



Student Mobility in the Western Balkans

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KBF Activities Student Mobility (until 2008)

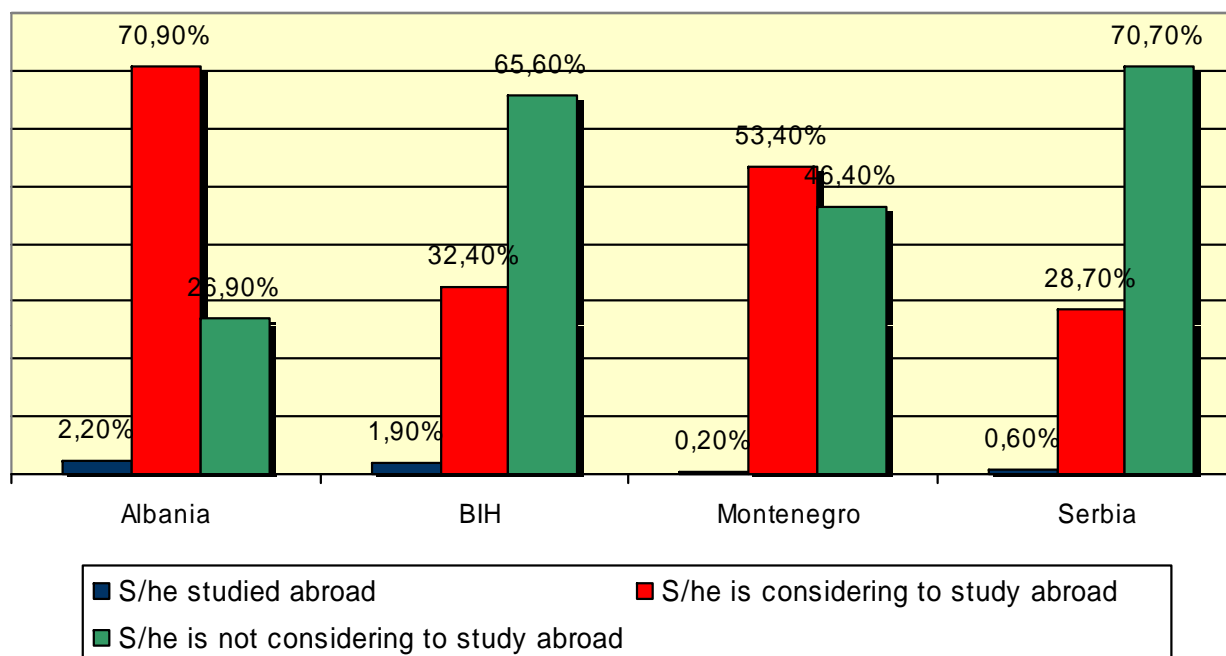
- SMART VISA Survey
- Survey on visa abuse of Western Balkan students
- Financial support for a monitoring of the facilitated visa regime in the Western Balkans
- Study mission on information availability to the Western Balkan students who wish to study in the EU
- Survey on student mobility in the Western Balkans



Survey on student mobility in the Western Balkans

- Opinion survey in cooperation with student organisations, CEDEM and University of Novi Sad
- Questioning randomly selected students from the main universities in four countries of the region (Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, B&H)
- Tripartite questionnaire:
 - the experience of students who studied abroad
 - the fears of or challenges for students who are considering to study abroad
 - the motivation of students who don't consider to go abroad

Studied abroad or considering to study abroad



- In all four countries only 26 students studied abroad
- Majority of students from Albania and Montenegro are the most interested in studying abroad
- On the other hand, a huge majority of students from B&H and Serbia is not considering to study abroad

Hierarchy of problems that students face regarding the possibility of studying abroad – example Serbia

PROBLEMS:	Big problem %	Small problem %	No problem %
Long and frustrating procedure in general	67.9	28.5	3.6
Can't provide enough money	62.4	29.5	8.0
Paperwork (bureaucracy in general)	62.1	32.3	5.5
Getting a visa	59.6	31.6	8.8
Lack of available information – difficult to get information about new social and university environment	58.5	35.4	6.1
No functioning university partner network	57.1	32.1	10.8
No/little help from my university regarding the expectations of studying abroad	55.6	35.8	8.6
No exchange programmes	54.9	33.4	11.7

Awareness of the Erasmus and Erasmus Mundus programmes (%)

	No, I don't know anything about the programme %		I have heard something about the programme but I am not sure what it is %		Yes, I have all the information about the Erasmus programme %	
	Erasmus	Erasmus mundus	Erasmus	Erasmus mundus	Erasmus	Erasmus mundus
Albania	74.9	75.6	22.4	21.1	2.7	3.3
B&H	79.6	85.4	19.1	13.3	1.3	1.3
Montenegro	68.5	73.8	29.6	24.4	1.9	1.7
Serbia	69.2	73.9	27.3	22.8	3.5	3.3
Total	73.1	77.2	24.5	20.4	2.4	2.4

