



## ANNUAL REPORT

KEY FIGURES AND IMPACT ON YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY

2018-2019 EDITION

ELABORATED BY THE

AER SECRETARIAT

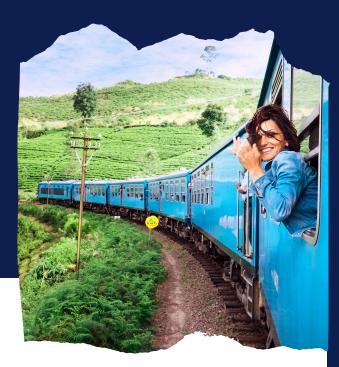
Published in November 2020 Data, charts, and visuals by Yasser El Koura Edited by Andrés Muñoz Rojo



# WHERE WE ARE NOW

The AER Secretariat elaborates yearly statistical reports to assess the developments of the programme. The 2019 data has been collected directly from the inputs given by the Eurodyssey correspondents who, year after year, keep the record of the mobility exchanges. Significant improvement has been made in the data processing and the production of statistical reports carried out by the AER Secretariat in partnership with member regions. In this year, the programme has enormously recovered the gap of 2018 on many indices. has strengthened consolidated, and today offers a better perspective for the future.

As for the employment prospects, the data needs to be compiled from the year preceding the publication of the Activity Report. This time, the Secretariat launched February 2020 a new employment survey to the 2018 participants with of assessing accurately the impact of Eurodyssey on their employability. The survey vielded very encouraging results: namely, 40% of the Eurodyssev participants found employment within



following the end of their traineeship. In 2019 the programme gathered 22 regions pertaining to 11 different countries. It is important to note that from 2018 to 2019 two member regions resumed their activity, two new regions were added as members and one region formally withdrew the network. This represents +3 new regions in respect of 2018.

#### **EURODYSSEY IN NUMBERS**

**300**+

Annual number of participants



Applicants matched with an internship in 2019



Participants who find work within four months (2018)



Overall satisfaction with the Programme

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INTRODUCTION PAGE 03

## INTRODUCTION

Set up in 1985, Eurodyssey is the AER's pioneering youth mobility programme. Operating between AER member regions, offers Eurodyssey internship opportunities across wider Europe to young citizens between 18 and 30 years old. Since its creation over 35 years ago, the Eurodyssey programme has helped more than 10,000 qualified, unemployed young people gain professional competencies and enter the labour market

This report is aimed at providing an overview of the Eurodyssey programme for the year 2019. All data relating to internship offers, the sending and hosting of interns have been kindly provided by the participating regions and compiled by the AER's Eurodyssey team.

In this report, we will first provide an overview of the evolution of Eurodyssey's participation figures from 2018 to 2019. Other important elements will also be analysed, including supply and demand for internship offers, the reciprocity principle, and the rate of successful applications. The second part of the report will be dedicated to assessing the impact of the programme on youth employment in member regions based on the internal surveys for the year 2018.







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The age limit varies from 30 to 35 years depending on the region.

## **ANALYSIS**

### I. Evolution of the programme

In 2019 the programme comprised 22 regions from 11 countries. It is important to note that from 2018 to 2019 two member regions were 'reactivated', another two joined as new members while one region officially withdrew from the network (see table 1).

+16%
Participants

+30%
Internship offers

The net result is that in 2018 there were **3 newly active regions**, which has compensated for the inactivity of other regions. Despite fluctuations, the number of **fully active regions (14)**, - which represent the bulk of Eurodyssey's membership - has remained the same since 2017.

Table 1. Classification of regions by participation status

Status*	2019	2018	Variation
Fully active	14	14	0
Relatively active	6	4	+2
Not active	2	1	+1
Total number of active regions	22	19	+3
Inactive	3	4	-1

- -Fully active: Regions that published +5 offers and were active both hosting & sending.
- -Relatively active: Regions that publish <5 offers but were active both hosting & sending.
- -Not active: Regions that published 0 offers and only sent participants to another region.
- -Inactive: Regions that went inactive or withdrew (no publications/no interns sent or hosted).

A total of **303 young Europeans** participated in exchanges in 2019, an increase of **16%** as compared to 2018 (261). This represents a full recovery after the decrease (-18%) experienced in 2018 in respect of the previous year (see **figure 1**). This outcome can be explained by the extraordinary rise in number of both internship offers published (+**30%**) and candidates submitted (+**28%**).

