

# ANNUAL REPORT 2010

## Introduction

This annual report consists of two parts. Part one is a breakdown of granted applications and grants for the contract period 2010/2011. Part two accounts for the implemented activities during the contract period 2009/2010, based on the reports from the Nordplus networks.

## PART 1

### Applications and grants in 2010

In 2010 the Programme Committee for higher education distributed 4 299 810 € to the networks (2009: 4 064 700 €). The programme budget consisted of ordinary funds of 4 295 362 € (of which 300 452 € unused funds from 2008) and 25 421 € of interests, which makes a total budget of 4 320 783 €. Of the total budget 20 000 € was reserved for disabled actors and possible complaints. Three extra grants were made: 15 000 € after a complaint, 11 000 € and 6 000 € as corrections due to an error occurred in in the Application and Reporting System (ARS). These extra payments were made by decision of the chair and allocated to mobility. Thus, the total distribution was 4 331 810 €. The extra grants were paid from refunded grants.

ACTIVITY	2010				2009			
	Appl. €		Grant. €		Appl.€		Grant. €	
Student mobility	5 258 090	43 %	Mobility is granted as a lump sum		6 532 580	42 %	Mobility is granted as a lump sum	
Teacher mobility	2 045 820	17 %			2 765 295	18 %		
Express mobility	1 297 730	11 %			1 140 830	7 %		
<b>Mobility total</b>	<b>8 601 640</b>	<b>70 %</b>	<b>3 042 510</b>	<b>70 %</b>	<b>10 438 705</b>	<b>67 %</b>	<b>2 845 300</b>	<b>70 %</b>
Network support	987 266	8 %	248 300	6 %	No statistics from 2009		401 100	10 %
Intensive course	1 390 414	11 %	631 000	13 %			514 200	13 %
Joint Study Prog.	282 354	2 %	81 000	2 %			101 000	2 %
Development Projects	1 027 019	8 %	329 000	9 %			203 100	5 %
<b>Other act. total</b>	<b>3 687 053</b>	<b>30 %</b>	<b>1 289 300</b>	<b>30 %</b>	<b>4 736 950</b>	<b>31 %</b>	<b>1 219 400</b>	<b>30 %</b>
<b>Admin costs</b>	<b>Not applied in 2010</b>				<b>295 074</b>	<b>2 %</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0 %</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12 288 693</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>4 331 810</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>15 470 729</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>4 064 700</b>	<b>100 %</b>

Table 1. Applied and granted 2010 and 2009.

The ordinary funds were distributed according to the guidelines: 70 % to mobility and 30 % to other activities. This is also in accordance to the division of the applied activities.

<b>Allocation of the budget of 2010</b>			
		Mobility 70%	Other 30%
Budget for programme activities 2010:	3 994 910 €		
A fund reserved for disabled and appeals:	20 000 €		
Unused funds from 2008:	300 452 €		
Interest income 2009:	25 421 €		
<b>Total budget:</b>	<b>4 320 783 €</b>	<b>3 010 548 €</b>	<b>1 290 235 €</b>

**Table 2. Allocation of funds.**

### **Participation by country**

As the Baltic countries entered the programme in 2008 and the annual priority encourage networks to enlarge by including new partners from these countries an examination of the participation by HEIs from the Baltic countries is appropriate. However, the Nordplus activities are genuine collaborations between the partners and the grants are not allocated to specific countries but to network coordinators who then distributes the grants internally according to own decisions.

The status of coordinator does not always mean that the coordinating HEI is responsible for the activities in the network or that the activities are to be held in the coordinating country. Often the coordinator has only an administrative role. It is not unusual that the coordinating duties rotates among the partners.

Among the 217 granted applications HEIs – or to be more precise, faculties, departments and institutions – from the Baltic countries acted as coordinator in 14 networks (2009: 11). As partner Baltic HEIs participated in many networks. Among the granted applications 83 had one or more Baltic HEIs participating (2009: 83). Estonian HEIs participated in 56 (2009: 52) networks followed by Lithuanian 50 (2009: 42) and Latvian 43 (2009: 36).

These networks with Baltic participation applied for a total sum of 5 783 821 €, which constitutes 47 % of the total applied sum (2009: 5 924 935 €, 38 %). The Programme Committee granted 2 271 165 € (53 %) of the total granted amount (2009: 1 867 400 €, 46 %), to networks with Baltic participation.

### **Applications by subject area**

Measured by the numbers of applications the four most active subject areas were Medicine (dominated by Health care) 54 (2009: 52), Education, teacher training 45 (2009: 40), Social sciences 35 (2009: 34) and Humanities 29 (2009: 34). Art and design 17 (2009: 21), Business studies and management sciences 14 (2009: 16) and Natural sciences 14 (2009: 15) were the three following.

Measured by the applied amount, Medicine (dominated by Health Care) was still the biggest area with the total applied sum of about 2,4 M€. The following subject areas were Education, teacher training with a total applied sum of nearly 2 M€ and Art and Design with 1,3 M€.

The lowest applied sum was in Geography, geology (41 255 €). Other small areas were Mathematics, informatics and Architecture, urban and regional planning as well as Law. No significant changes in the activity levels between the subject areas have occurred during several years. The largest network within the subject area Language and Philological sciences, NordLiks, never submitted an application in 2010 and therefore this area shows a lower level of activity.

Subject area	Number of networks			% of the applied sum			% of the granted sum		
	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008
1.0 Agricultural sciences	4	5	10	3,8	4,4	2,0	3,4	3,4	3,2
2.0 Architecture, urban and regional planning	2	3	1	0,9	1,1	3,2	1,0	1,8	0,9
3.0 Art and design	17	21	24	10,5	14,0	8,5	10,3	14,3	14,2
4.0 Business studies and management	14	16	20	6,9	11,1	5,0	8,4	8,3	7,8
5.0 Education, teacher training	45	40	53	15,8	11,5	13,0	18,3	15,1	16,2
6.0 Engineering, technology	9	12	15	5,7	6,3	10,0	6,2	6,0	6,2
7.0 Geography, geology	2	3	3	0,3	1,4	0,3	0,6	0,4	0,6
8.0 Humanities	29	34	47	9,6	7,4	8,4	10,1	8,8	13,0
9.0 Language and philological sciences	4	6	8	0,8	3,1	3,3	1,3	5,3	5,1
10.0 Law	1	2	2	2,1	1,5	0,6	4,2	3,7	3,5
11.0 Mathematics, informatics	2	3	2	0,5	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,0
12.0 Medical sciences	55	52	61	19,4	19,6	35,0	16,5	17,4	14,3
13.0 Natural sciences	14	15	9	3,9	5,6	2,6	3,9	3,0	3,5
14.0 Social sciences	35	34	37	8,6	6,2	5,7	7,4	7,7	8,0
15.0 Communication and information studies	7	8	7	4,4	6,4	2,0	3,4	4,5	3,3
16.0 Other areas of study	15	0	2	6,6	0,0	0,2	4,5	0,0	0,3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>301</b>						

**Table 3. Number of networks and the percent of the total applied and granted sum by subject area 2008-2010.**

## Applications by activity

### *Mobility*

The Programme Committee granted a total of 3 042 510 € to mobility, which is 35 % (2009: 27 %) of the total applied sum for mobility.