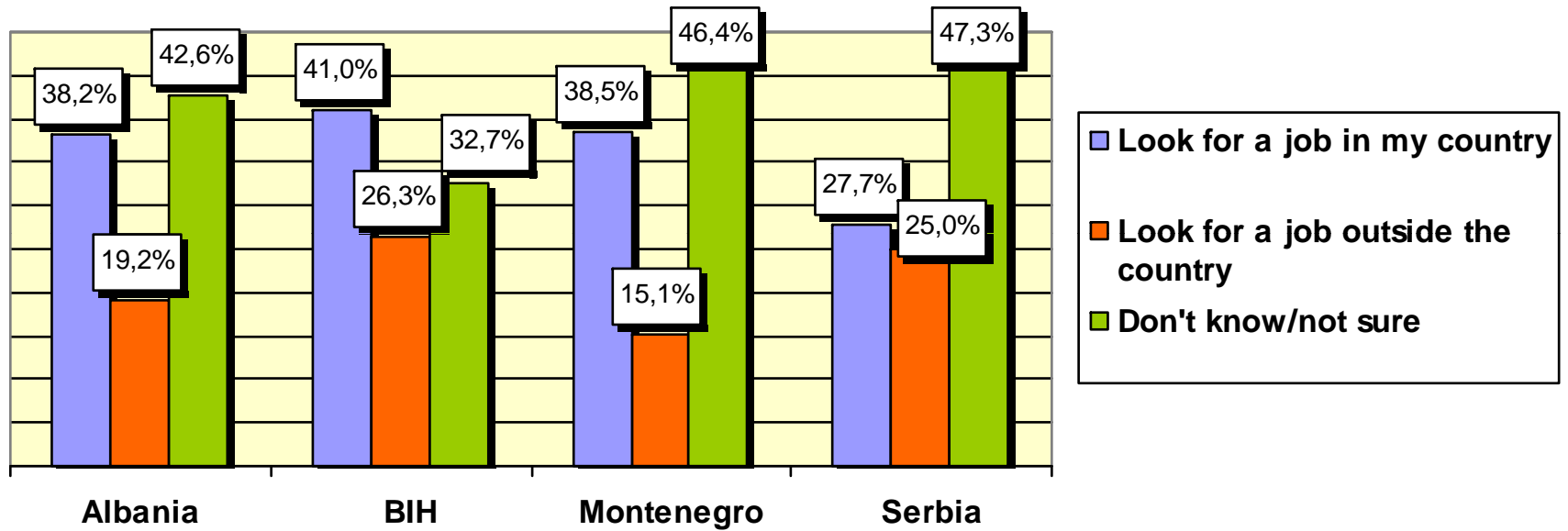
What would you like to see improved? (intending to study abroad)

TO BE IMPROVED	To great extent	To some extent	No need to improve
More scholarships	81,4	16,6	2,0
Easier to apply for study place abroad, improving procedure	76,0	21,7	2,3
Support in getting a visa	74,9	22,1	3,0
Availability of information	72,0	26,8	1,2
Providing more exchange programmes	73,4	23,7	2,9
Making bilateral agreement between Universities	68,8	29,2	1,9
Implementing the Bologna	63,8	30,1	6,1
Providing administrative help	62,9	33,1	4,1
Easier recognition of exams	61,7	32,2	6,1

Conditions to change students' attitude towards studying abroad (not intending to study abroad)

CONDITIONS	One of the main conditions	Important condition	Not so important condition	No condition at all
Good and sufficient scholarship	58,6	28,4	9,5	3,5
Guarantee that exams will be recognized when I come back	53,7	29,9	11,0	5,3
Clear career opportunities after coming back	46,9	34,6	11,4	7,1
Easy application procedure	42,1	39,1	12,7	6,0
More accessible visa requirements	41,8	37,8	13,8	6,7
Existing and efficient exchange programme	41,1	42,7	10,6	5,5
Clear support from my University	40,9	38,6	12,9	7,6
More and easily available information through advisory talk with an expert	36,1	41,7	14,9	7,3

What are you planning to do after your studies? (intending to study abroad)



- Potential problem of brain drain



Conclusions (I)

- High interest in studying abroad
- Huge difference between interested students and students who actually study abroad
- Multiple reasons why students don't study abroad: visas problems are only one of many problems
- More important: long and frustrating procedures, paperwork, little help from universities to get through the procedures, lack of money and no functioning university partnerships



Conclusions (II)

- Low level of knowledge among students: Erasmus mundus only known by 2,4% of the all students.
- What could be done: More scholarships and exchange programmes with easier procedures, recognition of exams, better information availability, easier visa procedures
- Risk of brain drain should not be underestimated

Grants to finance staff member (I)

- **Grants to 9 universities to finance one additional staff member in their International Cooperation Offices (ICO):**
 - University of Belgrade
 - University of Kragujevac
 - University in Mitrovica
 - University of Montenegro
 - University of Novi Sad
 - University of Sarajevo
 - Polytechnical University of Tirana
 - Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje
 - South-East European University, Tetovo
- **Grant for one year, extendable to two years, third year 50% co-financing (to ensure that universities take over staff member)**
- **Staff member is responsible for:**
 - Info point for students interested in studying abroad
 - Organising promotion of studying abroad: info days, scout and ambassadors' programme
 - Updating website of ICO
 - Collecting information on scholarships eligible to WB students
 - Help desk for incoming students

Other grants and activities

- **Two Universities received a grant of 10.000€ for promoting studying abroad (e.g. info days, scout and ambassadors' programme etc.)**
 - Grantees: University of Korce and Stip
- **Advise to universities on how to improve their ICO websites to be attractive for foreign students and to give sufficient and timely information to students interested in studying abroad**
 - Grantees: University of Sarajevo, Belgrade and South-East European University
- **Conference on Student Mobility and Academic Recognition of Study Periods Abroad on 10-12 Oct 2010 in Ljubljana**
- **Scholarship Handbook and Online Tool**
 - Various search criteria available (country/nationality, study subject, study level)
 - Online tool available since end of 2009.
 - Permanent updating of data



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**