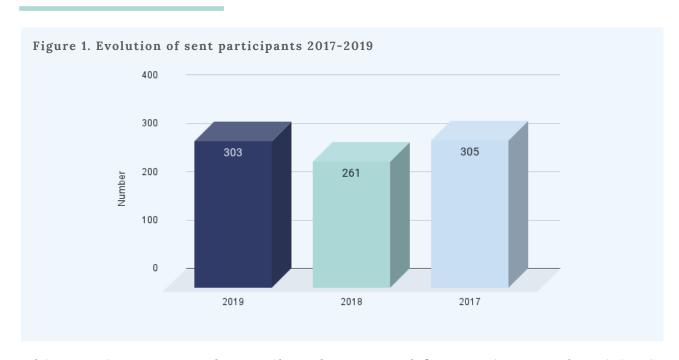
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Timis (RO) and Adjara (GE).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Trentino-Alto-Adige (IT) and Sardinia (IT) started their first exchanges in 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>The request of withdrawal from the canton of Fribourg (CH) came into effect in 2019.

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$ Regions who publish at least 5 offers yearly and contribute to both sending and hosting participants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Number of submitted applications (i.e. candidates) via the website.



This new impetus can be attributed to several factors: increased activity in most regions, despite some slight downward fluctuations in only a few others; the entry of **2 new regions** contributing **14** additional participants; and the return of Timis (RO) and Adjara (GE) that jointly added **7** participants.

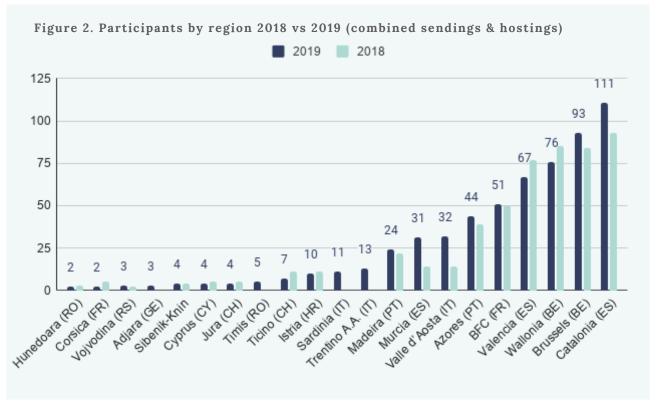


Figure 2 shows the level of participation of each region in terms of combined sent and received participants for 2018 and 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Timis (RO) and Adjara (GE).

The chart shows that yearly fluctuations are minimal in regions with a **very high** activity level (50+ participants) – see **table 2**. In fact, in three of them, the numbers went up compared to 2018. Those falling within the range **high** (21-50 participants) record the sharpest rises in terms of combined participation. Another positive aspect we can read from table 2 is the fact that the number of regions in the **high** and **very high** ranges grew by 2 regions between 2018 and 2019.

Table 2. Distribution of regions per range of participants.

Activity level <sup>9</sup>	2019	2018	Variation
Low (<5 participants)	7	5	+2
Average (5-20 participants)	5	7	-2
High (21-50 participants)	4	3	+1
Very high (>50 participants)	5	4	+1
Total regions	21	19	+2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>These are the cases of Catalonia (ES), Brussels-Capital (BE) and Bourgogne Franche-Comté (FR).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>In terms of combined sent and received participants.

## **ANALYSIS**

#### II. The reciprocity principle

In 2019, 22 regions accepted applications for Eurodyssey traineeships (+3 regions compared to 2018). Among them, 7 had an activity level **below 5**, while 5 had an activity level **above 50** (see **table 2**). The levels of activity between participating regions remain uneven but are, in the

**22**Regions that accepted applications

**59%** 

Average balance ratio

majority of the cases, largely proportional to the number of offers published yearly by a given region.

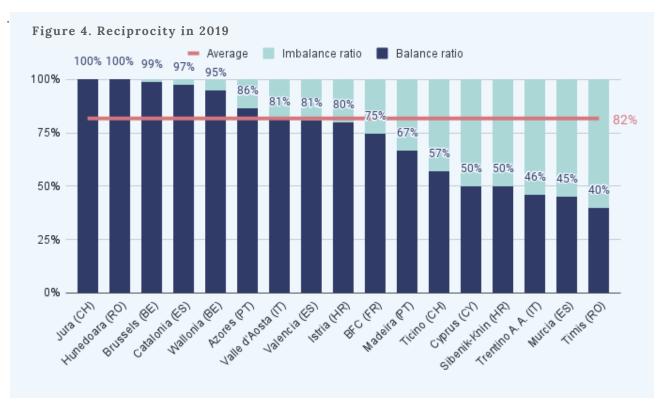


As written in the Statutes of the programme (art. 2.3), an important condition for every region is **to keep a balance between sendings and hostings**. While a perfect equilibrium is impossible to achieve, most regions manage to maintain a good balance relative to their level of activity. **Figure 4** proves that Eurodyssey regions keep improving on balancing out sendings and hostings with a weighted average of 82% and a **59% average balance ratio**<sup>11</sup> (6% improvement over 2018).

