

**“ There is nothing like 40 people singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to a fellow student, each one of them in their own language.”**

Does Erasmus mobility programme reinforces national identities, divisions and national citizenship or creates European citizenship?

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**Abstract:** Erasmus is the EU’s flagship education and training programme, enabling around 180 000 students to study and to do work placements abroad each year.

Studies show that a period spent abroad not only enriches a student’s life in the academic field but also facilitates the acquisition of intercultural skills, language skills and self-reliance. Furthermore, students who go to Erasmus usually become part of international student community at the university, there are not just European students but students from all over the world. Which is why there is a transnational dimension in the erasmus example and also why the topic is relevant and important. The reader should be interested in it because even more and more students that are going or are become highly educated and therefore important work labour for the countries they come from or even more possible these days to the countries they will imigrate into. My question would be as the one in the title: Does Erasmus mobility programme reinforces national identities, divisions and national citizenship or rather create a new European citizenship?

Following question (transnational lenses): Does Erasmus really creates just europeancitizenship or if that is impossible to say, because Europe is just a part of the world.

Will they be more likely pursing future jobs and live in other countries due to the Erasmus experience?

In order to answer that question I would have to define citizenship, talk about the national identity, european and global citizenship, changes that emerged because of the Erasmus programme (literature rewiev), what happens with students identity when studying on Erasmus programme and are involved in contacts with the people from all over the world (not just EU).

My main hypotesis is that there are two possible scenarios: Some students may reinforce their national identites and national citizenship if they are not pleased with the experience and other students may through breaking down the stereotypes being to wonder what their identity is and wish to participate in new cultures and maybe migrate somewhere else.

I have already found some academic artlices about the topic that I will probably use: intergroup contact during the ERASMUS year abroad Cross-border mobility and European identity: The effectiveness of intergroup contact during year abroad by Emanuel Sigalas that argues that ERASMUS does not strengthen students’ European identity; on the contrary, it can have an adverse effect onit. Nevertheless, the regression analyses show that increased socializing with Europeans has a positive, though **modest**, impact on European identity. I will

also use the article by King and Ruiz: International student migration and the European year abroad: Effects on European identity and subsequent Migration behavior. That will be especially helpful because it includes the survey about two important things associated with my paper: does the year abroad give more European identity and also if the students will more likely be pursuing their career in the countries they had a year abroad at.