The applied amount for student mobility was 5 258 090 € (2009: 6 532 580 €), teacher mobility 2 045 820 € (2009: 2 765 295 €) and express mobility 1 297 730 € (2009: 1 140 830 €).

### *Intensive courses*

Of the applications 78 included a total amount of 104 intensive courses (2009: 61/82). The Programme Committee granted funding for 34 courses (2009: 39).

### *Joint Study Programmes*

Of the applications 23 included joint study programmes out of which 9 was granted (2009: 20/12).

<b>Subject area</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Architecture	1	0	0
Art and Design	1	3	7
Communication and Information Science	0	0	1
Engineering, technology	1	2	3
Humanities	2	2	2
Medicine	1	2	1
Natural Science	1	1	1
Social Science	1	1	1
Teaching and Teacher Training	1	1	0

**Table 4. Granted joint study programmes by subject areas.**

### *Development projects and network activities*

Among the submitted applications that included development projects 26 (2009: 24) were granted. 28 applications were granted network support (2009: 73). The network activities were mainly administrative meetings for establishing and developing networks, for enlarging networks, planning new activities and for dissemination of results.

The support to network activities has been gradually reduced and is now mainly allocated to new networks for establishing the joint activities or to established networks for specific planned activities for developing the collaboration. Some few established networks have also been granted for administrative meeting on the basis of a very broad scale of different joint activities, i.e. mobility, intensive courses and different development projects. Only one network has used the possibility to apply for language training.

## PART 2

### Final reports for contract period 2009-2010

Several of the total 209 networks that were granted Nordplus funds in 2009 had problems with the deadline and didn't report in due time. Two of them did not submit a report at all. Several coordinators had also difficulties in filling in the report correctly and corrections had to be made.

The reporting module of the ARS collects only statistics for mobility. In addition, coordinators – on behalf of their networks – are asked to give a qualitative report of their activities during the contract period and to grade to which degree they have lived up to ten various aspects of their plans in the application.

### Reported use of funds

In 2009 a total of 4 069 700 €s was allocated to the networks.

	At disposal	Reported use	Total use	Unused funds	Administrative transfer to the following year	Currency
<b>2002</b>	48 789 584	32 741 658	67 %	6 544 817	9 503 109	NOK
<b>2003</b>	47 178 934	33 459 036	71 %	12 360 195	1 359 703	NOK
<b>2004</b>	5 208 782	4 439 406	85 %	769 376	-	EUR
<b>2005</b>	5 768 614	5 188 890	90 %	579 724	-	EUR
<b>2006</b>	4 904 681	4 400 618	90 %	504 063	-	EUR
<b>2007</b>	4 395 607	4 051 173	92 %	343 761	-	EUR
<b>2008</b>	3 894 200	3 510 448	90 %	383 752	-	EUR
<b>2009</b>	4 084 878	3 731 518	91 %	353 360	-	EUR

Table 5. Allocation and use, 2002-2009.

The use of allocated funds has improved during the last years and is now on an acceptable level. A major part of the refunded grants consists of unused mobility scholarships as the individual exchanges were not carried out as planned. This is quite typical in many HEIs as plans for individual students and teachers tend to alter during an academic year. In addition, as the past performance as an assessment criteria has been given more weight, the beneficiaries have been more effective in using the grants.

Activity	Use of the total allocation				Amount of networks by activity			
	09/10	08/09	07/08	06/07	09/10	08/09	07/08	06/07
Mobility	90 %	88 %	91 %	90 %	193	183	229	260
Intensive course	95 %	No statistics for 2008.	95 %	82 %	33	No statistics for 2008.	31	36
Network support	87 %		95 %	93 %	73		79	127
Development projects	95 %	Other activities total: 94 %	not appl.	not appl.	24	Other activities total: 64	not appl.	not appl.
Joint study programmes	85 %		99 %	94 %	8		14	13
Other activities	-		76 %	94 %	-		12	16

Table 6. Use of funds per activity and amount of networks 2006-2009.

### Mobility

193 applications were granted mobility in 2009 (2008: 183). The total sum allocated to mobility was 3 042 510 €, which is equivalent to 70 % of the programme budget.

In general, the amount on exchanges has increased in 2009-2010 compared to the previous contract period. However, this can be partly explained by the fact that several coordinators have registered participating teachers in network meetings as teacher exchanges.

An interesting notion is the relation between student ordinary and express mobility. The express mobility has increased at the same time when ordinary mobility has decreased.

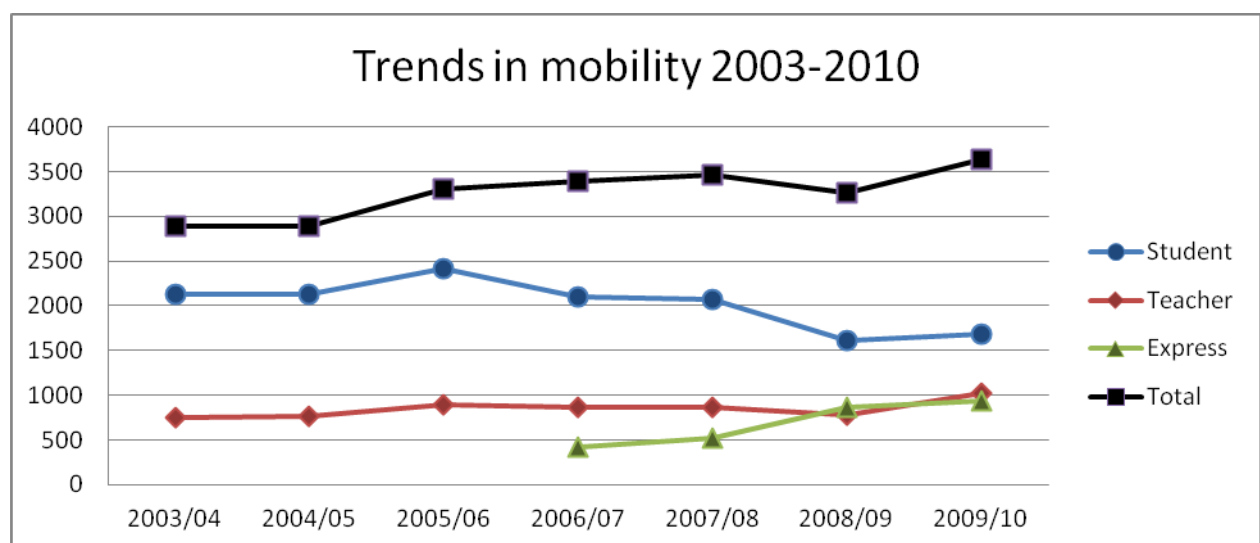


Table 7. Trends in mobility 2003-2010. Expressmobility was initiated in 2006.

## **Students**

The amount of student exchanges in “conventional mobility” i.e. 1-12 months, shows a small increase compared to the academic year 2008/09. A total of 1680 students were allocated a Nordplus scholarship for 2009/10 compared to 1611 in previous academic year. But compared to 2007/08 (2071) the numbers of student exchanges has decreased. This can at least partly be explained by the fact that the interest in express mobility has increased. In 2009/10 a total of 938 students received an express mobility grant (2008/09: 867; 2007/08: 523), thus resulting in an increase of the total number of mobile Nordplus students. The total amount of student exchanges in 2009/10 was 2618 (2008/09: 2478; 2007-08: 2595).

