

# Parental involvement in student mobilities abroad

## The Prep4Pro experience

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# Introduction – Why parental involvement matters

- Parental support is essential
  - Emotional security
  - Academic performance
  - Cultural adaptation
- Prep4Pro emphasizes:
  - Trust
  - Engagement

# Objectives

- Demonstrate why engaging parents enhances the success of mobilities
- Present Prep4pro insights and strategies
- Share tools and best practices for HE

# Why engaging parents enhances mobility success

- **Emotional stability**

- ⇒ lower levels of anxiety and homesickness
- ⇒ safety net – confidence

- **Increased student retention and succes**

- ⇒ higher program completion rates
- ⇒ perseverance in overcoming academic and cultural challenges

# Why engaging parents enhances mobility success

- **Cultural adaptation support**

- ⇒ help reinforcing adaptive strategies
- ⇒ motivate to embrace new cultures

- **Practical benefits**

- ⇒ timely handling of visas, finances and administrative needs
- ⇒ help students adhere to health and safety protocols

# Prep4Pro

- Goals:
  - strong and sustainable **network/ecosystem of VET providers** throughout Europe  
⇒ mutual trust and quality
  - **Prep4Pro roadmap**  
⇒ chapter per identified concern or step in the mobility process with verified guidelines and good practices
  - **communication strategies and tools** for 5 stakeholder groups (staff, learners, FO, parents & companies)  
⇒ reach, inform, motivate and involve them and accommodate their concerns

# Prep4Pro

- 5 VET partners (SI, FI, ES, FR)
- 6 work weeks
- **Needs analysis** before each work week on roadmap topics
  - ⇒ workshops, sharing best practices and external expertise
  - ⇒ check with focus groups
  - ⇒ pilot mobilities

# Prep4Pro

## Roadmap topics

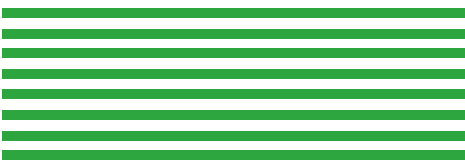


# Prep4Pro insights & strategies

- Potential barriers for parental involvement
  - Limited access to information  
⇒ clear, centralised resources
  - Cultural and social barriers (especially for disadvantaged backgrounds - FO)
  - Concerns about safety and costs  
⇒ clearly explain logistics and finances

# Prep4Pro insights & strategies - parents

Key concerns	Prep4Pro solutions
<b>Safety and well-being</b>	24/7 contact person on site 6 WWs + dinner with students & parents Preparatory visit + prior online meeting Emergency protocol + insurances
<b>Financial aspects</b>	Financial preparation Erasmus+ funding (all costs covered) Fewer opportunities
<b>Cultural adjustment &amp; homesickness</b>	Student preparation Prior meetings with parents Workshops on social integration & intercultural awareness
<b>Long-term benefits</b>	Assessment & recognition of competences Qualifications Personal growth



## A collage of ten diamond-shaped images arranged in a grid-like pattern, each featuring a different person in various professional settings. The images include: a chef in a white uniform and hat; a construction worker in a red plaid shirt and orange hard hat; a man in a dark suit and tie; a woman in a white chef's hat and uniform; a man in a blue shirt and glasses; a man in a blue shirt and a blue cap; a woman in a blue lab coat; a man in a blue shirt and a blue cap; an elderly woman with white hair and glasses; and a woman in a white lab coat. The collage is set against a dark background with a subtle grid pattern.

**Is your child a student or apprentice in vocational education and training (VET)?  
Would (s)he like to spend part of his/her training abroad?  
(S)he can benefit from a long-term mobility abroad with ErasmusPro and enjoy a  
unique and once-in-a-lifetime experience!  
Contact the mobility coordinator at the school now!**

**during training  
and up to 1 year after graduation**

- Personal growth
- Language learning
- Skills enhancement
- Improved career prospects
- It's cost-free!

“  
This opportunity changed my life!  
I’ve become very social and made new friends.  
I know better what I’m capable of now and  
I definitely want to do it again!”



## 1 School year before departure: preparation

**Sept-Oct: Info sessions – call for candidacy**  
by the school's mobility coordinator

**Dec - Feb:** Complete the candidacy form with your child.

(The mobility coordinator applies for **mobility budget with Erasmus+**)

**May – Sept:**

- **Online meetings** with the hosting partner and company
- **Preparatory sessions** to prepare your child 100%
- **Sign paperwork** (agreements, contracts...)
- **Preparatory visit:** Mobility coordinator and a teacher (+ student / parent) will meet the school abroad and hosting company (100% paid for by Erasmus+ funding)

## 2 Mobility: follow-up and evaluation

- **3 visits by sending VET school:** They accompany your child at the start, visit your child in the middle, and pick your child up at the end.
- **Regular online meetings**
- **Weekly check-ins** with your child's reference persons
- **Recognition of the competences your child has acquired**

### 3 Return: re-integration

Assistance with the **reintegration** and **curriculum alignment** for your child (e.g.: exemptions...)

# Prep4Pro insights & strategies

- Preferred channels
    - E-mail
    - School platform
    - Personal meetings (especially in case of FO)
- ⇒ **General information publicly available** (especially in case of FO)
- ⇒ Candidate/participant information with **permission of student (if 18+)**



# Strategies for engagement (pre-mobility)

- Targeted communication tool that accommodate their concerns, the benefits...
- Interactive info sessions for parents  
(logistics but also how to support, what to expect...)
- Contact person (coordinator)
- Student guidance counsellor contacts parents personally (FO)
- Preparatory visit

# Strategies for engagement (during mobility)

- Emergency protocols
  - Clear guidelines for crisis management
  - 24/7 contact person
- Centralised information available
- Regular updates for parents

# Strategies for engagement (post-mobility)

- One-on-one sessions to discuss re-integration of participant
- Sharing experiences
- Alumni parent network

# Communication tools

- Accessible (paper, online – different channels)
  - Visually engaging
  - Clear language
  - Multiple languages
- 
- School website, school platform, social media
- 
- Personalised communication (especially FO)

# Case study: Prep4Pro pilot mobilities

- Example: effective brochures and personal outreach increased participation by 30%
- Example: preparatory visits/drop-off reassured parents of where their child might be (especially FO)
- Physical info sessions for parents: better know what to expect
- Key outcome: Families felt more informed and empowered to support their children.

# Conclusions

- Parental support is essential
  - **emotional security**
  - academic performance and general **mobility success**
  - **cultural adaptation**
  - + **practical benefits**
- Information should
  - **accommodate parents' concerns**
  - **available** continuously and publicly
  - ⇒ **targeted** communication strategy & tool
- Special attention to parents of **FO**

**Trust & engagement**

# Q&A

