

Suggested distribution

Vice Chancellors;
Heads of Institutions;
European/International
Officers, Student
welfare officers, career
guidance officers

Action

Respond to the
consultation, copying in
the Europe Unit

Executive Summary

The European
Commission Green
Paper calls for a new
strategy to promote the
mobility of young
people.

Enquiries

Paul Dowling

Tel

020 7419 5405

Fax

020 7383 5766

Email paul.dowling
@europeunit.ac.uk

Keywords

Mobility, Erasmus
programme, student
exchange

20 August 2009

European Commission Green Paper on the mobility of young people

Introduction

1. This E-note informs UK higher education institutions (HEIs) about the European Commission Green Paper published in July 2009, 'Promoting the learning mobility of young people'¹. The aim of the Green Paper is to seek the views of stakeholders and the wider public on how best to increase the opportunities for young people to have a mobility experience. Full details of the Green Paper and the associated consultation can be viewed at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/consult/mobility_en.html
2. UK HEIs are encouraged to respond to the Green Paper to ensure that the UK HE sector's views are fully voiced. The Europe Unit is also coordinating a UK HE sector position. Please could you copy your submission to the Unit to help inform the sector-wide response. The deadline for responses to the consultation is 15 December 2009. However, for the collective response, it would be helpful, where possible, to receive a copy of your submission by 13 November. Please email your submission to paul.dowling@europeunit.ac.uk
2. **The Green Paper**
 3. The Green Paper focuses only on mobility periods that have been organised for learning purposes. It emphasises the importance of this type of mobility in producing well-rounded, culturally aware individuals who can contribute to the development of Europe's knowledge-driven economy. The political impetus for the Green Paper stems in particular from the Leuven Communiqué's recommendation that in 2020 at least 20 per cent of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) should have had a study or training period abroad.²

¹ A copy of the Green paper can be downloaded directly from the following web link
http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/mobility/com329_en.pdf

² The Leuven Communiqué was agreed at the sixth Bologna Process Ministerial Summit in Leuven/Louvain-La-Neuve in April 2009.

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/hogeronderwijs/bologna/conference/documents/Leuven_Louvain-la-Neuve_Communique_April_2009.pdf

Chief Executive
Baroness Warwick

Europe Unit
Universities UK
Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HQ

Tel +44 (0)20 7419 4111
Fax +44 (0)20 7388 8649
Email info@UniversitiesUK.ac.uk

Company limited by guarantee, registered
in England and Wales No. 2517016
Registered charity No. 1001127



Cyngor Cytidde Adlyng
Uwech Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

hefcw



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education



QAA



4. The paper is divided into three sections. The first section deals with the preparation of a mobility period abroad, such as information about the destination and linguistic preparation. The second section concerns the actual period spent abroad, and covers issues such as housing, mentoring, validation and recognition of the mobility period. The third section presents proposals for a new partnership on youth mobility.
5. UK HEIs are requested to answer questions on many aspects of mobility, and to provide examples of good practice in promoting mobility. For example:
 - How can the availability of information and guidance related to mobility be improved?
 - How can the linguistic and cultural obstacles to mobility be best addressed?
 - What are the main legal obstacles to mobility that you have encountered?
 - In your experience, is the validation and recognition of both formal and non-formal learning still a significant obstacle to mobility?

UK student mobility at a glance

6. UK HEIs actively participate in the EU's mobility schemes for undergraduate and postgraduate students. After a period of decline in the mid-nineties, UK student numbers in the Erasmus programme have begun to increase in recent years. However, there are still considerably fewer UK students studying elsewhere in Europe when compared to other similarly sized European HE sectors. The main obstacles to UK student mobility have been identified as financial concerns, language difficulties and a lack of information about the opportunities available. UK students are, however, increasingly travelling to other Anglophone destinations such as US, Canada and Australia³.

Responding to the Green Paper

7. The European Commission has posted an online questionnaire to allow individual citizens to respond to the questions raised in the Green Paper.
<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=greenpaper&lang=en>
8. HEIs and other stakeholders such as national governments, regional authorities and businesses are asked to provide written responses to the Green Paper questions, and to provide examples of good practice in promoting the mobility of young people. Written contributions can be sent via email to eac-green-paper-mobility@ec.europa.eu, or by post to:

**Green Paper
DG EAC/B3
MADO 11/14
European Commission
B-1049 Bruxelles**

³ 'The future of UK student mobility – a Europe Unit analysis',
http://www.europeunit.ac.uk/sites/europe_unit2/resources/EuropeUnitMobilityDocument.pdf



9. The UK HE Europe Unit urges UK HEIs and other stakeholders to respond to the consultation. The Europe Unit will also submit a UK HE sector response. HEIs and stakeholder organisations are asked to copy any responses to the UK HE Europe Unit or to inform the Unit of any comments for incorporation into the UK HE sector response no later than 13 November 2009. Please email Paul Dowling, Policy Officer, at: paul.dowling@europeunit.ac.uk.

Copyright in this paper, and any or all of its attachments unless stated otherwise, is vested in the UK HE Europe Unit. This information may be freely used and copied for non-commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged (© UK HE Europe Unit)