Learning from Past Crises in Erasmus+ Mobilities

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- **Practice-oriented teaching** | *Ensino orientado para a prática*
- **Teamwork and analytical thinking** | *Trabalho de equipa e pensamento analitico*
- **Academic staff with industry experience** | *Experiência na industria*
- **Preparing students for real life challenges** | *Preparação para a vida real*

☞ ***“What comes to your mind when you hear the word ‘crisis’ in the context of Erasmus+?”***

health, war, political, admin, digital

Purpose? to transform past challenges into knowledge for future resilience.

Erasmus+ and Crisis: What Do We Mean?

☞ *“How do **different types of crises** affect students, staff, and institutions in Erasmus+?”*

Key Types of Crises:

- **Health Crises** (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic)
- **Geopolitical Crises** (e.g., Ukraine war, Brexit)
- **Technological/Operational Failures**
- **Environmental Events** (natural disasters)
- **Policy and Regulatory Shocks**

*"Crises are **moments of truth** **that test** the robustness of international education systems."*

European University Association (2022)

Crises test not only **logistics** but **values**:

solidarity, flexibility, fairness.

☞ *“What are the **most significant crises***

Erasmus+ has faced in the past 15 years?”

Past Crises:

☞ *"What are the **most significant crises** Erasmus+ has faced in the past 15 years?"*

📌 COVID-19 Pandemic

- Mass **cancellation/postponement** of mobilities
- Shift to **virtual mobility / blended** formats
- **Financial implications** for grantees
- **Mental health** and student wellbeing

"COVID-19 revealed the fragility of mobility models based solely **on physical presence**." *Broucker et al., 2021*

📌 Ukraine Conflict (2022)

- **Interrupted mobility** for Ukrainian students
- Host institutions managing **emergency responses**
- **Solidarity actions** & ad hoc funding

"The Ukrainian crisis became a litmus test for **values-based action** in higher education." *EAIE, 2023*

📌 Brexit (2020)

- Withdrawal of UK from Erasmus+
- Disruption of existing partnerships
- Rise of the Turing Scheme (UK-based)

1. ***Which crisis impacted*** ***your institution the most? Why?***
2. ***What did you learn*** ***about your system's flexibility?***
3. ***What responses or decisions*** ***would you repeat or change?***

Institutional Strategies: What Worked?

☞ *"What institutional practices proved **most effective** in navigating past crises?"*

Best Practices Identified:

- Crisis **communication** task forces
- Emergency **funding** mechanisms
- Mobility scenario **planning**
- Flexible **Learning Agreements**
- Use of digital tools for continuity

"The crisis reinforced the importance of **agile governance in internationalisation**."

Gornitzka et al., 2022

Future Outlook: Crisis-Proofing Mobilities

☞ *“If we could redesign Erasmus+ from scratch, what features would we embed to make it crisis-proof?”*

Future Outlook: Crisis-Proofing Mobilities

☞ *“If we could redesign Erasmus+ from scratch, what features would we embed to make it crisis-proof?”*

Emerging Ideas:

- More **virtual/blended** mobility integration
- Real-time **mobility monitoring platforms**
- Inter-institutional mutual **aid agreements**
- Cross-border student **insurance protocols**

 Consider the role of **digital transformation** and **green mobility** (Erasmus+ 2021–2027 priorities)

"In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity."

Albert Einstein

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