 $\overline{^{10}}$ Varaždin (HR) filled 3 internship offers but the selected candidates ended up cancelling.

Since the few regions that did not send or receive any trainees would have a 0% balance ratio, they were excluded from the calculations.

In regions where the activity level is *low* (below 5 participants), imbalances are more likely, as the number of candidates they manage is significantly lower than the rest. On the basis of these low numbers, which inflate discrepancies, the difficulties these regions have had in finding equilibrium is understandable.



## **ANALYSIS**

### III. Supply and Demand

In 2019, a total of **812 offers** and **613 applications** were submitted via the website across all regions. If we compare the data with that of 2018, this represents a **30% increase** in published offers and **28% increase** in applications, respectively. Along with the increased



number of offers published, the **percentage of filled offers** also went up to **43% in 2019** from 39% in 2018.



This proves that the participating regions, besides publishing more offers in 2019, have performed better in terms of matching offers with candidates (+4% of filled offers). This is not only because the regions managed to "absorb" more of the demand from young people for traineeships, but also because the higher number of available offers gave candidates a wider choice of internships and a higher chance of being selected. However, there is still a lot of room for improvement when it comes to increasing the number of filled offers.

**ANALYSIS** 

The following actions should be considered to improve the ratio of filled offers:

• Better interregional coordination to distribute the hosting periods throughout the year in order to avoid competition between destinations and/or offers published;

- Adapt and diversify the supply of traineeships in order to match the needs and skills required in the labour market, while attracting candidates of different backgrounds;
- A greater emphasis on market sectors where the region has an "added value";
- Boost communication campaigns in all member regions to reach out to the young people, advertise the offers and, ultimately, make Eurodyssey a recognisable brand.

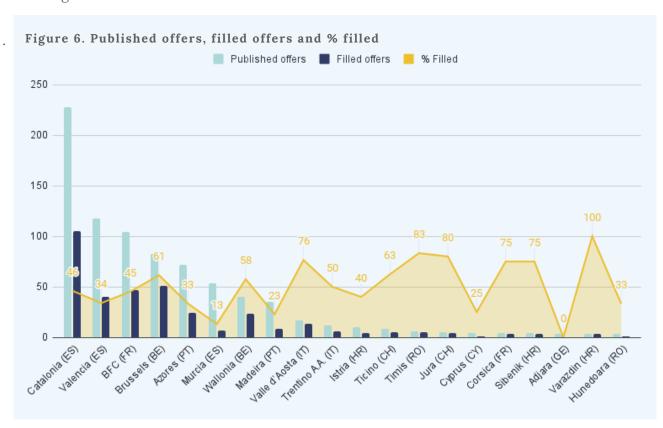


Table 3 shows a great increase in published offers unevenly distributed among member regions. There are increases in all ranges, except in the 51-100 offers published range. The main finding is that three regions 12 represented more than half (55%) of the total offers published in 2019. By contrast, a larger group of regions (8) in the 5-50 offers range accounted for only 16% of total submissions. Another point of focus is the notable number of regions (6) whose submissions fell below the required annual minimum (5 offers).13

 $^{13}$ Art. 2.3 Eurodyssey Procedures: "The regions in the programme will publish at least 5 internship offers per year, of which a minimum of 3 must be effectively assigned to selected candidates".

Catalonia (ES), Valencia (ES) and Bourgogne Franche-Comté (FR) regions.

		2018				2019	
Range	Regions	Nº Offers	Share %	Variation	Regions	Nº Offers	Share %
<100 offers	2	247	40	+1	3	450	55
51-100 offers	4	265	42	-1	3	208	26
5-50 offers	8	99	16	0	8	133	16
>5 offers	4	14	2	+2	6	21	3
No offers	1	0	0	+1	2	0	0
Total	19	625	100	+3	22	812	100

This data may also confirm the hypothesis of previous reports that there is a clear correlation between the number of offers advertised and the increased involvement of a region in the programme. While less active regions publish a handful of offers and look out for specific profiles to fill them, the most active regions publish as many offers as they can, and cover a wide range of qualifications and sectors. There are two possible explanations for this:

- Assuming the appeal of all regions is relatively similar, regions with only a few placement opportunities will attract a high number of candidates regardless;
- More active regions benefit from a well-established Eurodyssey network that attracts many businesses and institutions.

