Policy framework

Cross-border learning mobility is regulated by the ministry of Education, Children and Youth [1], the ministry of Higher Education and Research [2] and its affiliated administrations. The mobility programmes encompass mainly higher education or vocational educational training and also programmes in the context of non-formal learning.

Two types of mobility have to be distinguished with regard to student mobility in Luxembourg:

1. **Degree mobility**, that is, long-term mobility aimed at the acquisition of a degree or certificate in the country of destination
2. **Short-term mobility**, such as mobility periods of one semester or one year which are undertaken in the frame of studies in Luxembourg.

For Luxembourg, the percentage of mobility is very high (68% in 2012/13) (European Commission, EACEA, & Eurydice, 2016 [3]). This high proportion is related to the Luxembourg's longstanding lack of a tertiary education institution (the University of Luxembourg was only created in 2003) and also the lack of specific bachelor or master programmes.

Student mobility is supported by the financial aid for higher education (aide financière pour études supérieures), which is available for both studies in Luxembourg and abroad (for further details, see: Eurydice article 3.2 Higher Education Funding [4]). The Centre for Documentation and Information
on Higher Education [5] (CEDIES; Centre de Documentation et d'Information sur l'Enseignement Supérieur) provides information on studying abroad and coordinates the financial aid for higher education.

Initial education and training (IVET) mobility policy is defined at national level by the ministry of Education, Children and Youth [1]. It can be differentiated into mobility via traineeship or mandatory mobility.

- **Mobility via traineeship** means that students in secondary schools or institutions that have applied for an Erasmus+ project can plan traineeships abroad during their training. The total duration of the traineeships may last between 2 weeks and 1 year.
- **Mandatory mobility** means that certain training programmes/courses require a placement abroad. This is particularly the case for specific training programmes in the agricultural and health sectors. There are also trades that can only be learned via cross-border apprenticeships. **Cross-border apprenticeship** is an apprenticeship where the work-based learning part is carried out in a training institution located in Luxembourg and the school-based part is provided by an institution/secondary school in a neighbouring country (for further details, see: Mobility scoreboard [6]).

**Main cross-border mobility programmes for students in formal education**

The EU-funded Erasmus+ programme is the main cross-border mobility programme for students in formal education. Different types of mobility projects are supported under key action 1 ‘Learning mobility of individuals’. In the field of education and training, mobility projects focus on:

1. Higher education students and staff  
2. VET learners and staff  
3. School staff  
4. Adult education staff (for further details, see: Erasmus+ Programme Guide [7]).

In the framework of the bilateral arrangements concluded within the university’s ‘Global exchange programme’, students have the possibility to enrol at a partner university without paying any registration fees. For doctoral students, the university also offers the possibility to prepare a dissertation under joint supervision of the University of Luxembourg and a foreign institution.

**Promoting mobility in the context of non-formal learning, and of youth work**

Promoting mobility in the context of non-formal learning and youth work is regulated by the existing cross-border mobility programmes (for further details, see: 2.5 Cross-border mobility programmes [8]):

**Quality assurance**

Cross-border mobility programmes in the field of education and training are evaluated on a regular basis according to the criteria defined by the European Commission. The European Voluntary Service is regularly evaluated in the framework of the Luxembourgish participation in the 'research-based analysis of youth in action' [9] (RAY) network (evaluation report 2013 see: Weis & Meyers, 2013 [10]). The evaluation, which takes place every two years, is based on a quantitative survey of young participants and qualitative interviews with project leaders.