

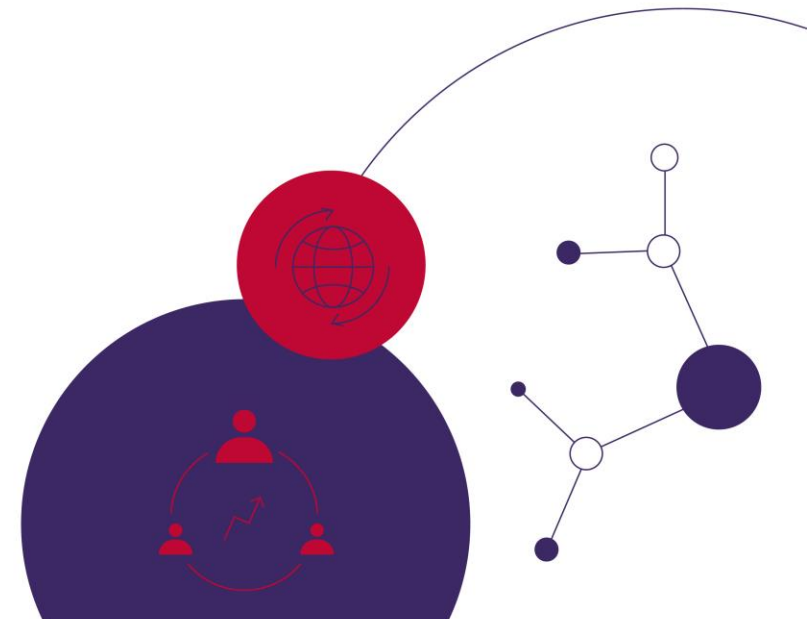
Internationalization and international academic mobility post-Covid-19

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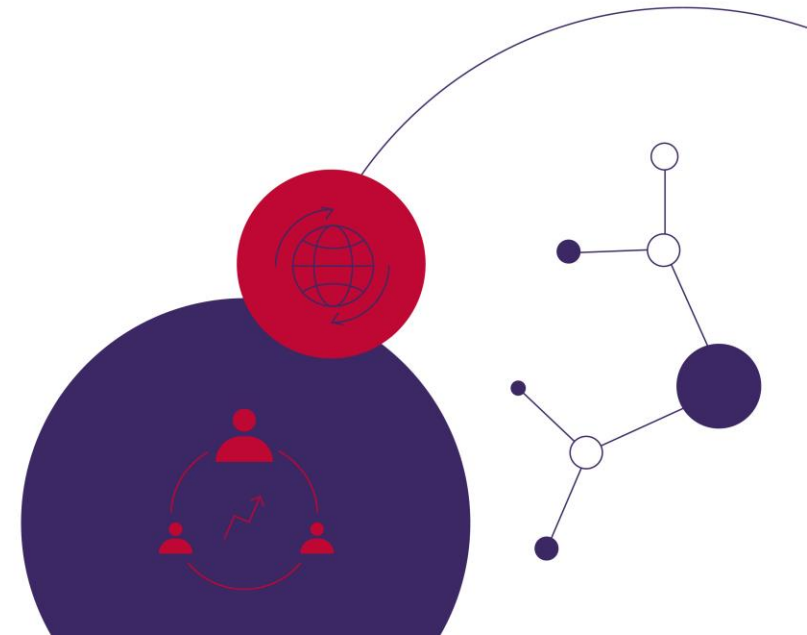
Will there be a post-Covid time, and when?

- Pandemic is far from over, not in Europe and North America, and much less worldwide
- Moderate optimism for AY 2021/22; but some restrictions remain in force
- Some („new“) normalcy is in sight:
How can Higher Education Institutions (HEI) help to shape the (mid-term) future



