

# Internationalisation of higher education: Portuguese and broader European perspectives

Erasmus+ Meeting: Internationalisation of Education and Training  
Faro - 05 May 2022

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EAIE Associate Director, Knowledge Development & Research

# Agenda

1. A bit about the EAIE
2. Some "historical" data on internationalisation in European higher education
3. Some reflections on key current / emerging trends in internationalisation

# A bit about the EAIE...

# European Association for International Education (EAIE)

Founded in 1989, we are a non-profit, member organisation driven in our commitment to foster responsible international higher education

- Based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Serving Europe and the global community
- 3000 members
- 6000 annual conference attendees

Explore new trends in the field



Debate hot topics



Learn from peers & highly-skilled trainers



Read practical & research-oriented publications

Foster mutual understanding



Forge partnerships



Nurture global citizens



Shape developments in the field

# Our members' areas of expertise

Admission and Recognition

Alumni Relations

Business Education

Cooperation for Development

Employability

European Collaborative Programme s

Guidance and Counselling

Health and Welfare Education

Inclusion and Diversity

Internationalisation at Home

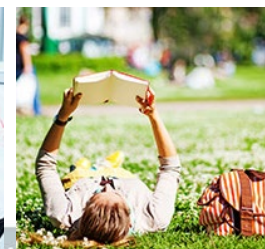
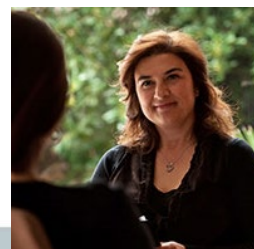
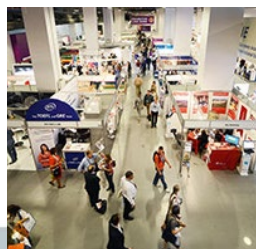
Language and Culture

Marketing and Recruitment

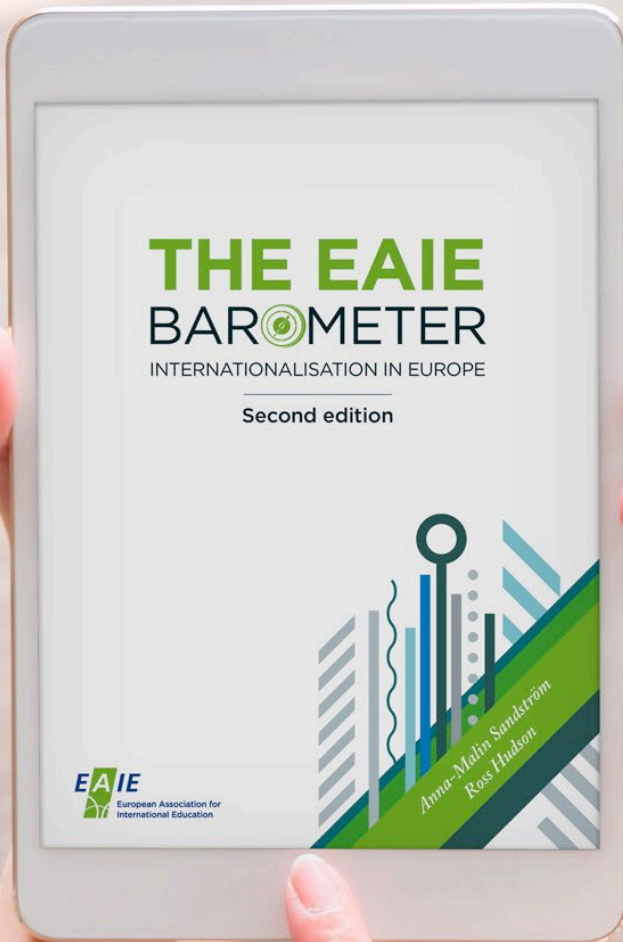
Mobility Advising

Strategy and Management

Summer Schools



# Some "historical" data on internationalisation in European higher education...



# EAIE Barometer: Internationalisation in Europe (second edition)

Freely available:

<https://www.eaie.org/barometer>



# Background: The EAIE Barometer

- First edition in 2015
- Second edition in 2018
- Largest & most geographically diverse study mapping institutional internationalisation in Europe
- Covers goals & priorities; strategy, management & quality assurance; EU & national policies; challenges; and the future
- Responses to online survey collected in autumn 2017 via EAIE database, (social) media channels and partners
- Factual and perception-based questions

