

Dutch EU Presidency Conference  
Designing policies for mobile students

Noordwijk

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# Internationalisation & student mobility

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**A**ims: - stimulate economic competitiveness  
- European dimension

**O**pportunities: - international co-operation  
- programs in international languages  
- equal treatment w.r.t. tuition

**L**imitations: - limited portability of support  
- limited opportunities for foreign students



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## Ministerial agreement on portability of grants & loans

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**B**erlin communiqué (19 September 2003) the Ministers of Education reaffirmed:

- “ ... to remove all obstacles to mobility within the European Higher Education Area, and  
... to take the necessary steps to enable the portability of national loans and grants ... ”



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# Attractiveness of student support systems

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**G**enerosity: how many get how much?

**F**orms of support:

- direct support: grants/scholarships, loans,
- indirect support: family allowance, tax benefits

**O**pportunities for portability of support

**C**an foreign students claim support ?



## Attractiveness: typology of countries

### Tuition and other fees

No	Low	Moderate	High
DK, EE, FIN	CZ, D, HU, IRL, LT, LV, MT, NO, PL, SI, SV, S	A, B, F, I, P	NL, UK (E,W), UK (SC)

Some countries require fees from part-time or additional students



# Attractiveness: typology of countries

## Grants/scholarships

	For many students	For few students
Generous grants	DK, FIN, NL, NO, S	B, D, IRL, UK (SC)
Limited grants	MT	A, CZ, EE, F, HU, I, LT, LV, P, PL, SI, SK, UK (E,W)





# Attractiveness: typology of countries

## Loans

	For many students	For few students
Generous loans	DK, EE, FIN, NL, NO, S, UK (E,W,SC)	D
Limited / no loans	A, LT, MT	B, CZ, F, HU, I, IRL, LV, P, PL, SI, SK

# Attractiveness: typology of countries

## Indirect support (through family)

	For many students	For few students
Generous benefits	B, D, CZ, EE, F, LT, SK	
Limited / no benefits	A, HU, I, IRL, LV, SI	DK, FIN, MT, NL, NO, P, PL, S, UK (E,W,SC)





# cheps

## Attractiveness: typology of countries

### Support in kind

No	Low	Substantial	High
S	B, DK, F, IRL, MT	A, CZ, EE, D, HU, I, LT, LV, NL, NO, PL, SI, SV, UK (E,W,SC)	FIN, P



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## Student support: position of other EU-citizens

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**W**hat are the conditions to claim support in another EU-country ?

**EU**-employees (ex-employees or self-employed) and their children: treated similar to national citizens

**S**o, staying in the territory of another member state, one should have sufficient means of subsistence



## Tensions: national policies - ECJ decisions

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**ECJ** stretches the non-discrimination principle

**M**ajor challenge of the Bidar case:  
can one claim maintenance support in another  
member state if not gainfully employed ?

**I**f ECJ allows such claims, it implies a major threat :

**EU** students may claim studying in countries with generous  
direct support systems (and use indirect support from home country)



## Attractiveness: conclusion

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Systems that widely provide direct support are most generous: **Nordic countries, Netherlands**

Some indirect support systems also very generous: **Austria, Belgium, France, Germany**

Support claims from foreign students particularly expected in countries with generous support

# Portability of student support





## cheps

**B**ut: ... study visit in framework of the study program followed at the home institution

On top of that ... some countries cover extra costs for travel, tuition, health or maintenance:  
e.g. D, FIN, NO, S, UK

## cheps

Indirect support generally portable for long-term study abroad (family allowances and tax benefits)

But ... portability of direct support often limited (grants & loans)



# Portability: long-term study abroad

## Grants and loans portable ?

Not at all	Limited programs, countries or students	Non-equivalence	Bilateral agreements	Open policy
CZ, I, LV, P, UK (E,W)	A, D, EE, F, MT, UK (SC)	B, LT, SI	NL, SV	DK, FIN, IRL, NO, S

Some countries could be located in more boxes



## Tensions: ECJ decisions and portability

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Another issue:

can other EU-citizens use support for study abroad ?

Can this lead to unintended use of support ?

(e.g. Meeusen case: use foreign support to study in own home country)

EU- employees and their children basically can, if:

- national students are allowed so  
(not widely possible in most countries)
- if they meet certain residence requirements  
(see Nordic countries)



## Tensions: ECJ decisions and portability

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**B**ut, do the residence requirements stroke with the principle of non-discrimination ?

**A**nd what if the definition of “EU-employee” is stretched to include part-time work and seasonal work ?

**A**ll such possibilities may lead to unintended use of national student support and make governments reluctant to expand the portability of support !



## Portability: experiences with current arrangements

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Most countries are satisfied with current situation

But, limited opportunities for portability  
→ risks (of unintended use) are still small

And they realistically accept the difficulties with  
portability in the current EU-policy setting



## Portability: intentions for the future

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**Q**uite some countries would like to expand portability:  
Austria, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia,  
Lithuania, Scotland and Slovakia  
(in the Nordic countries already the case)

**B**ut they feel limited by developments in ECJ  
decisions or by national budgets



## Conclusions: ECJ decisions - national policies

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**F**ear that a broad interpretation of EU-citizenship will lead to "student finance tourism"

**C**all for a stronger co-ordinated policy approach in this area

**N**owadays a mix-up of the home- and hosting-country perspective in the financial responsibility for students



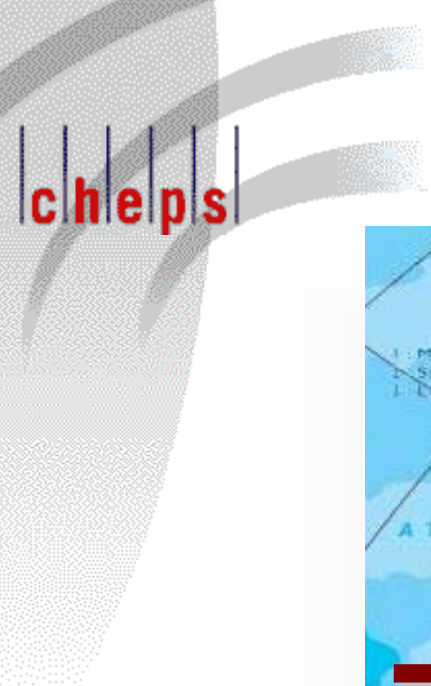
## Question: where do we go from here ?

Home- or hosting-country perspective ?

Residency requirement a potential way ?

A role for an EU-scholarship program for full-time study abroad ?





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