The exponential nature of this growth is another reason why the first few years are critical for Eurodyssey's development in a region. If successful, the programme can very quickly attract companies and make the brand recognisable with students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See 2018 Statistics Report.

Another point of analysis is the **variety of offers published in 2019**. Regions participating in the programme should work towards covering a wide spectrum of academic qualifications and labour sectors to make sure that Eurodyssey remains accessible for all, including less qualified youth. To this end, relevant data from the eurodyssee.eu website statistics has been extracted, and filtered by "traineeship area".

Traineeship area	Share (%)	Traineeship area	Share (%)
1.Business sciences/administration	16,6	8.Architecture and construction	5,4
2.Personal/social services	14,9	9.Protection of the environment	4,1
3.Arts/Audiovisual	13,7	10.Manufacturing	2,9
4.Sciences	12	11.Engineering/computers	2,5
5.Information and journalism	11,2	12.Health	1,7
6.Education	7,9	13.Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,7
7.Humanities	5,4		

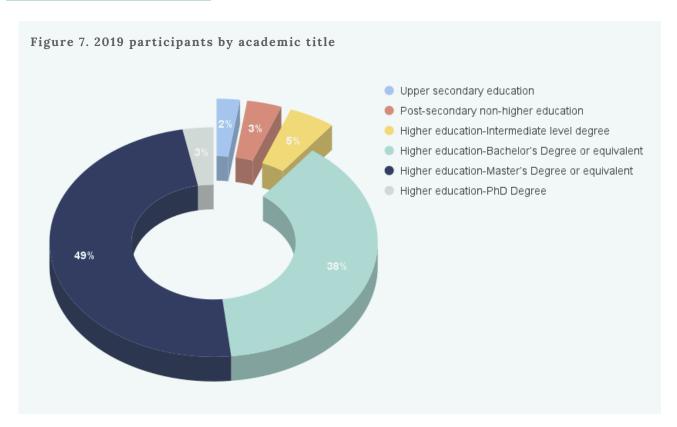
As reflected in **table 4**, the most prominent **traineeship areas in 2019** are: Business sciences/Administration (17%), Personal/Social services (15%), Arts/Audiovisual (14%), Sciences (12%). Therefore, in addition to the notable increase of offers in 2019, the data shows a wide variety of job opportunities; a key factor in keeping Eurodyssey diverse and broadening its appeal.

Another way to measure the degree of diversification in supply and demand for traineeships is to look at the **academic qualifications** held by 2019 participants. The data generated by the website shows that 87% of them hold a **Bachelor's or Master's degree** (see **figure 7**). This shows that traineeship offers mostly target candidates with higher-level education and advanced training. However, the programme also offers -albeit on a much smaller scale- internship opportunities to **people with a lower level of training** (10%), which is a meaningful development in terms of labour market integration of less qualified young people.

This percentage corresponds to the categories "Higher Education - Bachelor's degree" and "Higher Education - Master's Degree or equivalent" in Figure 7.

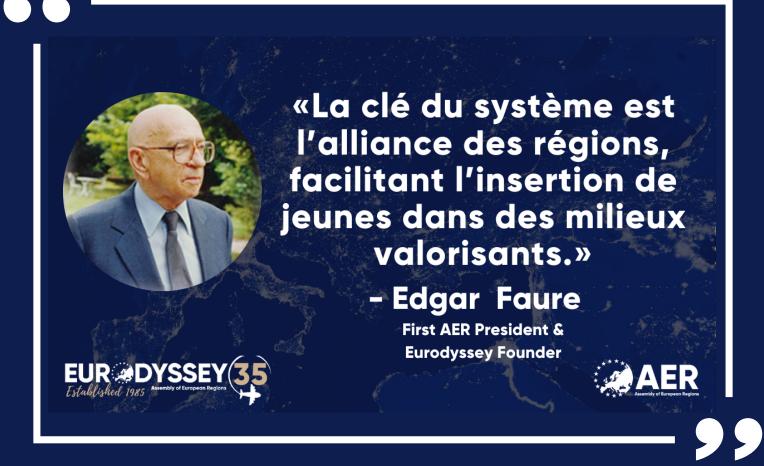
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>According to the <u>EACEA-Eurydice</u> typology, higher-education may also include non-university studies, such as technical and advanced vocational training (TVET).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>This percentage corresponds to the rest of the 3 piechart's slices distanced from the centre of Figure 7.



Although recent university graduates are typically the most common jobseekers, it is important that the Eurodyssey regions strive to engage less qualified youth and take measures to include socio-economically disadvantaged groups by securing quality internships and decent working conditions.