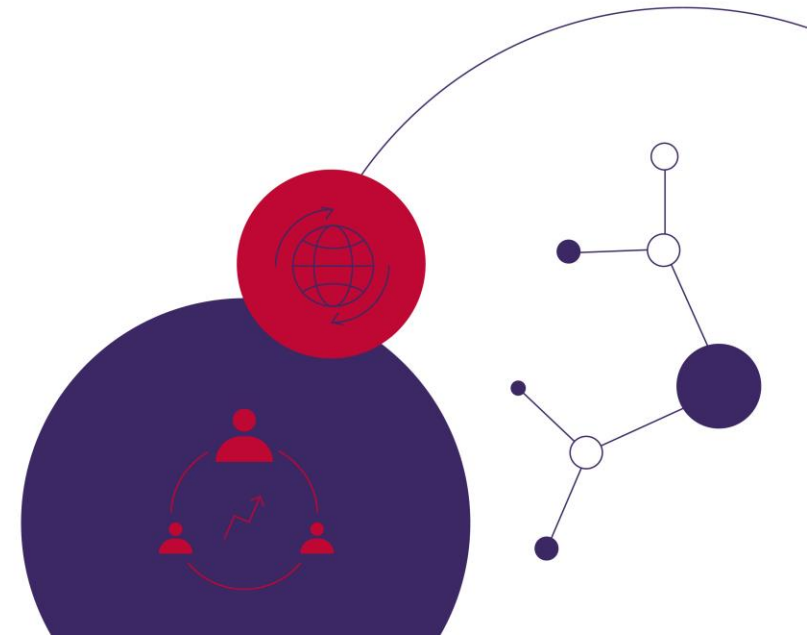
The first 18 months of the pandemic: the biggest crisis in decades

- New international first enrolments down 20 to 65%; tuition fee income halved in Australia
- Credit mobility down 20 – 100 per cent; students don't like „virtual mobility“
- Staff mobility close to zero, but much interaction moved online



A very high cost to students

- Many plans for the next steps in study and life thwarted or at least delayed, including study and research abroad
- A dramatic drop in satisfaction with life
- And a strong increase of mental illness



Achievements

- Resilience and rapid adaptation in HEI and agencies
- Several vaccines available one year into the pandemic, also due to international research cooperation
- A big leap forward in the use of technology: online learning, research communication, program administration



Trends for Academic Year 2021/22

- Much **uncertainty** for students and institutions
- Many institutions will teach in **hybrid** manner
- A recovery of **new** international (degree) **enrolments** in some countries
- National Covid management and **vaccination requirements** an important factor in students' mobility decisions (cf. QS reports)



Information and Trends for AY 2021/23

Short term mobility

- Outbound credit (Erasmus) mobility going up, but not yet to pre-pandemic levels
- Will there be a surge (delayed stays overlapping with new ones)?
- Recovery of staff mobility



Pandemic: a spotlight on strengths and weaknesses and an accelerator for change

- **Digitization** (or the lack of it)
- Make international cooperation “**greener**”
- Make it more **inclusive**
- There will not be a simple return to pre-Covid practices



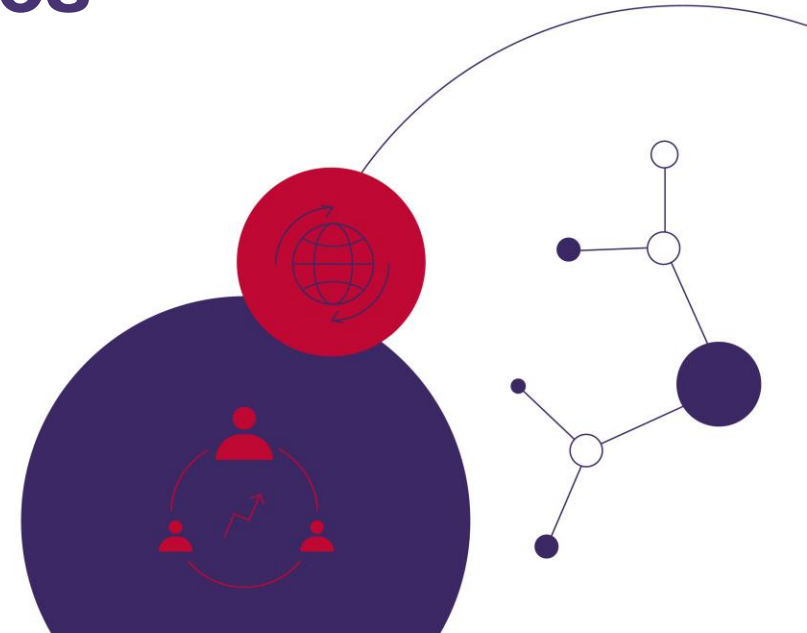
Challenges ahead

- Medium time effects on student mobility (both degree and credit)?
- Public and private finances will become tighter
- The temptation of „internationalization without mobility“
- A political backlash against globalization / internationalization



Lessons to be learnt

- A convincing **narrative** for mobility
- **Comprehensive approach** to internationalization: it's not only mobility
- Make intelligent use of new **technologies**
- Strike a **balance** between conflicting expectations



