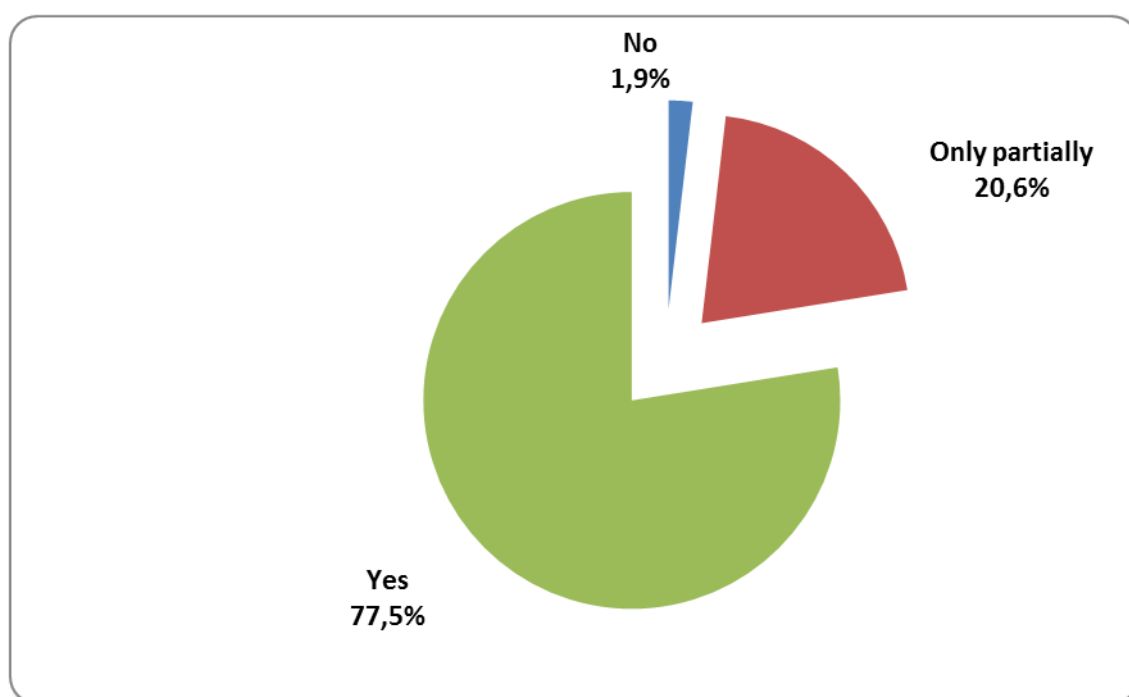
How was your traineeship ...

How was your traineeship...	Total
a voluntary traineeship, not obligatory for the degree	3.004
embedded in your curriculum, counting towards the degree	2.448
traineeship for recent graduates	1.627
Total	7.079



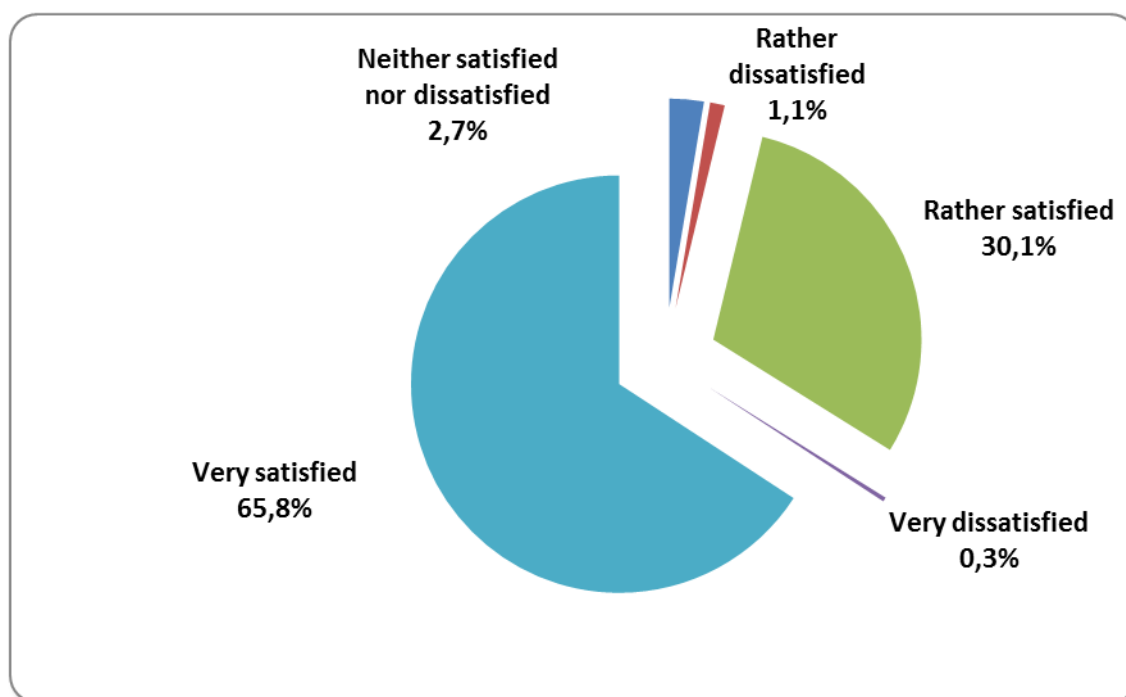
Do you think that your tasks during the traineeship were relevant to your studies and educational profile?

Do you think that your tasks during the traineeship were relevant to your studies and educational profile?	Total
No	131
Only partially	1.459
Yes	5.489
Total	7079



How satisfied are you with your Erasmus+ mobility experience in general?

How satisfied are you with your Erasmus+ mobility experience in general?	Total
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	185
Rather dissatisfied	79
Rather satisfied	2.088
Very dissatisfied	23
Very satisfied	4.569
(vuoto)	
Total	6.944



If you had the opportunity, would you work for this receiving enterprise/organisation?

If you had the opportunity, would you work for this receiving enterprise/organisation?	Total
No	669
Not sure	1.664
Yes	4.746
Total	7.079

