

Prioridad horizontal Erasmus+: Promoción de los valores comunes de la UE, el compromiso cívico y la ciudadanía activa



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Who am I?

- Ángel Pérez
- University of Granada
- President of ESN Spain
- Erasmus+ Alumni
- University of Glasgow (UK), 2018-2019
- Youth work, student mobility, policy & advocacy, non-formal education and EU-funded projects



How is ESN linked to Higher Education?

- In Spain, we're represented in **38 HEIs**
- We offer support not only to university students, but also VET and Arts, Music & Design students
- Mobility and full-degree students, non-mobility students
- Mostly Erasmus+ Alumni, we represent the concerns, needs, interests & expectations of the Erasmus Generation
- We aim to improve international mobility on a global scale with **more, better and more inclusive Erasmus+ grants**
- Advocacy at the local, national and international level



The background features a collage of various travel stamps and university logos. Visible stamps include 'BOMBAIS - MADRID', 'ARRIVED', 'IMMIGRATION', 'REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA', 'MEXICO', and 'TORONTO'. University logos include 'UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO' and 'UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL'. A pink brushstroke is visible in the bottom right corner.

Erasmus Student Network's mission

**The enrichment of society through
international students**



Erasmus+

One of the priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027:

Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement





Erasmus+

There is no better tool in the European Union than the Erasmus+ program to **raise awareness** of a European social structure and a **sense of belonging to the EU.**





ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2021-2027

Guidelines

- *Implement the priorities of the Programme:*

- *By promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project.*

HEIs should organise or promote activities/projects that enhance the active citizenship skills and competences of students and staff, for instance the [Erasmus Student Network's SocialErasmus Project](#). This project aims to better integrate international exchange students in the local society by organising volunteer opportunities to ensure an exchange of values takes place between the international students and the local community. Another example is the ESAA-funded project [WE AfriHug](#), which aims to promote European and international understanding through the Erasmus+ Programme.

Some **data & best practices** that support ESN's engagement in the implementation and monitoring along with HEIs of Erasmus+ priorities: **Participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement**





Erasmus+ priorities: Students believe in the programme and consider it lives up to its priorities

82%

Agree (36%) or strongly agree (46%) with “Erasmus+ is inclusive for students from different background”

75%

Agree (35%) or strongly agree (40%) with “Erasmus+ contributes to the acquisition of sustainable skills, habits and behaviours”