When comparing the allocation of scholarships for ordinary and express mobility it seems that students from the Baltic countries use more express than ordinary mobility scholarships, whereas the situation is the opposite for Nordic students. One explanation could be that the living costs in the Nordic countries are considerably high for Baltic students and longer exchanges is therefore economically challenging.

The most popular receiving country was again Sweden, with 709 incoming students (27 %). Denmark and Norway were number 2 and 3 with 529 (20%) resp. 518 (20 %) incoming students. Finland received 288 (11%) and Iceland 229 (9 %) incoming students. Sweden, Norway and Iceland shows an increase while Denmark and Finland have a decrease in incoming students compared to the academic year 2008-09.

The Baltic countries received totally 268 (10 %) students: Estonia 87 (3 %), Latvia 92 (4%) and Lithuania 89 (3 %). Both Latvia and Lithuania received more students whereas Estonia’s numbers decreased from previous academic year.

The most active sending country was again Finland with 852 students (33 %), an increase of 115 students. Sweden came second with 498 students, a small increase there too. Denmark as third (445) had a small decrease and Norway’s number of outgoing student was reduced by 102 students to 372. Iceland was this time more active and sent 152 student abroad.

Estonia and Latvia shows more activity with 127 resp. 64 outgoing students whereas Lithuania has a decrease by 11 students to 77 outgoing students.

These statistics include both ordinary and express mobility.

### *Gender and age in student mobility*

Although gender and age is not obligatory information in ARS, some statistics can still be presented. A total of 1738 registered female students were mobile in 2009/10 compared to 784 male students. Thus, the balance in percentage is 69-31. The percentage of mobile female students in Nordplus is about 10 % higher than in Erasmus. One explanation could be that in Nordplus the two biggest Subject areas – Health care and Education – both are female dominated and thus increase the percentage for female students. Statistics on gender in the Nordplus programme from 2003/04 shows almost exact same figures as in 2009/10.

A majority (56 %) of the mobile students in the Nordplus programme in 2009/10 is between 23 and 26. 21 % of the students are in the age group 18-22. No comparable statistics of age in Nordplus is available from previous years. The average age of the Erasmus student in 2009/10 was 22,6 year.

For more detailed student mobility statistics see appendix 1.

### ***Teacher mobility***

The total amount of teacher exchanges were 1025 (2008/09: 783; 2007/08: 862). The increase in the number of teacher exchanges is partly explained, as mentioned above, by wrong registration in ARS.

The most popular receiving country this period was Sweden, which was visited by 225 teachers (22 %), the three following were Norway with a total of 199 (19 %) incoming teachers, Finland with 189 (18 %) and Denmark with 159 (16 %). Iceland received 52 (5 %) teachers. All Nordic countries except of Iceland, had an increase in incoming teachers compared to the academic year 2008/09.

The Baltic countries received totally 168 (16 %) teachers: Estonia received 52 (5 %), Latvia 64 (6 %) and Lithuania 52 (5 %). Both Lithuania and Latvia had a small increase whereas Estonia had a decrease.

The most active sending country was Sweden with 233 teachers (23 %). Finland came second with 212 (21 %), then Norway with 198 (19 %) and Denmark with 188 (18 %). The Baltic countries sent totally 105 teachers: Lithuania 44 (4 %), Estonia 41 (4 %) and Latvia 20 (2 %). All countries, except Latvia shows an increase in the numbers of outgoing teachers.

### ***Gender in teacher mobility***

As in student mobility female teachers are clearly more mobile than their male colleagues. 635 (67 %) female teachers were registered for a scholarship versus 317 (33 %) male teachers.

For more detailed teacher mobility statistics, see appendix 2.

### ***Qualitative report***

In these qualitative reports, the coordinators evaluate to which degree they had lived up to ten various aspects of their application (general objectives, publications, schedule, budget etc.) on a scale from one (1) to five (5), one meaning “not at all” and five meaning “completely”.

The networks were asked to comment their grading. This report analyses the comments and tries to reach some general conclusions. Questions related to the same topic have been grouped together.

207 network reports were submitted. The average grades of this contract period slightly declined or stayed the same compared to the qualitative reports of the contract period 2008-2009. Only the average grade in question 10 on the Nordplus administration increased. These grades should be observed with certain precaution since the networks are not comparable: some work with only mobility with a few partners, others with many partners and projects. Thus, the criteria they use to evaluate themselves are different.

Generally the topics raised in the final status reports 2010 were similar to the ones of the previous year. The minor deviance between the qualitative reports might well be explained by different emphases in the analysis of the final status reports.

The problems with the ARS reporting template mentioned in the annual report 2009 prevailed also this year. Since the questions asked were very general, the responses tended to be general as well. The template did not cater for the distinct criteria that are needed evaluate the performance of those networks with only mobility activities and of those with project activities. The technical problems with ARS who caused delays to grant payments in 2009 were not an issue this year and therefore, networks criticised ARS less than previously.

The global financial crisis was not as urgent a topic in 2010 as it was in 2009. Fewer networks expressed their disappointment for the smaller grant than what they had applied for and more networks reported budget surplus in mobility in 2010. Network cooperation was described generally more positively in 2010 than the year before. Homepages and other online forums were reported as channels for dissemination by more networks than the previous year. Evaluations became more effective in 2010 as the number of networks taking the evaluation into consideration when planning future activities had increased significantly. Nordplus programme was evaluated more positively than the year before.

The qualitative report 2009 divided the networks generally into two groups, those with in-depth cooperation and strong financial contribution of their own, and those who basically exist because of Nordplus grants. Such conclusion could not be drawn of the final status reports 2010. This does not necessarily mean that the situation had changed in reality.

## **Overall objectives**

*Question 1: To which degree did the project meet its overall objectives?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 4,0 (4,1)

Approximately 70 % of the Nordplus Higher Education grants are directed to mobility. Most of the networks had concluded their mobility activities successfully and many claimed that the demand for mobility grants was higher than what they could offer. However, some networks reported the mobility to be lower than they had planned. Attracting teachers for mobility seemed to be slightly harder than the recruitment of students. Express mobility was praised as an indispensable opportunity for, for example, very rigid or short training programmes.

*“It is challenging and time consuming to only work with mobility and then try to make it an integrated part of the training. We hope for project financing for an intensive course next year. “*

Despite of being the engine of many networks, some networks commented that mobility grant alone is insufficient to keep the network cooperation active.

## **Results and dissemination**

*Question 2: To which degree did the project produce the planned products (reports, publications, training material, courses)?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 3,8 (3,9)

*Question 8: How effective has the evaluation and/or dissemination of results of the project been?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 3,7 (3,9)

*Question 9: To which extent have the results of the project benefited target groups outside the institutions?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 3,0 (3,3)

*“The Health Care Technology curriculum in Tallinn University of Technology has been advertised in various media channels to attract best local and international students. [...] The curriculum was presented in international conferences in Barcelona and Tallinn. “*

The Nordplus Higher Education Programme wishes that the networks disseminate the results of their activities in order for the activities to have a multiplying effect on the surrounding society. The Programme also encourages network activities that have links to external groups.

External professionals were hard to be integrated in mobility activities, where the benefits were rather indirect, e.g. students who developed their multicultural competences during their exchange period and can use them in the future.

The mobility periods including practical training were an exception to this. Teacher students

practicing at local schools or nurse students attending the patients in local hospitals can be mentioned as examples of how the surrounding society could benefit from the Nordplus cooperation. External stakeholders were more closely attached to project activities, for instance intensive courses tailored to develop and deliver products for partner companies. A great share of the networks reported that they had no external target groups or that they had not planned any publication.

