



BELGIUM - FLEMISH COMMUNITY

Social inclusion in mobility programmes



INCLUSIVE MOBILITY STRATEGY

Definition of disadvantaged and underrepresented students in mobility programmes



Law: number of definitions developed & mentioned

→ Since then: Charter by HEIs defined following groups as underrepresented/disadvantaged

Students w/ disabilities

Students w/ a migration background

New entrants

(Almost) scholarship students



Foreign language students

Multilingual students

Students from a short/middle-educated environment

Working students

Target Groups 'Mobility': Working students, Students from an economically disadvantaged background & Students w/ disabilities



Targets for the participation of disadvantaged students in mobility programmes

Action plan 'Brain on the Moves' with aims for 2020:

- 1 33% of graduates with mobility experience abroad
- 2 33% of the mobile students belong to underrepresented groups

Strategies and policy measures at National level to ensure Inclusive Mobility of disadvantaged students



2013: Flemish Government adopted Action Plan 'Brains on the Move'

- ▶ Broad range of initiatives and scholarships
- ▶ Focus: mobility of students
- ▶ Strategies to promote mobility among Flemish students + attract foreign students

Concrete actions to promote mobility among these groups

- ↪ Conferences & communication campaigns are used
- ↪ Mobility grants: Flemish Government allocates minimum 25% of all grants to underrepresented groups

Initiatives to promote the mobility for disadvantaged and underrepresented students



- 1 Conferences & communication campaigns: stimulate disadvantaged students to go abroad
- 2 2015 Handbook of the Flemish Community of Belgium on study and internships abroad:
 - Chapter dedicated to students with disabilities
- 3 SIHO developed mobility portraits of students w/ disability that went abroad

Specific public support services and/or public grants for disadvantaged students



- ▶ National agency EPOS vzw provides:
 - Extra monthly scholarship of E100 for disadvantaged mobile students
 - Special needs grant and pre-visits for mobile students w/ disabilities
- ▶ Ministry of Education and Training provides:
 - Financial incentive - Extra monthly scholarship of E200 for disadvantaged mobile students
 - Decree on student services: HEIs can award additional grant for underrepresented students

GOOD PRACTICE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL



The Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education (www.siho.be) supports higher education institutions with implementing inclusion measures. It coordinates several projects and networks on the topic of inclusive mobility.



GOOD PRACTICE AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL



The institutional strategy at Ghent University focuses on increasing the study success of students from diverse backgrounds, as opposed to just attracting and admitting them. Certain underrepresented groups tend to not perform as well. Emphasis is put on support mechanisms for study success. Specific support offices are in place both for general services and target group-oriented services. This includes one-on-one support and coaching. Ghent University also asks for information on what students are studying and what their needs may be for going abroad, in terms of their academic background.