# Respondents: The EAIE Barometer

- Prerequisite to work on internationalisation at HEI in EHEA
- **2317** individual respondents from **1292** unique HEIs in **45** EHEA countries
- Top respondent numbers from NL, DE, FI & UK
- HEIs: 80% public; 54% research HEIs, 22% UAS & 17% specialised
- Position: 60% IO staff, 18% faculty, 14% other admin staff, and 5% (deputy) head of HEI

## Portugal:

- 49 responses
- 41% head or staff of an international office
- 41% research universities
- 34% universities of applied sciences
- 20% specialised HEIs

# Goals of internationalisation

## Main goals of internationalisation\* (n=2317)

	EHEA
Prepare students for global world	<b>76%</b>
Improve the quality of education	<b>65%</b>
Inst. reputation/competitiveness	<b>53%</b>
Improve the quality of research	<b>38%</b>
Financial benefits	<b>12%</b>
Better service local community	<b>11%</b>
Respond to demographic shifts	<b>8%</b>
Other	<b>2%</b>
Don't know	<b>0%</b>

## Portugal:

1. 76%: Prepare students for a globalised world/enhance student employability
2. 65%: Improve institutional reputation, competitiveness and/or position in rankings
3. 61%: Improve the quality of education
4. 47%: Improve the quality of research
5. 12%: Financial benefits

# Prioritised internationalisation activities

## Top 10 internationalisation activities prioritised in strategy\* (n=1917)

	EHEA
Int. mobility of home students	68%
Int. student recruitment	53%
Int. mobility of home staff	39%
Int. strategic partnerships	38%
Programmes in non-local language	33%
Joint/dual/double degrees	29%
Campus internationalisation	26%
Internationalisation of home curriculum	21%
Int. staff recruitment	20%
Int. rankings focused activities	18%
Courses developing int. awareness	18%

## Portugal:

1. 91%: International mobility opportunities for home students
2. 70%: International student recruitment
3. 68%: International mobility opportunities for home faculty/staff
4. 36%: International strategic partnership building
5. 25%: International rankings/reputation-building activities

# Internal challenges

## Top 10 internal challenges by region\* (n=2099)

	EHEA
Insufficient internal budget	39%
Lack of commitment by some staff	38%
Lack of internal recognition	27%
Lack of int. scholarships	27%
Lack of student/staff foreign language skills	24%
Lack of inst. structure/leadership	21%
Lack of staff expertise	16%
Students not pursuing int. education	16%
Lack of integration of int. students	15%
Lack of int. student/staff local language skills	10%

## Portugal:

1. 48%: Insufficient internal budget for internationalisation
2. 43%: Lack of scholarship opportunities for international students
3. 38%: Lack of commitment to internationalisation by some faculty/staff
4. 36%: Lack of foreign language proficiency among students and/or faculty/staff
5. 33%: Insufficient recognition for involvement in internationalisation activities

# External challenges

## Top 10 external challenges by region\*

(n=2082)

	EHEA
Insufficient external funding	31%
(Inter)national competition	28%
National legal barriers	27%
Perceived high living costs	24%
Lack of int. recognition of HEI	24%
Lack of national support/strategy	23%
Lack of employer recognition	14%
Low-priority country for int. partnerships	10%
Political nationalism/xenophobia	10%
Emigration of local students	7%
Political instability/insecurity	7%

## Portugal:

1. 62%: Insufficient external funding for internationalisation
2. 38%: Competition amongst institutions nationally and internationally
3. 26%: Restrictive national legal barriers (eg higher education policy, visa restrictions)
4. 21%: Inadequate national support infrastructure and strategy for internationalisation
5. 14%: Lack of recognition of internationalisation by employers

A bit of specialised insight...



# Signposts of success

- Takes a closer look at data from the 2018 Barometer
- Explores commonalities among respondents who
  - Perceive their HEI's level of internationalisation to be **above average in their national context**
  - Are **optimistic about the future** of internationalisation at their institution
  - Report comparatively **greater progress** than other respondents **in pursuing their prioritised internationalisation activities**

= Proxies for 'success'
- Downloadable for free at <https://www.eaie.org/barometer>

