



EMJMD Cluster meeting on Sustainability and Employability

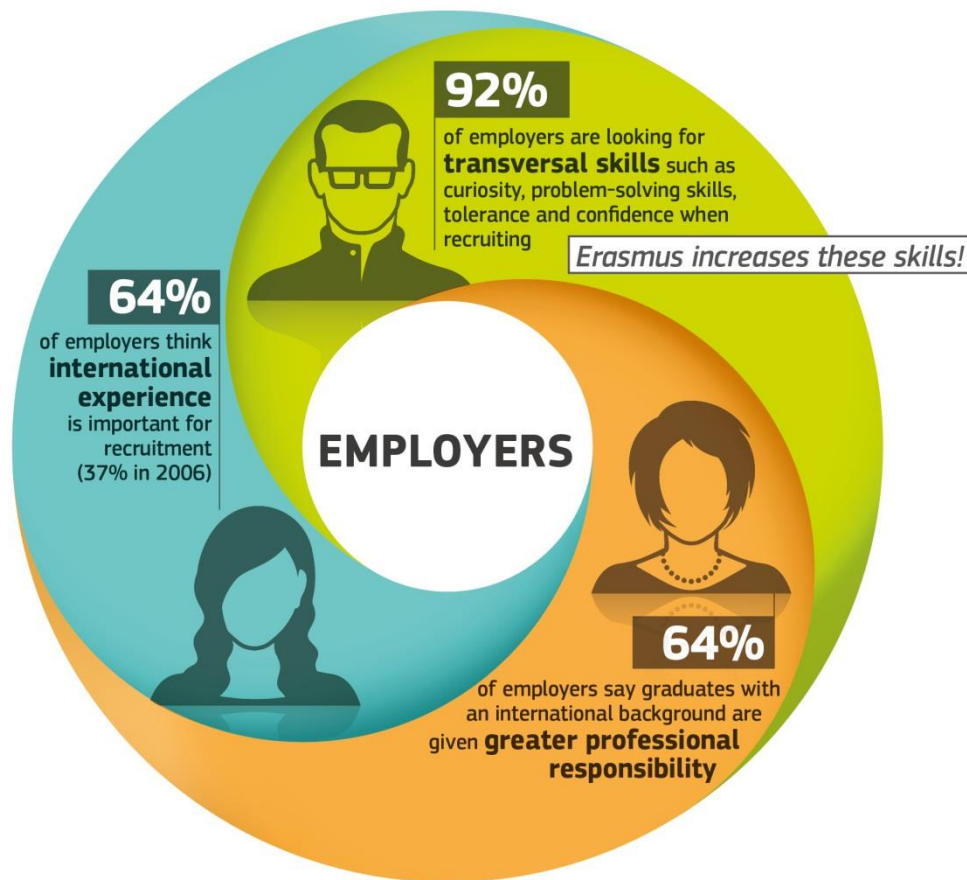
Feedback from the Workshops

Brussels, 27-28 June 2017

Workshop 1

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Ensuring employability through links to the world of work



Questions

- What actions and initiatives have you taken to encourage employability and entrepreneurship through the joint master programme? What has proven particularly successful and which obstacles did you encounter?
- How can the development of professional competencies and "*soft skills*" be integrated within the master programmes? How can we design academic programs that will give students the knowledge and skills that today's job market demands?
- How does your EMJMD stimulate cooperation and build up trust between universities and the world of work? What are the mutual benefits for all actors involved?

Good practices identified

- links with employers:
 - guest lecturers for classes and workshops with practical examples from world of work
 - master thesis & field studies at companies, internships (work or research) integrated in curriculum
 - add them as associates partners/in advisory board
- students learn from each other, especially *soft skills*/critical thinking
- mobility itself implies *soft skills*
- *soft skill* courses offered (languages, project management, communication, intercultural communication, etc.)
- students present their master thesis in front of employers and alumni and get an award for the best one
- students participate in career fairs

Challenges Identified

- for the new EMJMDs it is not easy to find internship places – later on reputation, visibility and brand name helps
- possibilities for finding internships also depend on the academic field (e.g. arts vs science)
- conditions for students to work:
 - legal framework for working permission
 - visa issue – possibility to stay after studies?
- find the right balance between employers' input to curriculum and academic freedom
- larger definition and understanding of *soft skills* (vs. transversal and hard skills)

Proposed solutions

- alumni to provide feedback on *soft skills* acquired
- official recognition of soft skills gained by students (e.g. ECTS, inclusion in the curriculum and the learning outcomes)
- consortium could write reference letters for students and graduates to increase employability
- create stronger links with alumni and enterprises
- create and reinforce career centers at universities
- sponsorships from enterprises for students
- interviews with enterprises and alumni on future developments in the field (new hard and soft skills required)
- Knowledge transfer regarding transmission of soft skills between consortia (e.g. summer school)

Follow up to be given

- proposal from WS: keep the brand name Erasmus Mundus
- offer incentives to enterprises who are providing internships, places for writing the master thesis,...
- create a matrix which shows the different national legal frameworks about working permissions and visa issues (during but also after EMJMD)
- guidance for HEIs how to cooperate with enterprises
- reinforced involvement of EU-Representations in Member States, EU-Delegations outside the EU and EMA to promote Erasmus Mundus at job fairs
- brochure for employers to promote EMJMD courses and graduates (like [ECCE Mundus brochure](#))