# Seismic Student and staff mobility in times of crisis



#### adjective:

- 1. relating to or caused by earthquakes or artificially produced earth tremors
- 2. of enormous proportions or having highly significant consequences

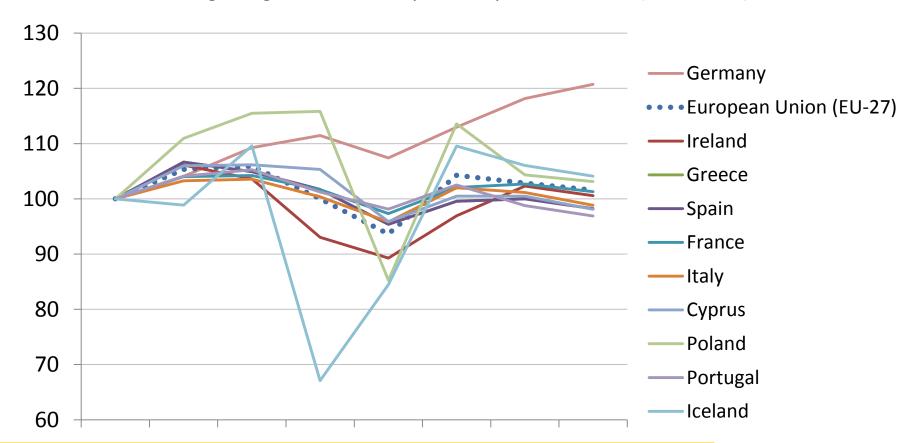
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#### Financial crisis as seismic shift

Change to gross domestic product per inhabitant (2005=100)



Major economic slow-down in 2009 and in the countries Ireland, Greece, Island, Portugal, Italy and Spain, the economic production per inhabitant (GDP) was little higher in 2012 than seven years earlier, in 2005.

## Mobility *versus* crisis?

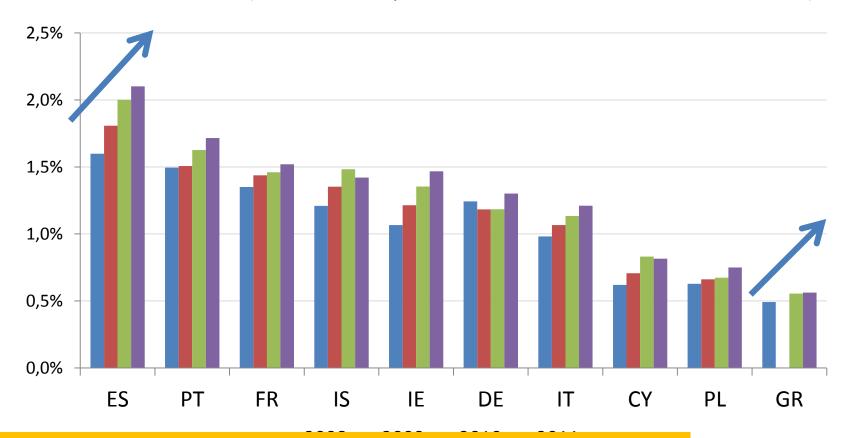
- Influence of country's financial situation: Dependence on financial conditions, but opportunity
  - ➤ Richer countries provide better opportunities to go abroad; attract incoming people with better opportunities; discourage incoming people with higher costs of living.
  - ➤ Poorer countries push people to go abroad; don't provide enough opportunities to go abroad; attract people with lower costs of living

#### Eurostudent (2011):

- Public support is the primary source of funding for foreign enrolment phases, followed by support from students' families
- Expected additional financial burden is No 1 obstacle for mobility
- Foreign enrolment is socially selective in most European countries

#### General development of mobility positive

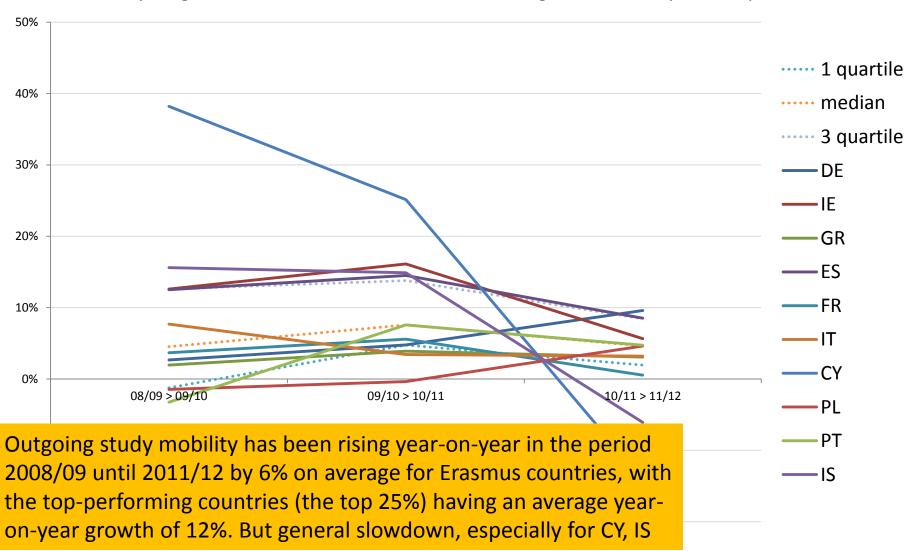
Share of mobile students (SMS + SMP compared to number of students in ISCED 5a and 5b)