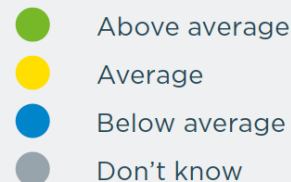
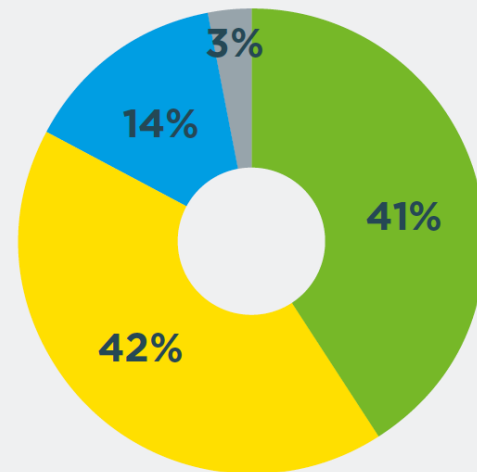


# Perceived level of internationalisation

## Portugal:

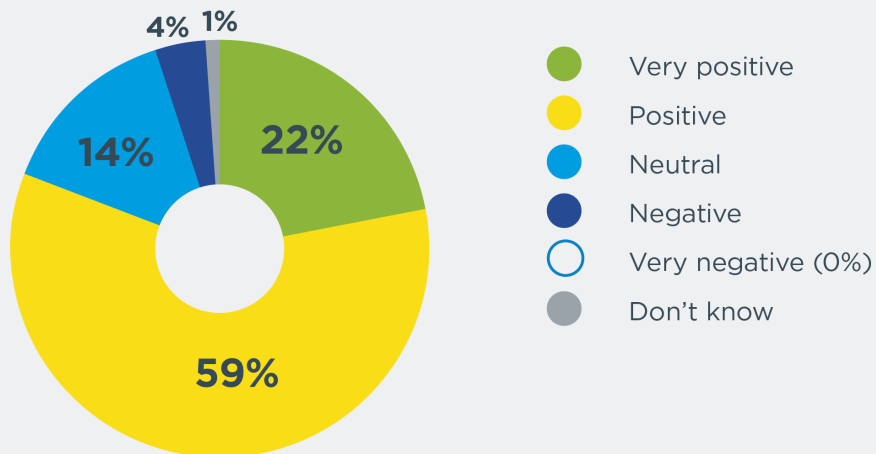
- 41%: Above average
- 39%: Average
- 18%: Below average
- 2%: Don't know

Perceived level of internationalisation of respondent HEI compared to other HEIs in country ( $n=2317$ )



# Confidence in the future

Feeling about future of internationalisation at HEI (*n=2073*)



## Portugal:

- 54%: Very positive
- 44%: Positive
- 2%: Neutral
- 0%: Negative
- 0%: Very negative
- 0%: Don't know

# Nine signposts of success

1. Alignment of internationalisation with the academic mission
2. Commitment to a broad internationalisation portfolio
3. Existence of an institution-wide strategy
4. Established targets for priority activities
5. Regular strategy evaluation
6. Funding for priority activities
7. Coordinated organisation
8. Training to support priorities
9. Systematic quality assurance

Success as a matter of...

- **motivation**
- **organisation**
- **execution**

# Motivation



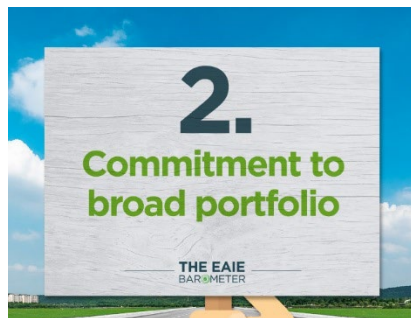
Respondents at institutions where **financial benefits** were identified as the main motivating factor for internationalisation were more likely to report:

- below average performance
- less confidence in the future

# Organisation



# Execution



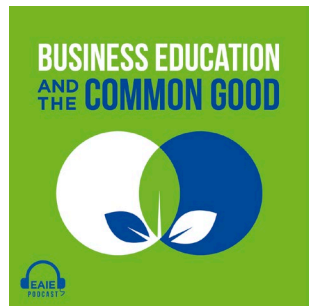
# Current / emerging trends in internationalisation ...