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## **ANALYSIS**

#### IV. Submissions & Approvals

In 2019, the **rate of approved candidates** (a.k.a. "successful applications") was **54%**, down from 61% in 2018. This decrease correlates partially with the increase in candidates (+28%). A larger volume of applicants may well lead to a lower approval rate, so it is likely this

54%
Applicants matched with an internship
+28%
Candidates

increase is a mathematical consequence of a higher number of submissions.



However, the increase in the number of published offers (+30%) does not appear to have improved the ratio of approved applications. More efforts need to be made to match candidates with offers, as the percentage of filled offers (43%) remains low. On a positive note, **cancellations dropped** from 11% in 2018 **to 9% in 2019**. Cancellations have a variety of causes, including would-be trainees finding employment elsewhere, but this improvement may be a sign that the offers are appealing enough to retain candidates.



## A collaborative Network



Interregional cooperation between 23 regions



## **ANALYSIS**

V. Impact on employment (2018)

#### a. Introduction

The ultimate goal of Eurodyssey is to give European youth valuable work experience and training that will help them find a job. Evaluating the impact of the programme on youth employment is therefore essential to know if the programme is fulfilling its mission.

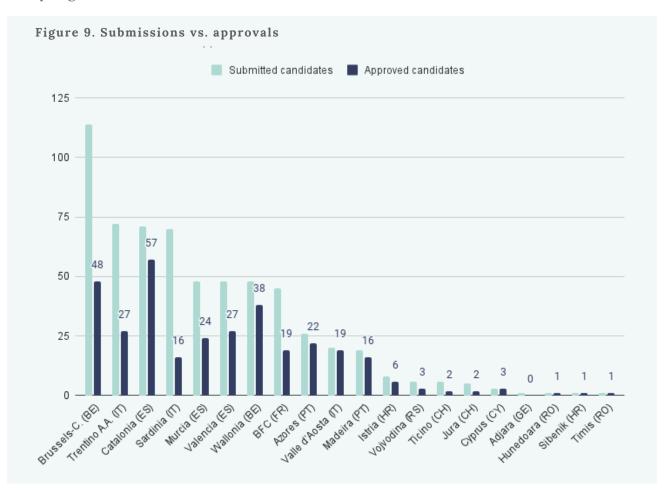
64%

Participants who found work within 4 months

+8%

Employed participants within 1 month

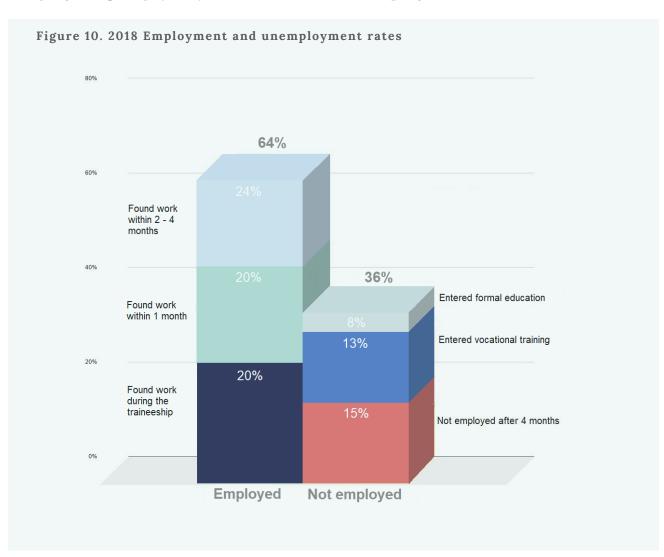
To this end, the AER regularly inquires about the professional situation of former participants. However, it is sometimes difficult to determine to what extent finding employment after a Eurodyssey traineeship can be attributed to the programme.



To obtain reliable employment statistics, this data needs to be compiled from the year preceding the publication of this Annual Report. In 2020, the AER Secretariat launched a new employment survey for the 2018 participants. The aim was to assess with greater accuracy the impact Eurodyssey had on their employability in the months immediately after their traineeships concluded. 41% of the 2018 participants, covering 14 different programme regions responded to the survey.

