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## **Erasmus+ Mobility from African Universities to the European Universities An Analysis of Determinants for Participation of African Students**

### **Abstract**

In recent years, research on student mobility across Europe has increasingly gained scholarly attention. At the centre of analysis lies often the Erasmus+ programme, the EUs scheme for education, training, youth and sport. In 2014, the programme was undergoing a major reform, that has created various new research areas. On the one hand the scope of funded activities expanded and on the other hand widened its reach from a European to an international scope.

The widening also created the promising foundation for the EU to promote student mobility through its own framework, accompanied by its own standards, in its cooperation with third countries all over the world. However, even though the promotion of Erasmus+ follows clear guidelines and objectives, little is known on who gets to access Erasmus+ mobility programmes, in other words, which pupils can make use of Erasmus+ student mobility from outside of Europe to a European country.

Based on previous studies on Erasmus+ mobility in tertiary education across Europe, the analysis takes a closer look at the influence of a.) micro factors (e.g. individual motivations and personal background (e.g. demographic characteristics or socio-economic situation) and b.) meso/macro factors (e.g. opportunity structures) on participation. The analysis is based on an online survey and in-depth interviews with former and current mobile and non-mobile students from African universities that cooperate with European universities through the Erasmus+ framework. The aim is to provide evidence that a student's decision making is socially and biographically embedded and shaped by the macroeconomic context.