Many networks had not planned nor produced any publication. Among those who did produce something, the products varied from scientific articles to art exhibitions. The most common publications were homepages, books, articles, papers, posters and presentations.

*“The book we published is now used in teaching in all of the Nordic countries and is the first book on community work with all the Nordic countries included.”*

The network’s homepage was, as well, the most frequently reported channel of dissemination. Some networks had even presented their results at an international conference of the relevant scientific field. Reports of the mobility participants were often the only products or publications of networks with only mobility. Most of them were reported to be available for future possible exchange students or teachers either online or in the international offices of the HEIs.

### **Schedule**

*Question 3: To which degree did the project meet its planned schedule?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 4,1 (4,1)

The majority of the networks did not report any problems with their schedule. Around every fourth network reported that some of their planned activities were delayed, changed or even cancelled. The ash cloud produced by the volcanic eruption in Iceland caused changes to the plans of a few networks through flight cancellations

### **Finances**

*Question 4: To which degree did the project meet its planned budget?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 3,7 (3,8)

Approximately every tenth network expressed in the report clearly that their grant was smaller than what they had applied for. Most of them had managed to adjust the budget to the grant, often by increasing the contribution of the partner HEIs. Approximately every fifth network

*“We adapted the activities and budget to the grant given. [...] Some institutions have problems with the self-financing part of sending students and teachers to the Nordic countries. Organizing meetings and courses in the Baltic countries is one solution. [...]”*

reported that they had used less funds for mobility than what was granted. Some of the networks had less mobility participants than they had planned and were able to increase the individual grant amounts for the participants.

The financial crisis and the consequent cuttings in HEIs' budgets caused some difficulties for a few networks. The countries suffering the most of the limited budget were Iceland and the Baltic countries.

The fact that working hours are not reimbursable costs in the grant or that the share of the grant for administrative expenses is limited was given some criticism. Some networks also criticised the unpredictability of the grant amounts and the uncertainty it causes for the continuation of network activities.

### ***Cooperation within the network***

*Question 5: To which degree did the cooperation between the project partners meet its planned objectives?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 4,2 (4,2)

Most of the networks seem to be functioning well, describing their cooperation mostly or exclusively in positive terms. The core of the good cooperation seems to lie on good personal connections among the contact persons and the necessity of regular physical meetings and the importance of personal connections were emphasized. Therefore, recent cuttings in HEIs' finances, the restructuring of HEIs and the reductions and changes of staff have caused challenges to the cooperation of some networks.

Another problem, especially in large networks, seems to be the unequal activity of the partner HEIs. This might lead to extra heavy workload for the coordinator. Every fifth network reported that their partners were unequally active. The importance of the circulation of network coordination was stressed.

About every tenth network had welcomed new partners during the contract period. Expansion to Baltic countries was common and it was experienced mostly as an important enrichment for the network.

Despite of the importance of physical meetings, many networks reported that they used some kind of virtual tools to maintain contact. This could be e-mailing, at its simplest form, but some networks had even introduced common online forums which had proved to be effective alternatives or additions to physical meetings.

Network cooperation was often described as valuable, vital, necessary, meaningful or important. Some networks had even received international recognition through their publications or presentations at international conferences, even functioning as model examples of international cooperation in the field.

*“Shared expertise, opportunity for exchange of teaching methods, promoting Nordic contacts, small-scale cooperation among the groups even without mobility, tips for literature, working life contacts, PR.”*

### ***Impact on participating institutions***

*Question 6: To which extent has the project had positive impact on the participating partner institutions /organisations?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 4,2 (4,3)

Many networks considered it difficult to measure intangible impacts or to itemise tangible impacts. The most frequently reported positive impact was the mobility opportunities and the intangible effects they entailed: internationalisation, shared knowledge, cultural enrichment, wider perspectives and multicultural competences for the participants, and encouragement for increased mobility. Increased knowledge of the partner HEIs was often mentioned as a natural consequence of increased cooperation and facilitator of further cooperation.

Concerning academic impacts, the networks mentioned personal contacts and networking, which could further lead to cooperation in research projects or guidance with master's theses. New teaching methods and materials were also reported.

The networks highly valued the access to internationally renowned experts that the cooperation could provide. Seen from an international perspective, the partner institutions are often very small in each of their scientific fields, and through the Nordplus cooperation they could offer their students something they could not afford alone. A few networks even mentioned that the importance of Nordic level was specially emphasized in the internationalisation strategies of the HEIs.

### ***Continuation of activities***

*Question 7: Will the project activities continue when Programme support is terminated?*

- 2010: 158 True (76 %), 49 False (24 %)
- 2009: 147 True (77 %), 43 False (23 %)

157 networks replied that they would continue the activities without support, whereas 49 stated the opposite. However, most of the networks could not give an absolute answer, but replied with conditions: "true, but..." or "false, but...".

The continuation of the activities is a feasible indicator for the networks partners' devotion and for the financial stability of the networks. Approximately 16 % of those networks replying *true* described themselves well established and did not doubt or question the continuation of activities. Some networks replying *true* had already been granted for the next contract period. However, about 23 % of the networks replying *true* said that they were still dependent of the Nordplus grant to maintain the current activity level. If the Nordplus grant was terminated, the mobility activities

***"Nordic cooperation is highly prioritized. We will continue working to increase mobility."***

would suffer the most. Some networks reported that they would probably use Erasmus or other, yet undetermined financing to compensate the Nordplus grants and to continue with mobility activities.

Of those networks answering false, about a half said that Nordplus grant is essential for them to keep to current activity level. Approximately 40 % stated clearly that they would not be able to continue without Nordplus funding. However, about every third thought that the cooperation would continue at some extent, at least the contacts among the partners would remain. A majority of the networks replying *false* estimated that if Nordplus grant was terminated, their mobility activities would suffer the most, whereas a few networks supposed that their project activities would suffer the most. Also some of the networks replying *false* said they might be able to continue their activities with Erasmus grants.

### ***Evaluation of activities***

*Question 8: How effective has the evaluation and/or dissemination of results of the project been?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 3,7 (3,9)

Every second network reported that they had conducted some sort of evaluation, whether it was mobility reports by the students or internal evaluation by the network partners. The most frequently reported method for evaluation was mobility reports but also questionnaires and groups discussions were used. Many networks felt that the positive results of the evaluation had encouraged them to improve the cooperation further. Only a few networks reported they had not done any kind of evaluation. Most of them were networks with only mobility activities which they felt had no need to evaluate. About every fifth of the networks reported that the results of the evaluation were discussed at a network meeting and the necessary measures were taken to develop the activities according to the feedback.

### ***Administration of the programme***

*Question 10: How do you evaluate your experience of working with the Nordplus Programme?*

- Average score 2010 (2009): 4,1 (3,8)

The programme was mostly described as flexible, non-bureaucratic, easy, open, user-friendly and simple. A great share of the respondents described their experiences with explicitly positive terms. However, a few networks felt that it had recently become more rigid and bureaucratic. Nordplus was still seen as lighter to administrate than the LLP programmes.

The application and reporting system ARS was criticised, but most of the criticsers felt that it was now much easier to use since one was familiar with it. The clumsiness of ARS was the

main reason why some networks experienced working with the Nordplus programme time consuming, especially when related to the amount of grant.