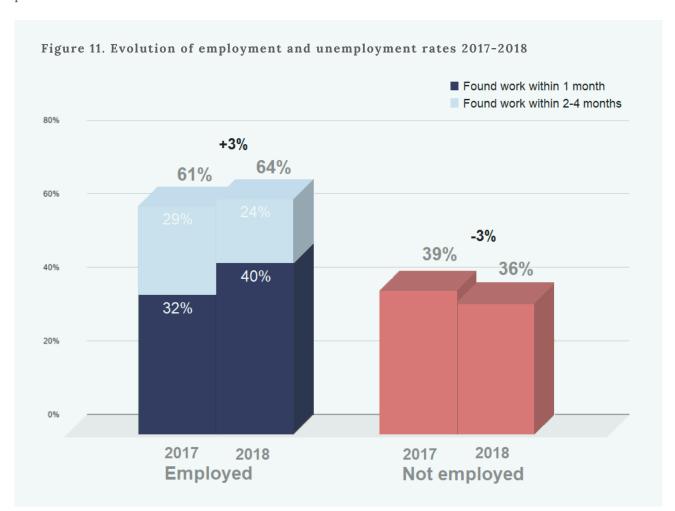
#### b. Evolution of employment rate

The overall picture that emerges is very positive. **64%** of Eurodyssey participants **found work within 4 months** of completing their traineeship, and of these **40%** did so **within 1 month** (see figure 10). If those who "entered formal education" or "vocational training" are omitted from the "not employed" group (36%), then the actual **unemployment rate** is **15%**.



Comprising participants "hired by the same/other organization during the traineeship" and those who "Found work within month 1"

Looking at the employment rate within the first 4 months (see **figure 11**), we observe an increase of **3%** from 2017 to 2018. The same decrease occurs in the "not employed" rate. A significant outcome is the increase by **8%** of the participants who found work within 1 month of completing their Eurodyssey traineeship. This is a clear sign that the programme is helping young people boost their employment prospects. Although Eurodyssey's impact on local employment may greatly vary by region, helping young people to find work is a challenge shared by all members. For this reason, employment data is only presented in terms of overall values.

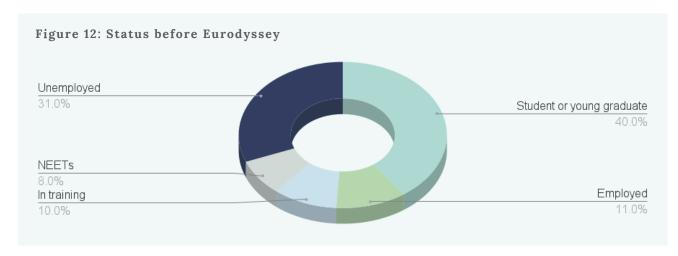


### c. Impact on Employment (2018): "Cohort of "NEET19 Unemployed"

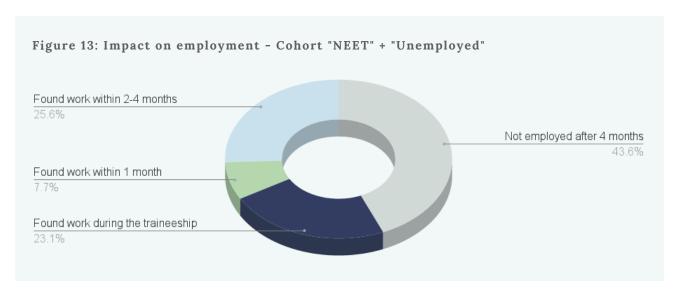
Figure 12, 'Status of participants before Eurodyssey' confirms that Eurodyssey attracts a diverse range of young people. The "Student or young graduate" category (40%) together with the "registered unemployed" (31%) are the best represented overall.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>NEET: Not in Education, Employment, or Training

These two groups are more likely to see Eurodyssey as a means to boost their CVs, and/or as a potential entry point to the labour market.

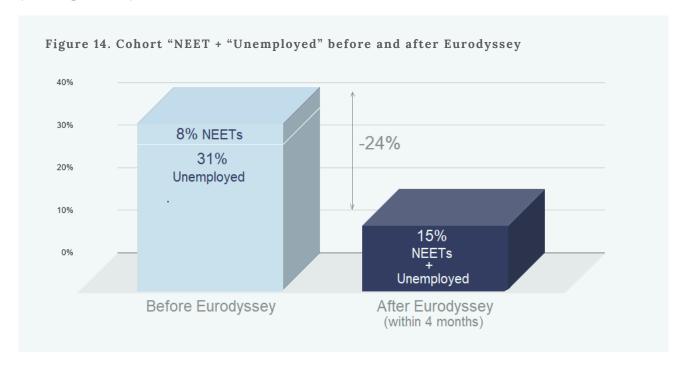


The survey respondents who are presumably in a more precarious situation, those belonging to the groups of "registered unemployed" and "Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)", were specifically selected to determine whether the programme is giving them a real opportunity to become more employable.