69%

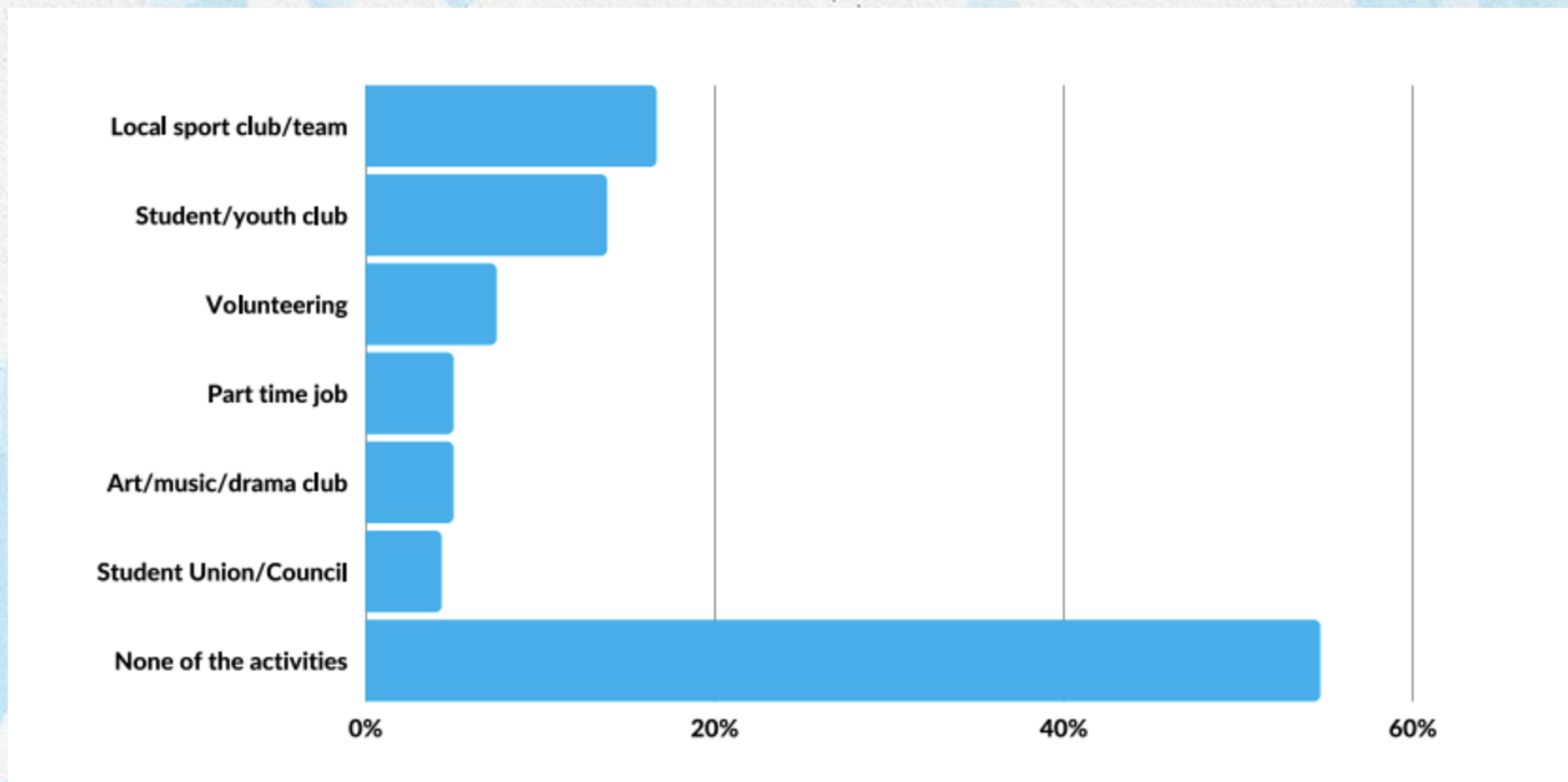
Agree (38%) or strongly agree (31%) with “Erasmus+ encourages civic engagement during exchanges”

64%

Agree (39%) or strongly agree (25%) with “Erasmus+ offers digital solutions to facilitate the mobility process”. Digital skills: 53%

ESNsurvey XIV, 2022

Level of participation in group activities on mobility





The new Erasmus+ programme has highlighted once more the **importance of civic engagement through learning mobility**, but it also pointed attention to the long-lasting challenge of facilitating the **interaction between international students and their local communities**. On average, **only 10% of students** engaged in volunteering activities during their exchange.

Better structural support to student and alumni organisations on the ground & better recognition of volunteering opportunities.





Volunteering on exchange

- Visits to animal shelters
- Erasmus in Schools
- Beach clean-ups & urban gardens
- Open-Care Centres for the Elderly
- Activities with organizations & young people with disability
- Promotion of international mobility opportunities fairs & events
- Activities w hospitalised children
- Solidarity sport tournaments



