

## Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

**Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is the biggest student association in Europe.** It was born on the 16th October 1989 and legally registered in 1990 for supporting and developing student exchange.

We are present in more than 480 Higher Education Institutions from 37 countries. The network is constantly developing and expanding. We have around 14.500 active members that are in many sections supported by so called buddies mainly taking care of international students. Thus, ESN involves around 34.000 young people offering its services to around 190.000 international students every year.



ESN is operating on three levels: local, national, and international.

ESN works for the creation of a more mobile and flexible education environment by supporting and developing the student exchange from different levels, and providing an intercultural experience also to those students who cannot access a period abroad ("internationalisation at home").

**More information:** [www.esn.org](http://www.esn.org)

## ExchangeAbility

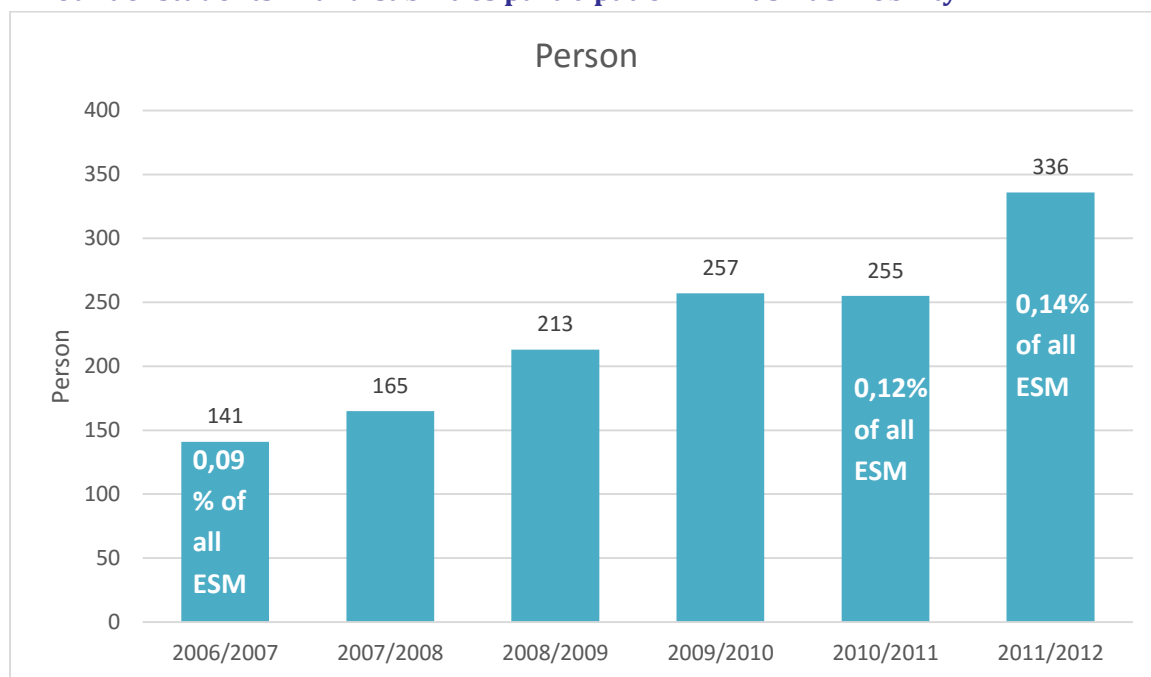
The ExchangeAbility is the project of ESN since 2009



### Aims of the project:

1. **Increasing the number of students with disabilities going on exchange.** The long-term vision of the project is to promote the opportunities and support offered for students with disabilities to get experience abroad.
2. **Making ESN a more accessible association for students with disabilities at all the levels of its activities.** ESN wants to provide the conditions and opportunities for the students with disabilities to actively be involved in taking part in volunteering activities for international students at their home universities and benefit from the concept of “Internationalisation at home”. Additional goal is to raise awareness in ESN about mobility, inclusion and education for people with disabilities.

### Amount of students with disabilities participation in Erasmus mobility



According to the data from European Commission, there is a very low participation of students with special needs in Erasmus mobility. (*Source: [European Commission, Erasmus programme statistics](#)*)

## MapAbility

In 2013, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) applied to an international activity grant to the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe for a project called **MapAbility**. The project has been accepted and conducted from October 2013 to July 2014.

MapAbility is a sub-project of ExchangeAbility and the aim of the project is **to map the accessibility of European HEIs to students with disabilities and special needs.**

More info: <http://exchangeability.esn.org/>

### MappED!

(10/2015 – 10/2017)

MappED! will replace the MapAbility as ESN has received new grant from European Commission (Erasmus+ KA2 – Strategic Partnerships).

MappED! is a project aiming to develop the **first online platform about mobility** for students with disabilities, while also focusing on its promotion and usage.

This platform will contain **information coming from the National Agencies** on the opportunities and extra privileges that students with disabilities are eligible for during their mobility as well as best practices on bringing the triangle “**Disability Officers – International Relations Office – Student with disabilities**” closer. Also, as follow up MapAbility, a map describing the accessibility of the HEIs and their surroundings will be provided. The partners will be constantly monitoring and giving feedback on the development and Transnational Meetings will be organised on different stages of the grant for this purpose.

After the platform is ready, promotion and raising awareness of its values and use will begin. Along with Jaccede and their “Accessibility Days” event, Multiplier Events will be organised where a group of people storms the roads to map the buildings’ accessibility and raise awareness on the public. A mobile app will be also developed to help with the mapping procedure while a guidebook on organising such an event will be created.