Within this cohort, the survey findings indicate that after their Eurodyssey internships 56% of them found work within 4 months, out of which 31% did within month 1 (see figure 13).

One noteworthy observation is that the number of "NEET" and "unemployed" after Eurodyssey fell by 24% over the total number of the 2018 participants (see figure 14).



CONCLUSIONS PAGE 22

## CONCLUSIONS

With 303 participating trainees, Eurodyssey recovered to its usual volume after the decrease (-18%) experienced in 2018 in respect of the previous year. This is explained by increased activity in most regions, and the contribution of the new additions (+3), resulting in an extraordinary rise in both the traineeship offers published (\frac{1}{30}\)%) and candidates (+28%). This is also evidenced in the increase by 2 of regions belonging to the high (21-50 participants) and very high (50+participants) levels of activity. The 2% drop in the number of cancellations can be seen as another sign of recovery.



Because Eurodyssey members bear the cost for the trainees they receive, ensuring reciprocity between regions is important for balanced cooperation and mutual benefit. Participating regions are therefore requested to balance the number of participants they send and receive. In 2019, Eurodyssey regions performed better when it came to sendings and hostings, with a 59% average balance ratio (+6% over 2018). While differences between members remain, the active ones maintained a satisfactory level of reciprocity in their management of the programme.



The 2019 data shows that the demand (applications) from young people in most regions has been stronger than in the previous two years. However, the revamped supply (+30% published offers) and the improvement in filling offers (+5%) has been insufficient to absorb it, leading to a lower approval rate (-7%). Another relevant finding is that three member regions represent more than half of the total volume of offers published in 2019, further widening the gap with the rest of the regions.



CONCLUSIONS PAGE 23

Taken as a whole, what we can conclude from these data is that the most active regions generally have significantly more traineeship offers than candidates to fill them. This is not necessarily a flaw. A greater supply spread across a broad range of traineeship areas gives candidates more choice, and a better chance of securing a suitable traineeship.



In general, where Eurodyssey struggles most is in regions with low activity. Among the challenges they face are extended periods of a lull in activity, ensuring reciprocal exchange levels, as well as suffering from low or no brand recognition. A lack of brand recognition makes it difficult to build trust with local companies and attract candidates for traineeships either at home or abroad. This shows the importance of a significant communication push early in the implementation phase in order to build momentum.



Finally, thanks to the new 2018 employment survey, we have been able to measure the impact Eurodyssey has on the employability of young people more accurately. The most impressive finding is that 64% of Eurodyssey participants find long-term employment in the 4 months following the conclusion of their traineeship, and of those 40% find work within 1 month. Another significant finding is that taking part in a Eurodyssey traineeship has a measurable, positive impact on the employability of young people in precarious situations (unemployed and NEET). The last point to note is that 42% of employed participants after Eurodyssey find work in their region of origin, which proves that investing in youth mobility ends up benefiting the sending regions as well.



 $<sup>^{20}</sup>$ See appendices, figure 17 "Employment location"

## **APPENDICES**

#### 1. General data - 2019

Regions	Sent	Submitted	Approved	Received	Published Offers	Filled Offers	% Filled
Adjara (GE)	3	1	0	0	3	0	0
Azores (PT)	19	26	22	25	72	24	33
BFC (FR)	19	45	19	32	104	47	45
Brussels (BE)	46	114	48	47	83	51	61
Catalonia (ES)	54	71	57	57	228	105	46
Corsica (FR)	0	0	0	2	4	3	75
Cyprus (CY)	3	3	3	1	4	1	25
Hunedoara (RO)	1	1	1	1	3	1	33
Istria (HR)	6	8	6	4	10	4	40
Jura (CH)	2	5	2	2	5	4	80
Madeira (PT)	16	19	16	8	35	8	23
Murcia (ES)	24	48	24	7	53	7	13
Sardinia (IT)	11	70	16	0	0	0	-
Sibenik (HR)	1	1	1	3	4	3	75
Ticino (CH)	2	6	2	5	8	5	63
Timis (RO)	1	1	1	4	6	5	83
Trentino A.A. (IT)	10	72	27	3	12	6	50
Valencia (ES)	27	48	27	40	118	40	34
Valle d'Aosta (IT)	19	20	19	13	17	13	76
Varazdin (HR)	0	0	0	0	3	3	100
Vojvodina (RS)	3	6	3	0	0	0	-
Wallonia (BE)	36	48	38	40	40	23	58
TOTAL	303	613	332	294	812	353	43