In addition to the smaller individual grant, the networks said that the Nordplus often struggles in the competition against Erasmus in attractiveness. Nordic countries are not experienced as exotic enough for students longing to farther destinations.

The Nordplus administration was given almost exclusively positive feedback. Networks were grateful for the administrators' support and described them helpful, smooth, flexible, patient, friendly, quick, cooperative and responsive.

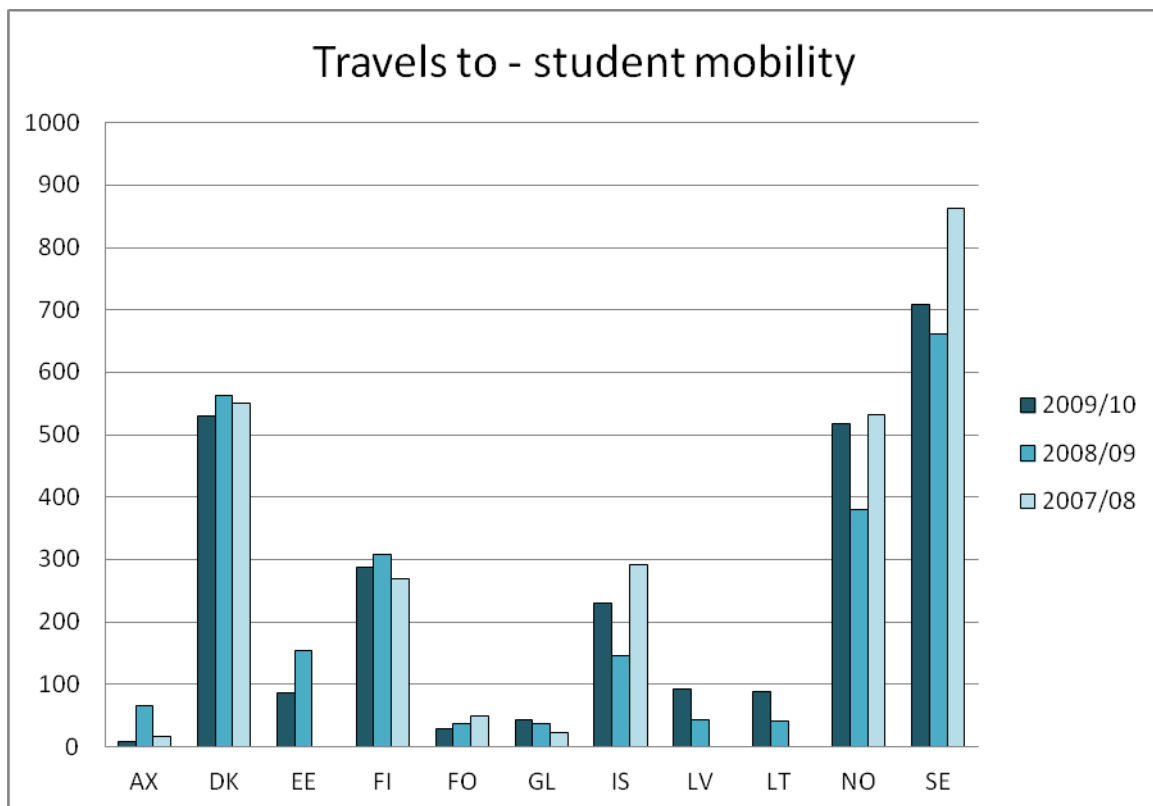
*“Nordplus programme is an important tool to develop and deepen our Nordic contacts. [...] Flexible solutions are highly valued. [...] Hopefully Nordplus could become a forum which respects the qualitative aspects within the different activities, as a Nordic complement to the quantification of the EU programmes.”*