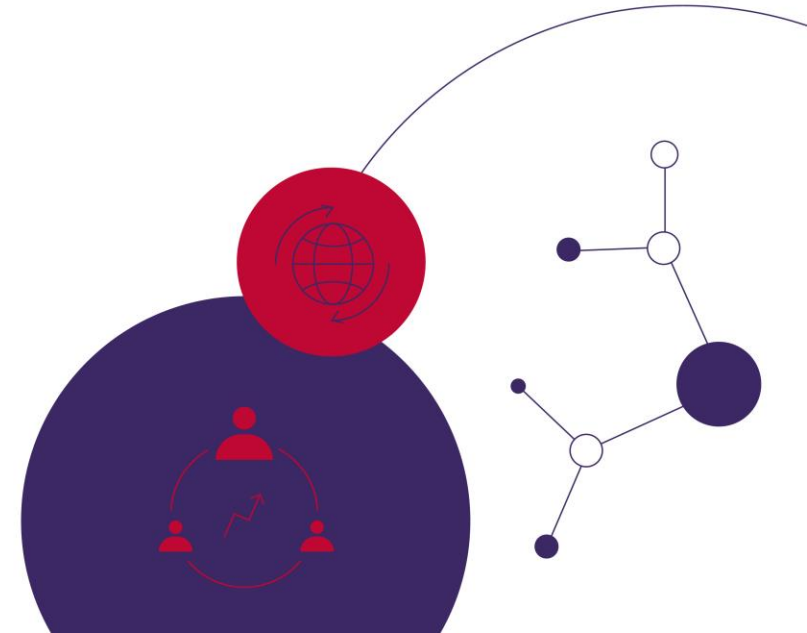
The case for international (physical) mobility

- Interaction benefits learning and research
- Experience of the unexpected
- Build lifelong networks
- A unique opportunity for the less privileged, but needs to be more inclusive
- Narrative *and* evidence



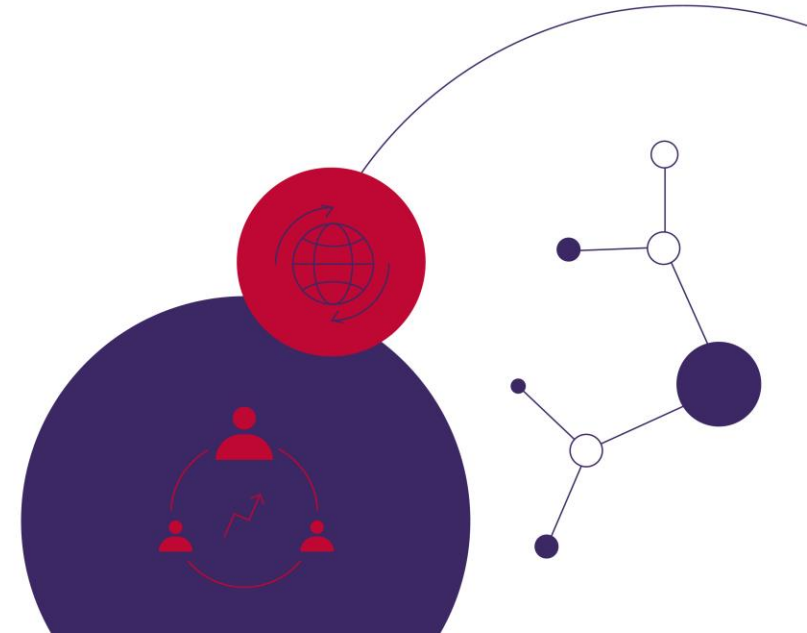
Internationalization@home

- Neither a stop-gap nor a substitute for mobility, but a necessary complement
- Offer international experience to *all* students
- International content *and* interaction



Zoom-ing in: make intelligent use of technology

- International online teaching is ***not just broadcasting*** your (domestic) program worldwide
- Specific **pedagogy**, that is sensitive to intercultural difference and encourages intercultural interaction