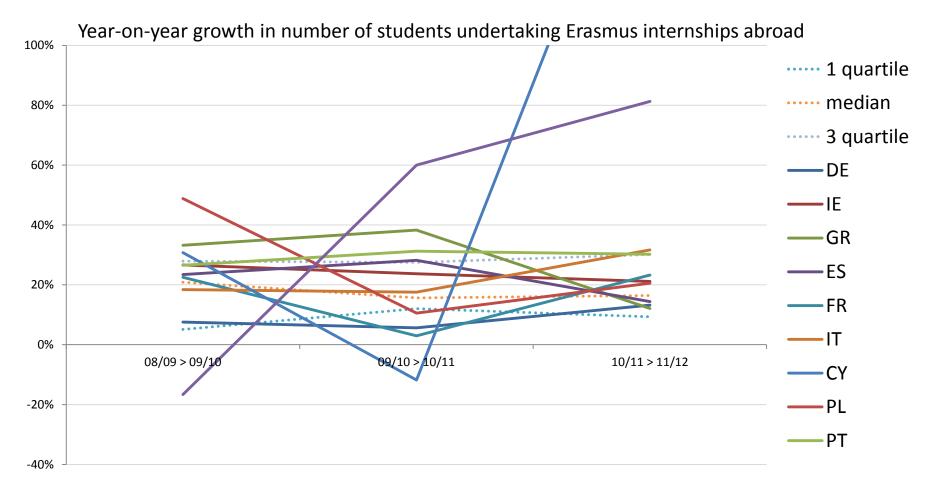
Outgoing study mobility has been rising year-on-year in the period 2009 until 2012. Highest growth in share of mobile students (+>30%) in Ireland, Spain, Cyprus; lowest (+<14%) in Greece, France, Germany.

## Study mobility – differing trends

Year-on-year growth in number of students undertaking Erasmus study abroad periods



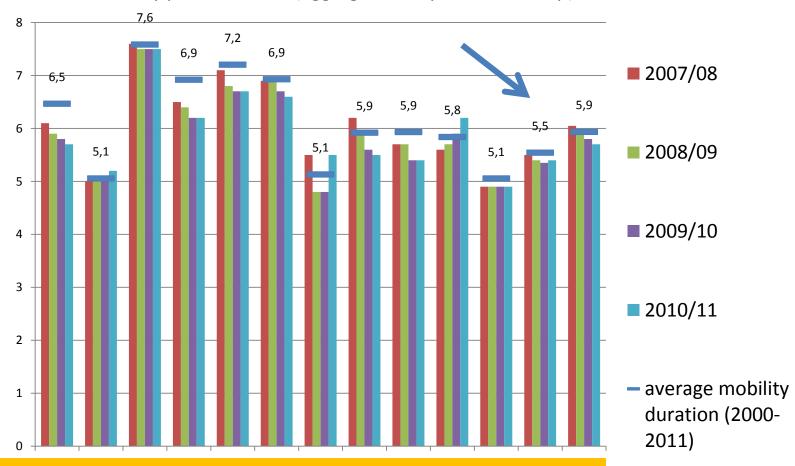
# Internship mobility – differing trends



The growth rate for internships undertaken by students from Erasmus countries is even higher lying on average at 18% and 29% for top-performing countries. Slowdown for GR, PL

#### Qualitative effects: decrease in duration?

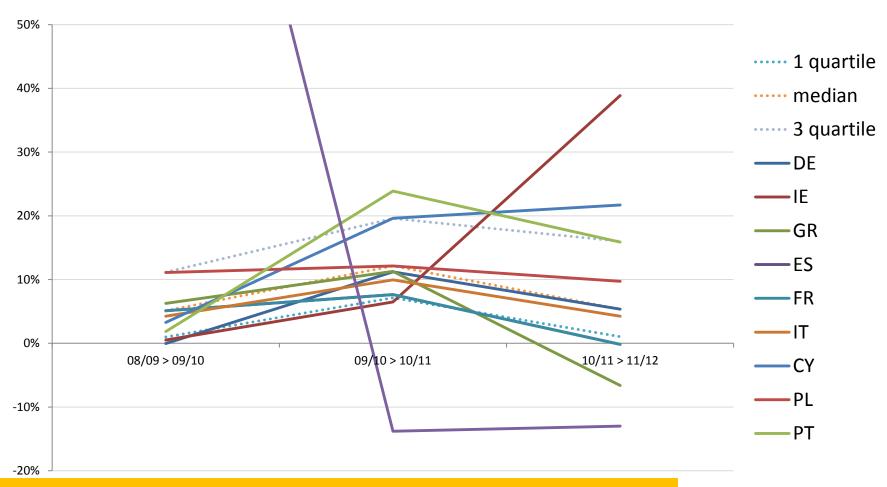
Duration of mobility period abroad (aggregate study and internship) in months



In most countries, the duration of the period abroad is shorter than in previous years and has continued to drop since 2007 (interesting exception Iceland).

## Teacher mobility: gradual rise on low level

Year-on-year growth of outgoing teacher mobility (assignments and training)



Gradual rise on low level -46,000 (23,000 from case study countries) in 2011/12.

#### **First conclusions**



- Overall growth in mobility
- Popularity of internships and interview responses point to an increasingly *utilitarian* view of mobility (i.e. students & staff ask what impact it will have on their careers)
- Mobility appears to be influenced by individual assessments of affordability and opportunity leading to counteracting trends between and in countries
- However, slowdown in growth appeared to recover in 2010/11, only to drop again in 2011/12
- Duration of periods abroad dropping slightly
- Since the general economic situation is recovering in most countries, any impacts of the financial crisis are likely to be related either (i) to *knock-on effects of the crisis* for public spending and/or (ii) the psychological effects of *insecurity* about the future
- The effects may be stronger in HE systems, where mobility participation is more
  inclusive (i.e. older students, working students, students from low social backgrounds)