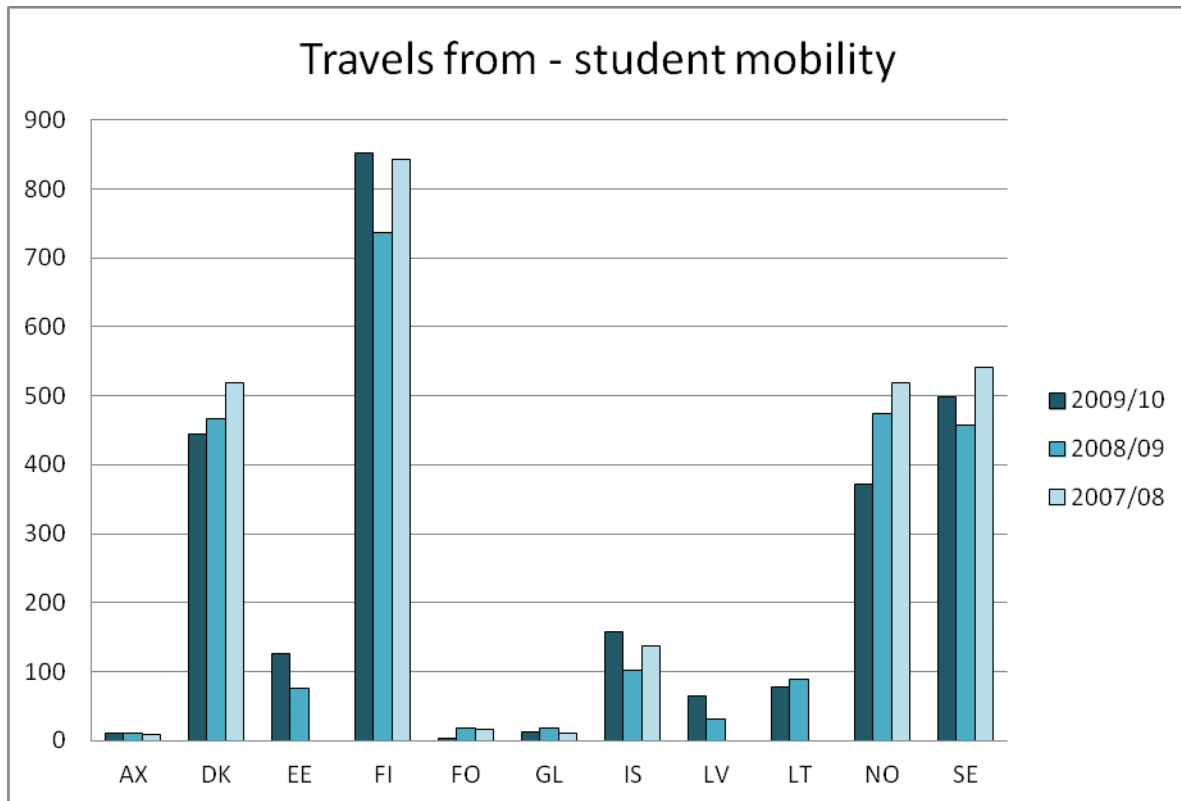
## APPENDIX 1

**Student mobility 2009/10**

	TRAVELS TO						TRAVELS FROM						
	Amount			Percentage				Amount			Percentage		
	09/10	08/09	07/08	09/10	08/09	07/08		09/10	08/09	07/08	09/10	08/09	07/08
<b>DK</b>	529	563	<b>551</b>	20,2	22,7	<b>21,2</b>	<b>DK</b>	445	467	<b>518</b>	16,9	18,8	<b>20,0</b>
<b>EE</b>	87	153	-	3,3	6,2	-	<b>EE</b>	127	75	-	4,9	3,0	-
<b>FI</b>	288	308	<b>268</b>	11,0	12,4	<b>10,3</b>	<b>FI</b>	852	737	<b>842</b>	32,5	29,7	<b>32,4</b>
<b>FO</b>	28	36	<b>50</b>	1,1	1,5	<b>1,9</b>	<b>FO</b>	3	18	<b>17</b>	0,1	0,7	<b>0,7</b>
<b>GL</b>	42	37	<b>23</b>	1,6	1,5	<b>0,9</b>	<b>GL</b>	12	18	<b>11</b>	0,5	0,7	<b>0,4</b>
<b>IS</b>	229	146	<b>291</b>	8,7	5,9	<b>11,2</b>	<b>IS</b>	157	102	<b>138</b>	3,9	4,1	<b>5,3</b>
<b>LV</b>	92	42	-	3,5	1,7	-	<b>LV</b>	64	31	-	2,4	1,3	-
<b>LT</b>	89	40	-	3,4	1,6	-	<b>LT</b>	77	88	-	2,9	3,6	-
<b>NO</b>	518	379	<b>532</b>	19,8	15,3	<b>20,5</b>	<b>NO</b>	372	474	<b>519</b>	14,2	19,1	<b>20,0</b>
<b>SE</b>	709	661	<b>863</b>	27,1	26,7	<b>33,3</b>	<b>SE</b>	498	458	<b>541</b>	19,0	18,5	<b>20,8</b>
<b>AX</b>	7	65	<b>17</b>	0,3	2,6	<b>0,7</b>	<b>AX</b>	11	10	<b>9</b>	0,4	0,4	<b>0,3</b>
<b>TOT.</b>	<b>2618</b>	<b>2478*</b>	<b>2595</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>TOT.</b>	<b>2618</b>	<b>2478*</b>	<b>2595</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Includes 48 exchanges registered as unknown (ARS error).



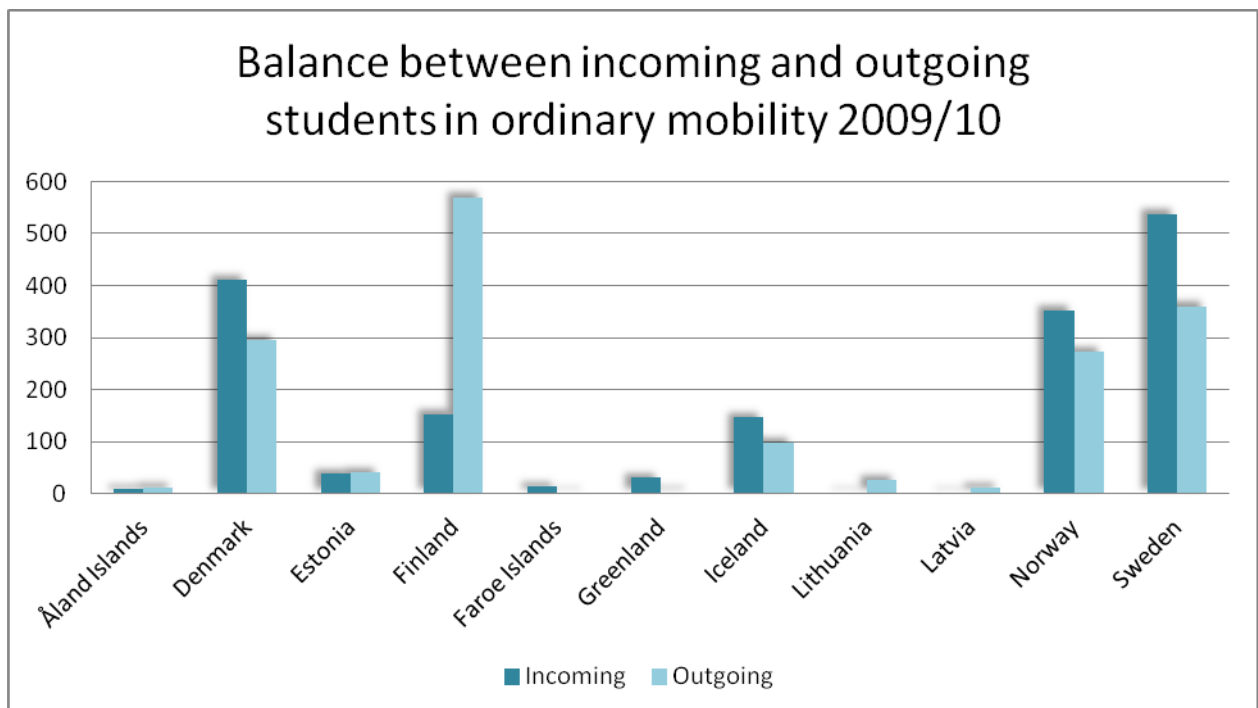


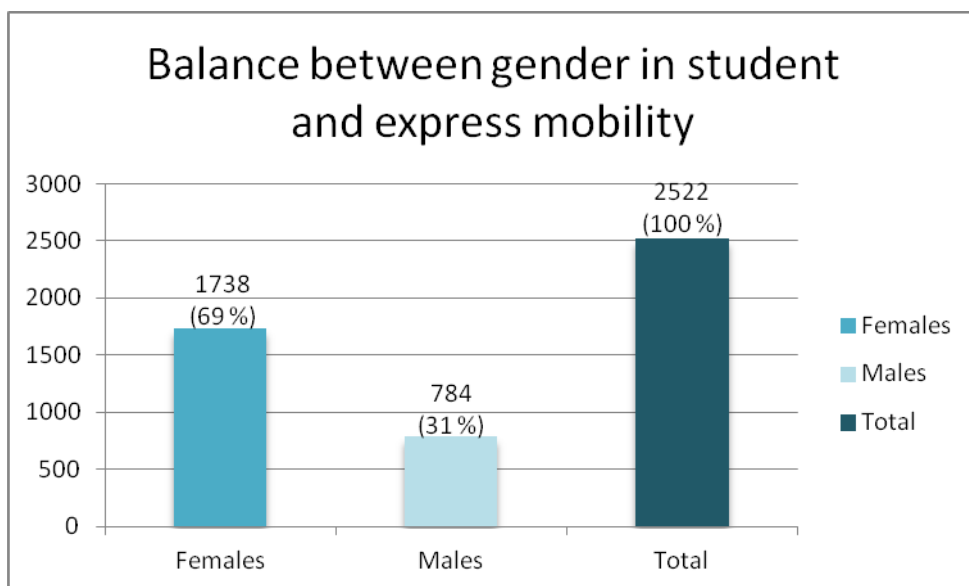
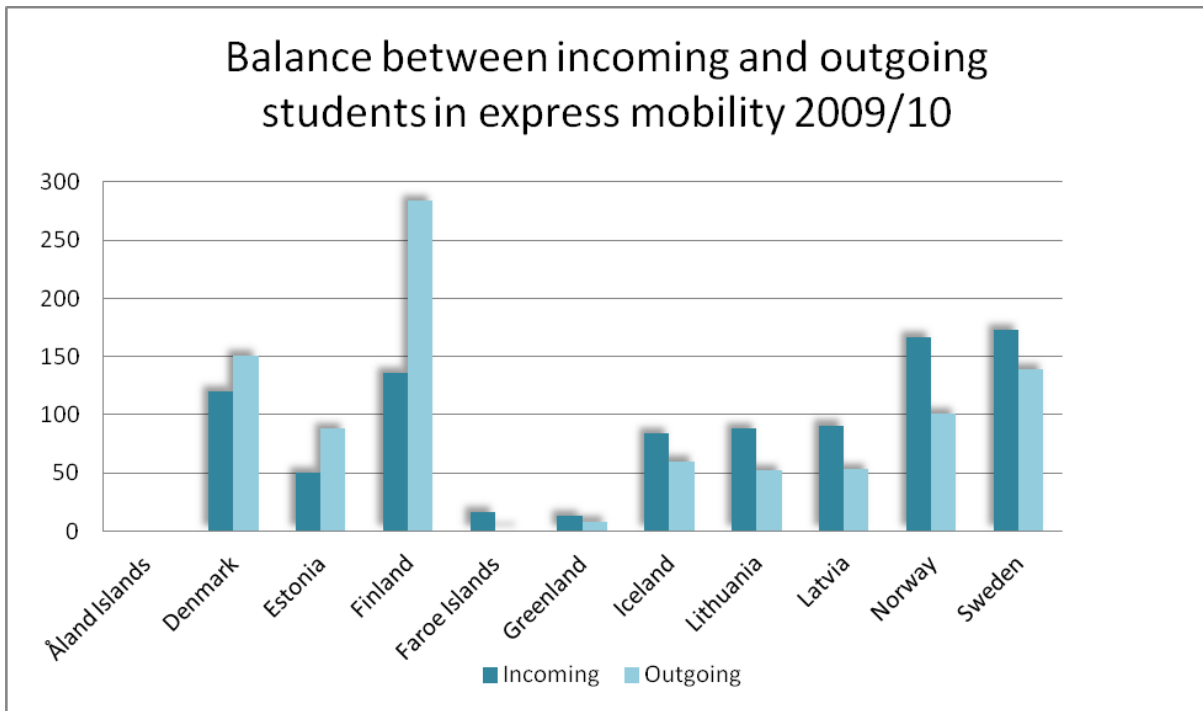
*Student mobility (1-12 months)*