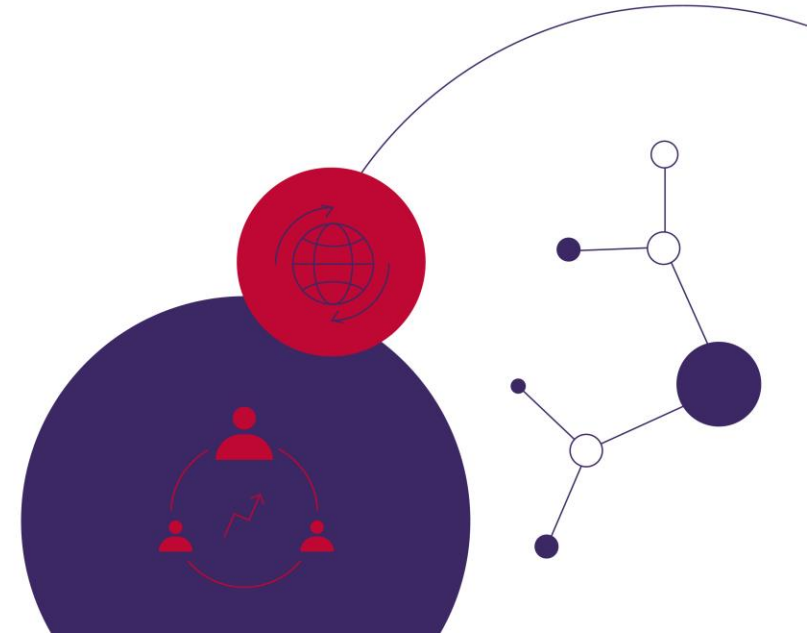
Intelligent use of technology: What can be done?

- Develop virtual and blended programs – and get the necessary resources
- Share courses between universities? Nationally and on a European scale (EUI)
- Online cooperation to prepare, enhance and continue physical encounters



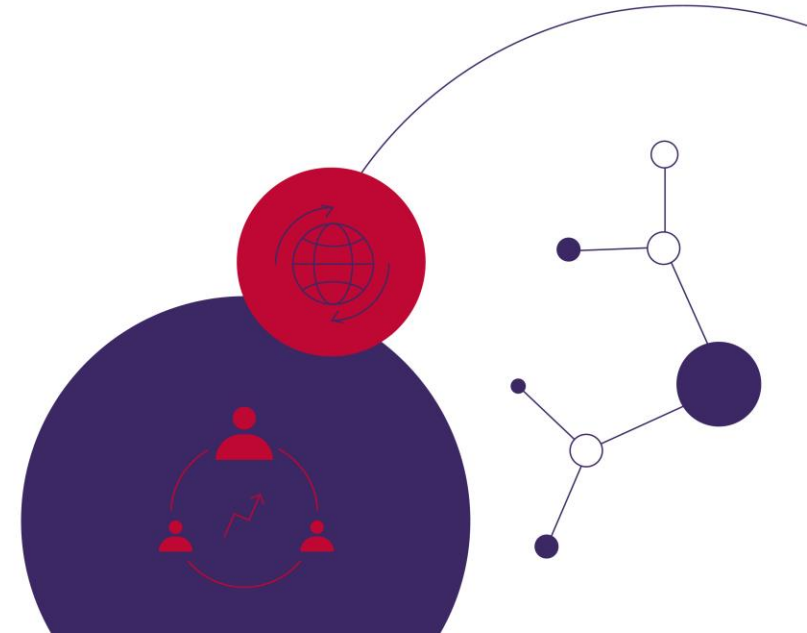
Intelligent use of technology: a comprehensive approach

- It's not either virtual *or* real, but online *and* physical
- „Blended mobility“, now funded under Erasmus+ (2021-2027)



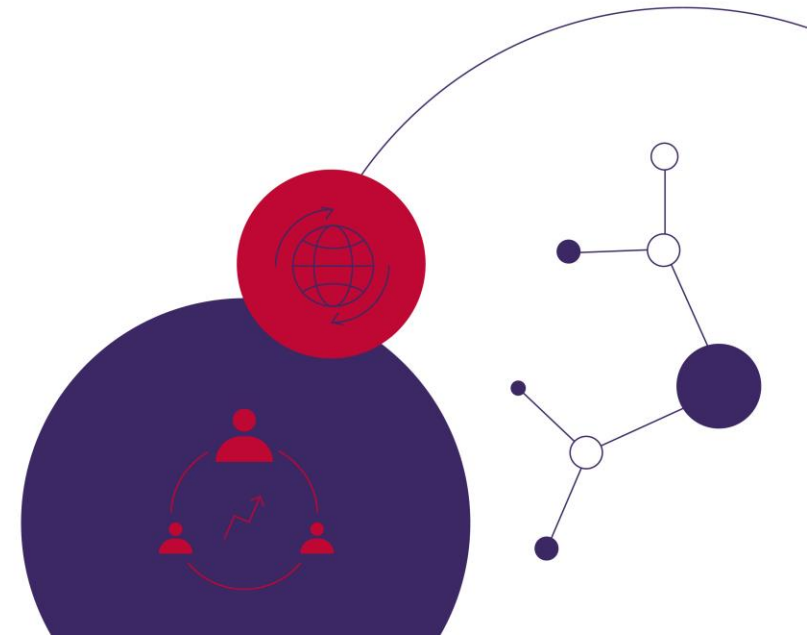
Conflicting interests and expectations

- More blended learning: more travel with a larger carbon footprint?
- Are shorter programs more inclusive?
- Personal contact is great – and expensive



