



Empowering  
young people

## **Learning opportunities (learning mobility) abroad in Europe for everyone – feedback from the field**

Based on our network members' rich experience working with and for young people, our position and perspective on the topics related to learning mobility are as follows:

### **1. Lack of Awareness and Motivation:**

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We recognize the significance of addressing the lack of awareness and motivation as key challenges to learning mobility. We emphasize the importance of providing clear information, guidance, and role models to increase awareness and motivate individuals to participate in learning mobility programs. Tailoring support for learners with fewer opportunities and offering flexible learning formats can also enhance engagement. Furthermore, addressing language skills and cultural understanding is crucial for meaningful interactions and successful experiences.

### **2. Difficulties to Prepare for Departure:**

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We acknowledge the challenges young people face when preparing for their learning mobility experience. It is important to address obstacles such as language skill development, administrative support, finding host organizations and accommodations, and obtaining necessary information related to health, safety, and legal obligations. Additionally, ensuring smooth visa and permit processes for third-country nationals is essential. By providing comprehensive pedagogical support and information, individuals can better prepare for their departure and have a successful learning mobility experience.

### **3. Lack of Funding and Socio-economic Obstacles:**

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We recognize that the lack of funding and socio-economic barriers pose significant challenges to learning mobility. Insufficient financial means, limited support for individuals with fewer opportunities, and a lack of understanding from family and friends can hinder participation. We emphasize the need for increased financial assistance, targeted support for marginalized groups, and raising awareness about the value and benefits of learning mobility. Making learning mobility compatible with work or studies and providing comprehensive support systems can address socio-economic obstacles.

### **4. Difficulties in Ensuring Quality and Recognition of Skills and Competences Acquired Abroad:**

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We acknowledge the difficulties in ensuring the quality and recognition of skills acquired abroad. The lack of recognition in the home country or organization can hinder individuals' professional development. It is essential to establish clear procedures for validating learning outcomes, enhance quality assurance, and promote the utilization of European transparency tools. Bridging the recognition gap and promoting the value of international experiences can empower individuals to fully leverage their acquired skills and competences.

### **5. Administrative and Legal Obstacles:**

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We recognize the significant impact of administrative and legal obstacles on learning mobility. It is crucial to address concerns such as disparities in compensation and health and safety standards, and complex contractual processes. Enhancing employer engagement, streamlining processes, and promoting effective collaboration among coordinating institutions can create a more accessible and efficient administrative and legal framework for learning mobility. Finally, it is important to address challenges regarding the replacement for outgoing staff, such as teaching staff, social and youth workers.

## 6. Incoherent Systems and Actions Implemented by Different Member States and at the EU Level:

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We believe that addressing the lack of complementarity between national education and training systems, insufficient national funding, and the absence of quality data and consistent monitoring are crucial. Aligning systems, enhancing funding, and improving data collection and monitoring can foster more effective and efficient learning mobility across the European Union.

## 7. Incentivizing Learning Mobility and Removing Mobility Obstacles:

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We support the political priorities set by the European Commission for future learning mobility. We agree on the importance of climate-friendly mobility, increased funding for accessibility, pedagogical support especially of young people going abroad for the first time in their life. We also agree that learning mobility should recognise the benefits of blended approaches. Continued investment in innovative and digital tools is necessary to effectively facilitate learning mobilities. Learning mobility should become part in all education and training programs; establishing quality standards and assurance mechanisms, increasing accessibility for individuals with fewer opportunities, and promoting blended mobility are recommended actions to expand and improve learning mobility opportunities.

Overall, our position emphasizes the **need for comprehensive pedagogical support, increased funding, improved recognition, streamlined processes, and enhanced collaboration** to address the obstacles and ensure a successful and inclusive learning mobility experience for young people.

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### About the YES Forum

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Founded in 2002, YES Forum is a European network of organisations working with and for young people facing challenging situations. By promoting their social inclusion and developing their professional skills, we act to improve the life chances of vulnerable young people. YES Forum aims to create an environment where young people and youth professionals have equally accessible learning and work-related opportunities in Europe and beyond.