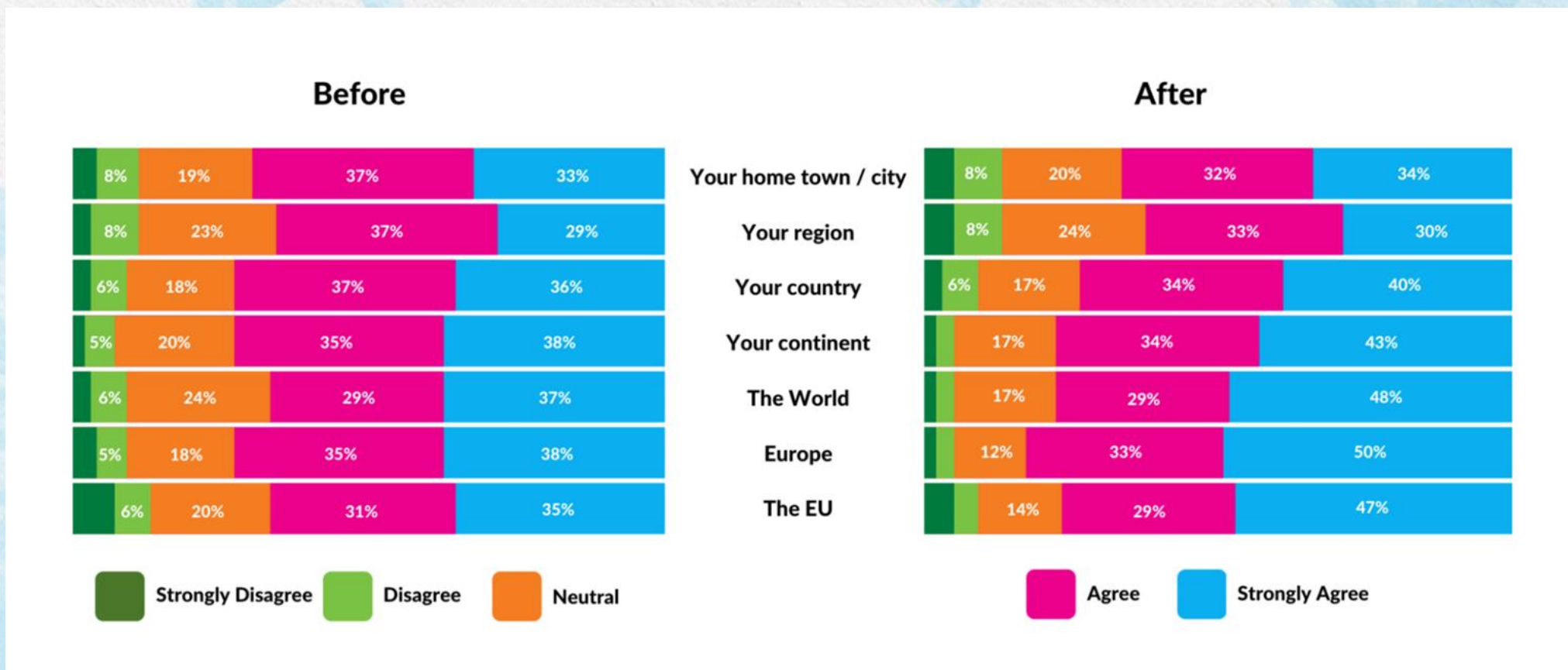


Participation in Learning Mobility as a Driving Force to Change the European Union

Breakout Report from the XV ESNsurvey

Before and After Mobility - Identity of Erasmus+ Students' Citizenship

BEFORE/AFTER your exchange: to what extent do you agree that you identify as a citizen of...?