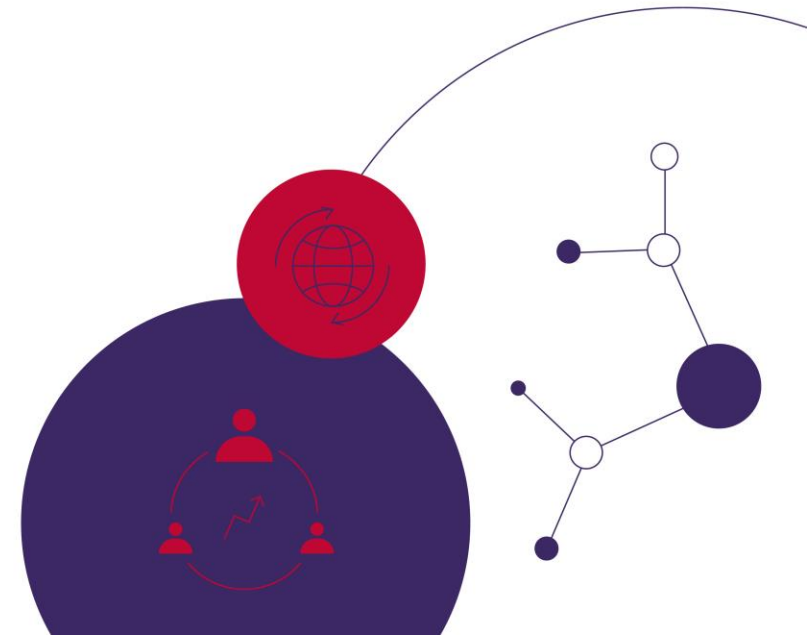
Tying it all together

- Weigh pros and cons (e.g. travel vs. sustainability) sector by sector, program by program
- Make international experience an integral part of the curriculum – define and measure outcomes
- Be flexible and ready to adapt



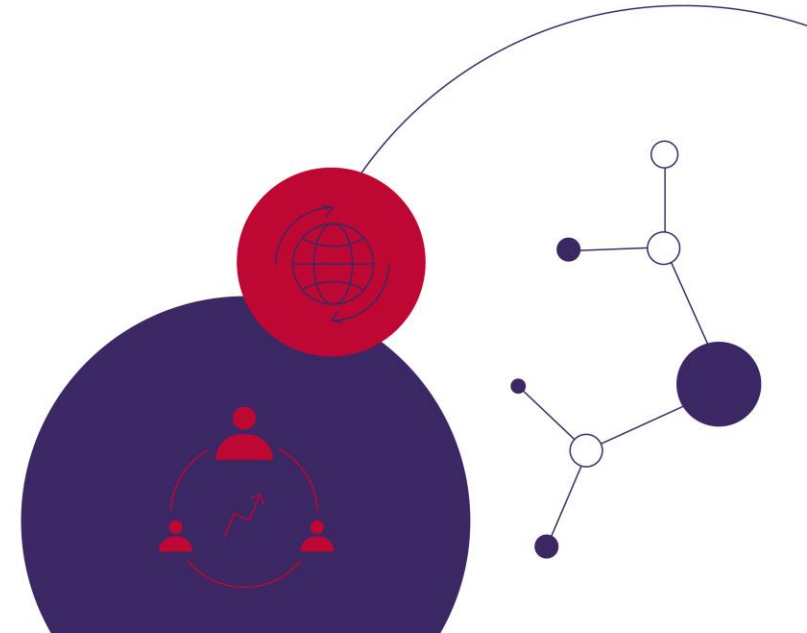
Looking ahead

- A backlash against globalization: How will it affect the internationalization effort?
- A stress test for liberal democracies and the European Union



Looking ahead

- More global equity: will quality higher ed and research become even less accessible for the global South?
- A changing global landscape of higher ed and research



Köszönöm

Questions please!

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