# 1. Environmental sustainability

- Reducing the carbon footprint of physical mobility
  - Developing sustainable internationalisation more broadly
  - Embedding climate literacy in international education
- \*\* Addressing new challenges resulting from commitments to 'green' solutions**



# The EAIE on Sustainability

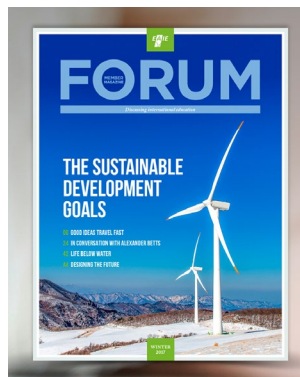


LIVE with

## PII-TUULIA NIKULA

Climate Action Network for International Educators - CANIE, New Zealand

Friday 23 April 2021  
11:00 (CEST)



## 2. Equity and Inclusion

- Involving and empowering underrepresented populations of participants
  - Ensuring equal and equitable access to opportunities
  - Embedding and institutionalising norms, behaviours and systems
- \*\* Evolving terminology and priorities**

# The EAIE on equity and inclusion

► LIVE with

## JUAN RAYÓN

Erasmus Student Network,  
Belgium

Friday 28 Jan 2022  
11:00 (CET)

**EAIE** Community Moment



WORKING AT THE  
CROSSROADS OF  
**ACCESS, EQUITY  
& INCLUSION**

**EAIE** PODCAST



## THE STORIES WE TELL

**EAIE** PODCAST



## CELEBRATING PRIDE

AIMING FOR MORE

**EAIE** PODCAST



## DISCUSSING DISCRIMINATION

**EAIE** PODCAST



Learning from Flanders' inclusive mobility roadmap

# 3. Digitalisation

- Learning and teaching
- Student engagement
- Administrative services and activities
- Collaboration
- \*\* Focusing on objectives first, technology second
- \*\* Checking our blind spots

# The EAIE on digitalisation



## 4. Collaboration

- Within institutions: "distributed leadership"
- Between institutions: European Universities Initiative
- Beyond institutions: Community engagement

# The EAIE on collaboration



**2022 Winter Forum call for submissions: Universities and their communities**

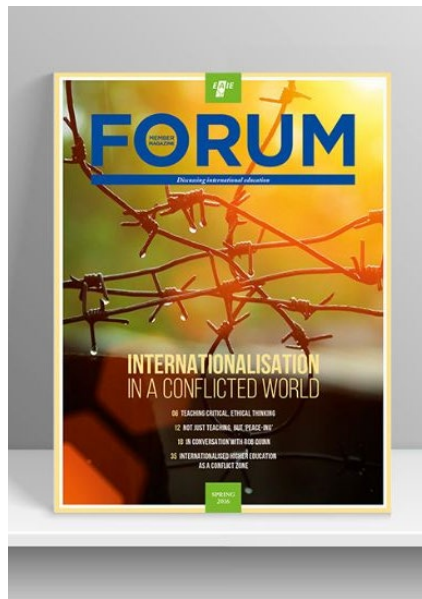
**2022 Summer Forum: From Bologna to Brussels**

## 5. Geopolitical tensions

- Environmental scanning
- Crisis management
- Change management
- Values-driven decision-making



# The EAIE on geopolitical tensions



**Standing in solidarity with Ukraine**

EAIE News  
By EAIE

The EAIE stands in solidarity with Ukraine. Read the full statement of support.

# The EAIE on geopolitical tensions



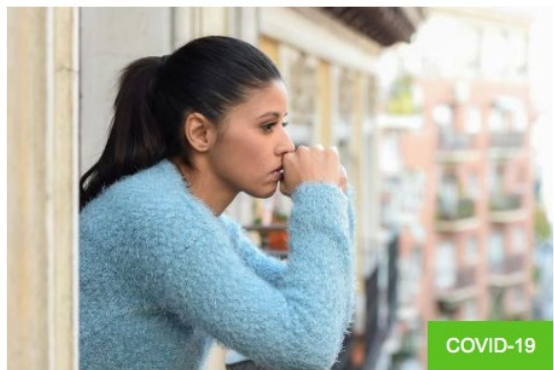
**EAIE IDEAS LAB:  
SUPPORTING UKRAINE**

19 May 2022

## 6. Wellbeing

- Mental health and resilience
- Sense of security and belonging
- Sense of purpose

# The EAIE on wellbeing



## 5 unique mental health stressors faced by international students

Student services  
By FRANK HABER, STEPHANIE GRIFFITHS

Pandemic outbreaks like COVID-19 are among the kinds of stressors that can have an even greater impact on international students.



## Supporting international students in times of crisis and conflict

Student services, Planning  
By CLAIRE O'LEARY, LOUISE STAUNTON, STEPHANIE GRIFFITHS

Students and staff affected by crisis and conflict need extra support from their institutions. Here are some of the key areas to address in times of need.



European Association for  
International Education

**Many thanks  
for your attention!  
Obrigada!**

**Laura E. Rumbley, PhD**

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