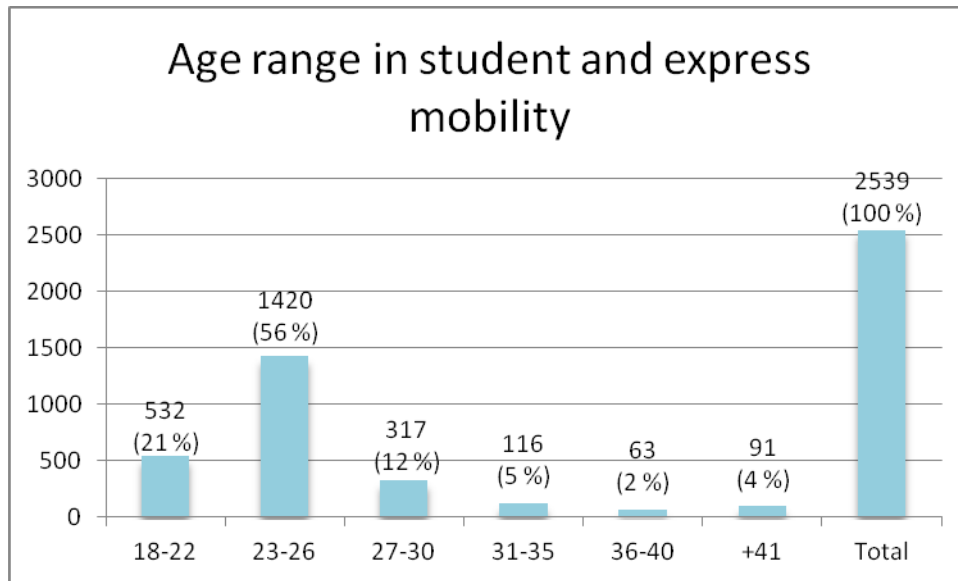
<b>TO \ FROM</b>	DK	EE	FI	FO	GL	IS	LV	LT	NO	SE	AX	<b>Total from</b>
DK		2	26	10	23	32	-	-	111	90	-	<b>294</b>
EE	1		16	-	-	8	-	-	3	11	-	<b>39</b>
FI	110	8		-	-	39	-	-	90	314	7	<b>568</b>
FO	-	-	-		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
GL	2	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	2	-	<b>4</b>
IS	39	-	7	-	-		-	-	23	28	-	<b>97</b>
LV	1	1	3	1	-	3		-	2	-	-	<b>11</b>
LT	2	-	10	-	-	7	1		2	3	-	<b>25</b>
NO	125	19	25	1	4	20	-	-		77	-	<b>271</b>
SE	129	7	65	-	2	35	-	1	120		-	<b>359</b>
AX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11		<b>11</b>
<b>Total to</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1680</b>

*Express mobility (under 1 month)*

TO \ FROM	DK	EE	FI	FO	GL	IS	LV	LT	NO	SE	AX	Total from
DK		6	26	6	11	5	11	15	40	31	-	<b>151</b>
EE	11		25	-	-	11	14	18	6	3	-	<b>88</b>
FI	27	20		4	2	48	23	19	48	93	-	<b>284</b>
FO	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	2	-	-	<b>2</b>
GL	4	-	-	2		-	-	-	2	-	-	<b>8</b>
IS	7	12	10	4	-		-	-	13	14	-	<b>60</b>
LV	2	3	23	-	-	1		21	-	3	-	<b>53</b>
LT	18	3	8	-	-	-	12		10	1	-	<b>52</b>
NO	29	1	18	-	-	12	11	2		28	-	<b>101</b>
SE	22	5	26	-	-	7	20	13	46		-	<b>139</b>
AX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		<b>-</b>
<b>Total to</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>938</b>