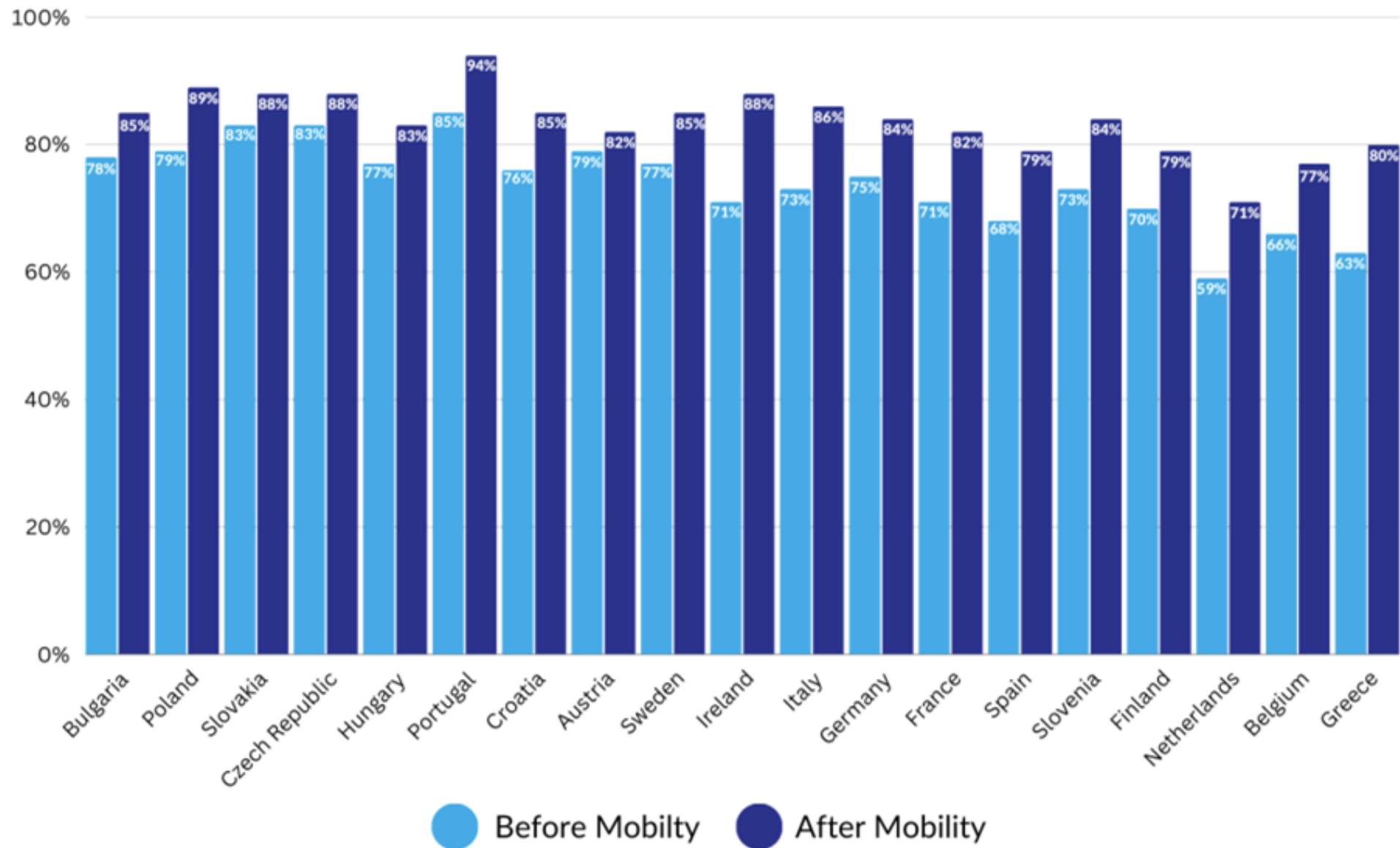


Figure 2: Comparison between nationality and the feelings towards EU citizenship before and after mobility⁴



The conclusions drawn from this report indicate that participation in international mobility programmes, such as Erasmus+, enhances the **sense of the European Union citizenship**, as well as the broader perception of citizenship at the city, European, and global levels.

These results show relevant differences from the European Parliament Eurobarometer for the intentio to vote in 2024's EP elections, where the overall interest of the young population (15-24 age) in voting in EU elections is lower than that of the general population. Only 51% of young people show interest in voting, compared with **66% in the ESNsurvey results**. Therefore, this data leads us to think that there is a positive correlation between participation in learning mobility and voting intentions.



Takeaways of the session

1

ESN volunteers are **key players** in the accomplishment of commitments in the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

2

Better **promotion & recognition** of volunteering opportunities abroad, reintegration of students after their mobility periods.

3

Better **structural support** to student and alumni organisations, **reintegration**





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