



HOW LONG IS TOO LONG

IO1 Desk Research Report

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18/02/2022

HLiTL matrix



Length dimension:

- short-term mobility (from 1 week to 3 months)
- semester mobility (from 3 to 6 months)
- long-term mobility (from 6 to 12 months)



Modality dimension:

 No clear boundaries between blended mobility and virtual exchange

Crossroads:

- Semester-long virtual exchange is either complemented by a shortterm mobility or
- Short-term virtual and physical parts complement each other
- Less frequently virtual activities run parallelly with semester physical mobility

Figure - Matrix of international student mobility types with regard to length and modality



Rational & methodology I

The IO1 desk research will analyse existing studies on the **impact** of different mobility activities (different categories based on **purpose**) on **skills and competences** with respect to the **length** and the **modality** of mobility. It will furthermore analyse existing literature in order to propose a **clear terminology** for the project, and of course the documents produced in IO 5 and IO 6.







Background I



Source: Knight, 2010.

Background II



Transformative learning tehory: Mezirow, 1991; Clapp-Smith & Wernsing, 2014





Results I

Intercultural competences

- Global thinking
- Intercultural sensitivity
- Intercultural consciousness
- Intercultural communication competence

Language competences

 Foreign language skills (written and oral communication skills)

Personal and social competences

- Teamwork, collaboration skills
- Digital literacy

Professional competences

- Interdisciplinary knowledge
- Academic skills
- ICT skills

 Triggers the will of getting to know other cultures and people

- BUT! it increases the motivation to learn a foreign language and it provides practice
- Considerable impact on the digital skills
- It depends on the structure and the curriculum of the programme







Practical tips:

- 1. Alignment of the course learning outcomes with virtual exchange activities is needed
- 2. Active collaboration of faculty is necessary to diminishing the notions of the "sending" and "receiving" institution
- 3. Learning activity shall start with a "boarding" activity
- 4. Active, collaborative student (and teacher) learning activities in heterogeneous groups are advised which provide all involved with the possibility to communicate and share their thoughts mutually
- 5. Use of innovative ICT tools in preferably synchronous way is advised
- 6. Online or hybrid course delivery is recommended
- 7. Involvement of the faculty of the "sending" institutions into the course assessment (quality assurance) is needed

Food for thought...



Overarching recommendations

- Integration of all mobility actions and virtual exchanges into the curriculum (on the level of learning outcomes)
- Introduction of blended solutions
 - Virtual exchange as a preparatory and/or followup activity
 - Short-term physical mobility
- ...and reading more on this topic in the IO1 report