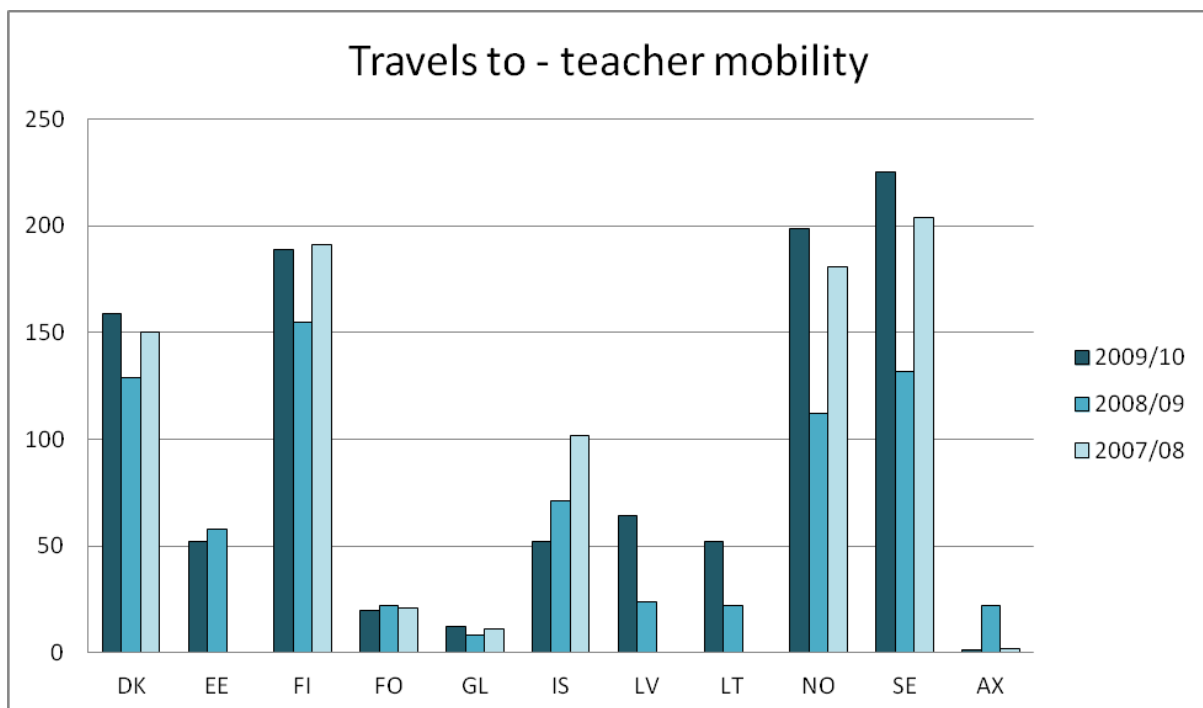


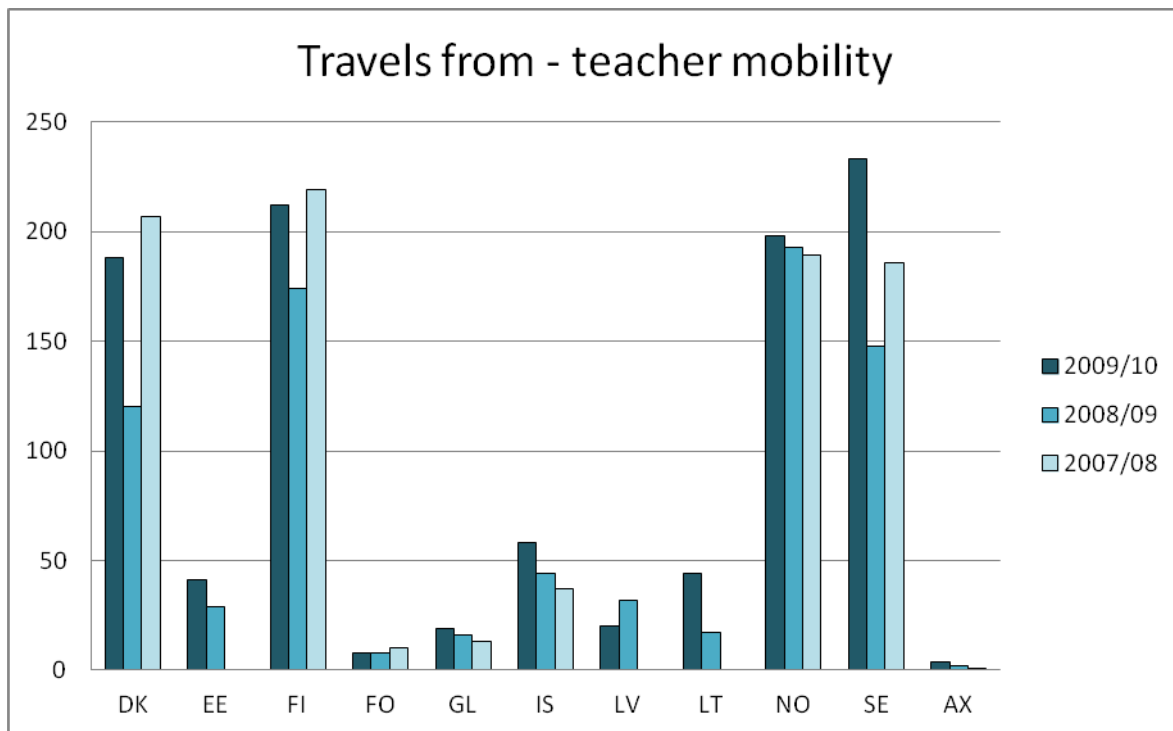
## APPENDIX 2

**Teacher mobility 2009/10**

	TRAVELS TO						TRAVELS FROM						
	Amount			Percentage				Amount			Percentage		
	09/10	08/09	07/08	09/10	08/09	07/08		09/10	08/09	07/08	09/10	08/09	07/08
<b>DK</b>	159	129	<b>150</b>	15,5	16	<b>17,4</b>	<b>DK</b>	188	120	<b>207</b>	18,3	15	<b>24,0</b>
<b>EE</b>	52	58	-	5,1	7	-	<b>EE</b>	41	29	-	4,0	4	-
<b>FI</b>	189	155	<b>191</b>	18,4	20	<b>22,2</b>	<b>FI</b>	212	174	<b>219</b>	20,7	22	<b>25,4</b>
<b>FO</b>	20	22	<b>21</b>	2,0	3	<b>2,4</b>	<b>FO</b>	8	8	<b>10</b>	0,8	1	<b>1,1</b>
<b>GL</b>	12	8	<b>11</b>	1,2	1	<b>1,3</b>	<b>GL</b>	19	16	<b>13</b>	1,9	2	<b>1,5</b>
<b>IS</b>	52	71	<b>102</b>	5,1	9	<b>11,8</b>	<b>IS</b>	58	44	<b>37</b>	5,6	6	<b>4,3</b>
<b>LV</b>	64	24	-	6,2	3	-	<b>LV</b>	20	32	-	2,0	4	-
<b>LT</b>	52	22	-	5,1	3	-	<b>LT</b>	44	17	-	4,3	2	-
<b>NO</b>	199	112	<b>181</b>	19,4	14	<b>21,0</b>	<b>NO</b>	198	193	<b>189</b>	19,3	25	<b>21,9</b>
<b>SE</b>	225	132	<b>204</b>	21,9	17	<b>23,7</b>	<b>SE</b>	233	148	<b>186</b>	22,7	19	<b>21,6</b>
<b>AX</b>	1	22	<b>2</b>	0,1	3	<b>0,2</b>	<b>AX</b>	4	2	<b>1</b>	0,4	0,3	<b>0,1</b>
<b>TOT.</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>783*</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>TOT.</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>783*</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Includes 28 exchanges registered as unknown (ARS error).





*Teacher mobility*

<b>TO</b> <b>FROM</b>	DK	EE	FI	FO	GL	IS	LV	LT	NO	SE	AX	<b>Total from</b>
DK		3	43	3	7	16	11	10	55	40	-	<b>188</b>
EE	6		10	-	-	2	4	4	2	13	-	<b>41</b>
FI	40	17		1	1	11	13	5	49	75	-	<b>212</b>
FO	3	-	-		1	1	-	-	3	-	-	<b>8</b>
GL	7	1	-	3		-	1	-	6	1	-	<b>19</b>
IS	17	4	9	5	-		1	1	11	10	-	<b>58</b>
LV	3	6	5	-	-	-		2	-	4	-	<b>20</b>
LT	9	4	13	-	-	1	7		8	2	-	<b>44</b>
NO	43	10	40	2	2	9	6	10		76	-	<b>198</b>
SE	31	7	69	6	1	12	21	20	65		1	<b>233</b>
AX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4		<b>4</b>
<b>Total to</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1025</b>

