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Nordic cooperation and mobility from a European perspective

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Outline

- 1. On ACA - sorry, I cannot spare you this**
- 2. Student mobility – all said already?**
- 3. Intra-Nordic credit mobility**
- 4. Intra-Nordic degree mobility**
- 5. Degree mobility into Norden**
- 6. A three-pillar mobility approach – the right mix.**



On ACA

- A (mainly) *European association* of national agencies for international cooperation in higher education
- Or: The CIMOs of Europe
- Mission: Promoting *innovation* and *internationalisation*
- *Studies* and *expert opinion* on (international) HE developments, for example
 - Student mobility in Europe and beyond
 - English-taught programmes in Europe (3 studies already)
 - European higher education « in the world »
 - And much more
- *5 or more international seminars and conferences annually*
- Monthly news service: *ACA Newsletter-Education Europe*



Mobility and cooperation (1)

- **Everything said already, but not yet by everybody.**
- **Some things worth being repeated, to see the wood for the trees**
- **Mobility is all the craze, at least in our circles**
- **But not quantitatively bigger today than 50 years ago (2-4% of total enrolment)**
- **Same applies to migration (or did until recently). 2-4% over past 50 years, half of it forced.**
- **Student mobility very positively connotated. Migration, especially of refugees, not. Why?**



Mobility and cooperation (2)

- **Wait a minute. Student mobility only viewed positively?**
- **A phone call from the Austrian ministry of education: an incredible insinuation**
- **The Nordic deal**
- **Austria and Wallonia: quotas and the EU right to free movement**
- **Cases from neighbouring countries with language overlap and free admission**
- **Not so frequent phenomenon because elsewhere, the problem (?) is regulated by tuition fees**



Intra-Nordic credit mobility

- Intra-Nordic mobility in Erasmus 2012-2013: 1,260 (0.5%).
- Intra-Nordic cooperation in Nordplus 2013-2014: 1,450 (inclusive of Baltic countries).
- Nordplus numbers down by almost 1,000 compared to 10 years ago (reduction in funding?)
- Demand still outweighs supply



Intra-Nordic degree mobility

			Desti ation				
		DK	FI	IS	SE	NO	Total
	DK	-	44	85	279	245	653
Home	FI	285	-	58	1720	95	2158
	IS	1041	15	-	247	134	1437
	SE	2247	380	49	-	758	3434
	NO	3481	57	29	426	-	3993
	Total	7054 (60%)	496 (4%)	221 (2%)	2672 (23%)	1232 (11%)	11675 (100%)



Degree mobility into the Nordic countries (UIS 2013)

	Destination				
	DK	FI	IS	NO	SE
Total	29941	22757	1186	9240	25381
Nordic	7054 (23.6%)	496 (2.2%)	251 (21.1%)	1241 (13.4%)	2672 (10.5%)
CN	1168 (3.9%)	2107 (9.3%)	34 (2.9%)	745 (8.1)	2373 (9.2%)
RU	5 (0%)	2555 (11.2%)	30 (2.5%)	608 (6.6%)	390 (1.5%)
DE	3137 (10.5%)	618 (2.7%)	164 (13.8%)	440 (4.8%)	1791 (7.1%)



What to make of all of this (1)?

- Do the Nordic countries of Europe have the ‘right’ mobility mix?
- ‘Right’ can be different for different people.
- For me, you have the ‘right mix’, consisting of three ‘pillars’.
- One pillar is intra-Nordic mobility, and mobility with near neighbours (Baltics, Russia)
- The second pillar is the EU and the EEA.
- The third pillar is global (anyway in terms of incoming degree mobility)



What to make of all this (2)?

- Nordic mobility is your backbone. It could become even more balanced, but for me balance is not a fetish.
- A bit unexciting for the taste of some (young) people? Be it.
- Continued efforts in intra-Nordic cooperation are essential for sustaining Nordic cohesion and the values behind it.
- We all thought that today's Union's are there to stay, and to increasingly get deeper and tighter.
- A look at the 'European project' (EU) shows that this trend is not irreversible. The EU is at risk.
- Avoid that the same happens with the Nordic community. It is not God-given. It needs nourishing.



What to make of all of this (3)?

- Your second pillar is Europe.
- Mobility and cooperation inside the EU and EEA, the EHEA, the Council of Europe and, for some of you, the EEA and Norway Financial Mechanism.
- With the waning lustre of Europe, there might be the temptation to turn entirely to the new ‘hot spots’ of this world.
- Turn to them you must.
- But as a convinced European, I am making a plea to you not do so at the expense of European cooperation. For this, we have too much in common and too much to defend together.



What to make all of this (4)?

- Lastly, you must be open to the ‘wider world’. Or, rather, remain. Because you have, of course, opened.
- The statistics I showed you would have been very different 20 years ago. China, and most of Asia generally, would have played no role. Nor would have the Gulf.
- In a globalised world, this is no longer possible.
- A very clever thing you did in this respect: to turn a linguistic disadvantage (lesser spoken languages) into the opposite.
- You are – next to the Dutch – the leaders of EMI in Europe. Congrats.



Thank you

**Much more to say, but time is up.
Thank you for your kind attention!**

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