

STARS EU

Mobility network structures

Milestone 16



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Objectives of the report

In every European universities alliance, mobility is expected to play a key role. Actions and structures are therefore to be taken to create the structures around mobility. The objective of this report is to present the work done by the Work Package 6 (WP6), mainly since the beginning of 2024 but not only, on building the network structure around mobility for the STARS EU alliance.

This report is in relation with the MS15 report which was an analysis of the needs for mobility. In that former report, various types of mobility were enumerated from long-term physical mobility to short-term mobility. In this report we will present the various steps and the various elements that today (October 2024) make the STARS EU network structure. This mobility network structure has to be understood in relation with other WPs and STARS EU structures as we will present throughout the report. In order to be fully aware of what is existing within the various partners, we have created an internal questionnaire inside WP6 in which we have asked each partner to fill out questions about the mobility. The questions were the following:

1°) <i>Organization of mobility</i>
Who organizes the Erasmus/Erasmus+/Erasmus Mundus mobilities?
Where are the Erasmus coordinators established in the institution? In which Unit/s do they operate?
In the promotion of mobility within your university, is there any priority given to the alliance?
2°) <i>Following-up of mobility</i>
What kind of mobility IT system are you using?
Is the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) being developed in your institution?
How do you organize the process of mobility with non-EU partners?

Fig. 1: Internal questionnaire of WP6

The answers to the questionnaire have been used to develop the points that will be presented next.

The Inter-Institutional Agreement: the cornerstone of our mobility network

The mobility network structure is based on the inter-institutional agreement that our universities signed in December 2022. This is the cornerstone on which STARS EU mobility schemes are based. Without this IIA, no mobility could be formally possible. All existing fields at the various partner universities are included in this agreement which means that every faculty, every department of the universities composing STARS EU can participate to the various mobility schemes.

The STARS EU has the peculiarity to include a partner, the Aleksander Moisiu University in Durres (Albania), which is not situated with the European Union and which is considered as a Partner Country. The mobility with this partner can therefore be organized only through the schemes planned with countries from the Western Balkans¹. Each EU-based STARS EU university has therefore signed a specific bilateral agreement with UAMD.

¹ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-a/eligible-countries> retrieved on October 14, 2024.

The network of STARS EU Mobility Officers

The next step after the signing of inter-institutional agreement has been the creation of a network of officers to promote and manage mobility within the alliance. As mentioned in the STARS EU project, each partner had to appoint a STARS EU Mobility Officer. Here is the list of STARS EU officers²:

University	Mobility Officer STARS EU	E-mail
PK	Janusz Pobożniak	janusz.pobozniak@pk.edu.pl
UAMD	Arba Merhori	arbamerhori@uamd.edu.al
IPB	Sylwia Melo; Wagner do Rosário	sylwia@ipb.pt ; wagner@ipb.pt
Hanze	Esther Carwithen	e.carwithen@pl.hanze.nl
HSB	Katharina Wittig	Katharina.Wittig@hs-bremen.de
University West	Maria MacDonald (agreements, processes)	maria.macdonald@hv.se
SLU	Petra Daníšková	petra.daniskova@slu.cz
UFC	Laura Muller	laura.muller@univ-fcomte.fr
ULL	María José Dorta	mjdorta@ull.edu.es

Fig. 2: STARS EU Officers

The first two questions of the internal questionnaire show us that, more or less, the organization of mobility within the partners is the same, with a central office dedicated with mobility and with representations in the various faculties. It is obvious that such a network is used for the mobility within STARS EU: the STARS EU mobility officers work in relation with the other members of each university International Relations offices. Within the general organization of the alliance, STARS EU mobility officers meet regularly through the monthly physical and virtual meetings of Work Package 6.

2

https://hanzenl.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/bmnc_starseu_coop_structures/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?source=doc=%7BC6D4C563-479D-405A-B5B3-9EC44DA6D729%7D&file=Mobility%20Officers.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true retrieved on October 14, 2024.

Accounting for mobility

As already mentioned, when we use the word “mobility” within the alliance, it refers to various kinds of mobility that differ by its characteristics, namely physical, virtual or blended, its length, namely short or long-term, and its scope, namely studies, internships, project meetings. Throughout the various meetings of WP6, we have realized that each university had its own definition and its own way of counting mobility as well as its own IT system for counting mobility as seen in the answers of the second part of the internal questionnaire. Within the WP6 and with the approval of the Steering Committee, we have therefore decided to agree on what could be considered a mobility for the STARS EU Alliance. We have distinguished different types of mobility which reflect the way mobility is organized in today’s universities. In order to take these various schemes into account, we have built a table that serves as a reference and which explains what kind of mobility should be counted and how. Student and staff mobilities are therefore categorized by the following criteria³

- Virtual, blended (such as BIPs) or physical mobilities;
- From short to long-term mobility (eg. from a staff week to a mobility for a semester or a year).

For each type of mobility, we have created a column “How to prove it” which explains how to count it and what is needed to prove it.

Based on the reference table, a comprehensive table with all mobilities realized within the alliance has been created⁴.

In order to have the most possible comprehensive vision of mobilities and, in a more general manner, to encourage mobility within STARS EU, the WP6 and the STARS EU mobility officers are and will be in constant contact with the others WPs, especially 3 (Curriculum Lab), 4 (Challenge Lab) and 5 (Co-creation campus).

3

https://hanzenl.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/bmnc_starseu_coop_structures/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?source=doc=%7B2344654A-81D5-4CD4-B836-0AD8DE698D5F%7D&file=FINAL%20VERSION_STARS%20EU%20Mobility%20record.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true retrieved on October 20, 2024.

4

https://hanzenl.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/bmnc_starseu_coop_structures/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?source=doc=%7BD548C2D7-89AC-4661-9CE7-6053BAD1E2ED%7D&file=Mobility%20Count.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true retrieved on October 14, 2024.

Mobility Promotion

Within the alliance, some partners knew each other before and had already contacts, some other partners did not know each other and did not have any contact before. Even if, according to the internal questionnaire, there is a priority given to the alliance, it seems that it is essential to promote the mobility possibilities within STARS EU. The WP6 has therefore undertaken various steps to promote all kinds of mobilities within the alliance:

- The first step has been the collection of fact sheets for each partner⁵ in order to have a comprehensive vision of what is offered by each partner ;
- It is also essential to have a course catalogue to refer on to find the courses. The course catalogue is attached to this report⁶ and will be integrated into the website of the alliance.

It is essential that a subpage of the STARS EU webpage be dedicated to mobility. The promotion should also happen through the website of the alliance and this will increase the visibility of the various mobility opportunities.

5

https://hanzenl.sharepoint.com/sites/bmnc_starseu_coop_structures/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=MgHx6W&CID=5ac340d2%2D8c15%2D4243%2D8bfa%2Da866fbc5d54d&FolderCTID=0x01200098C6F554671FA042A0F827567D0C1AD2&id=%2Fsites%2Fbmnc%5Fstarseu%5Fcoop%5Fstructures%2FDocuments%2FWP%206%20%2D%20Mobility%20Programme%2FFact%20Sheets retrieved on October 14, 2024.

6

https://hanzenl.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/bmnc_starseu_coop_structures/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BE40C6E93-6C04-4DA8-A1DC-0387D09DC8C8%7D&file=Course-catalog_STARS%20EU_WP6.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true retrieved on October 14, 2024.