### 2. Reciprocity: balance ratios - 2019

Regions	Balance ratio	Coefficient	Weighted ABR <sup>21</sup>
Adjara (GE)	0%	1%	0%
Azores (PT)	86%	7%	6%
BFC (FR)	75%	9%	6%
Brussels (BE)	99%	16%	15%
Catalonia (ES)	97%	19%	18%
Corsica (FR)	0%	0%	0%
Cyprus (CY)	50%	1%	0%
Hunedoara (RO)	100%	0%	0%
Istria (HR)	80%	2%	1%
Jura (CH)	100%	1%	1%
Madeira (PT)	67%	4%	3%
Murcia (ES)	45%	5%	2%
Sardinia (IT)	0%	2%	0%
Sibenik-Knin (HR)	50%	1%	0%
Ticino (CH)	57%	1%	1%
Timis (R0)	40%	1%	0%
Trentino A. A. (IT)	46%	2%	1%
Valencia (ES)	81%	11%	9%
Valle d'Aosta (IT)	81%	5%	4%
Vojvodina (RS)	0%	1%	0%
Wallonia (BE)	95%	13%	12%
AVERAGE	59%	-	82%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>ABR: Average Balanced Ratio

### 3. Summary of statistics 2018-2019

	2019	Variation	2018	
To	303	+16%	261	
	Published	812	+30%	625
Traineeship offers	Filled	353	+108	245
	% Filled	43%	+4%	39%
	Submitted	613	+33%	461
Applications	Approved	332	+53	279
	% Approved	54%	-7%	61%

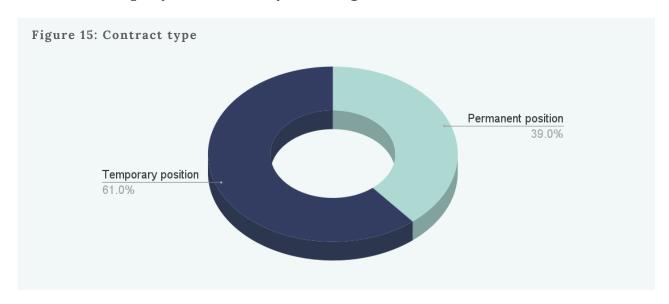
### 4. Employment statistics 2017-2018

Category		2018	Variation	2017
Employment rate after Eurodyssey (4 months)		64%	+3%	61%
•	% employed within 1 month <sup>22</sup>	40%	+8%	32%
•	% employed within months 2-4	24%	-5%	29%
•	Not employed after 4 months	36%	-3%	39%
Em	ployment rate: Cohort "NEET + Unemployed"	56%	n/a	n/a
•	% NEET + Unemployed before Eurodyssey	39%	n/a	n/a
•	% NEET + Unemployed after Eurodyssey	15%	n/a	n/a
•	Difference (before & after Eurodyssey)	-24%	n/a	n/a
Employed in permanent position after Eurodyssey		39%	n/a	n/a
Eur	odyssey impact assessment <sup>23</sup>	64%	n/a	n/a
Overall satisfaction rate		76%	n/a	n/a

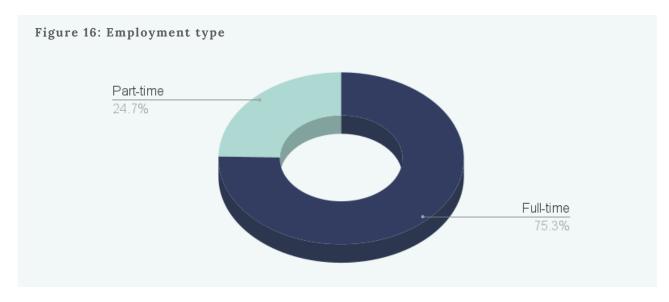
Comprising participants "hired by the same/other organization during the traineeship" and those who "Found work within month 1"

 $<sup>^{23}</sup>$  2018 participants share (%) who found Eurodyssey decisive in finding work

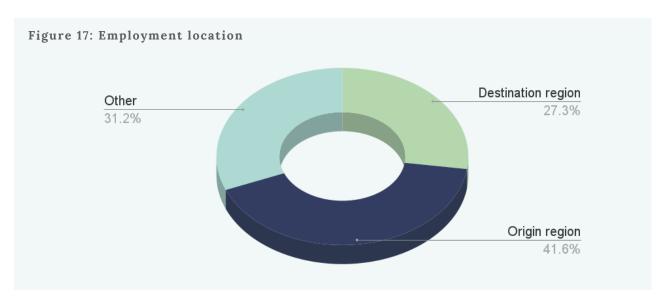
#### 5. Other employment survey findings - 2018



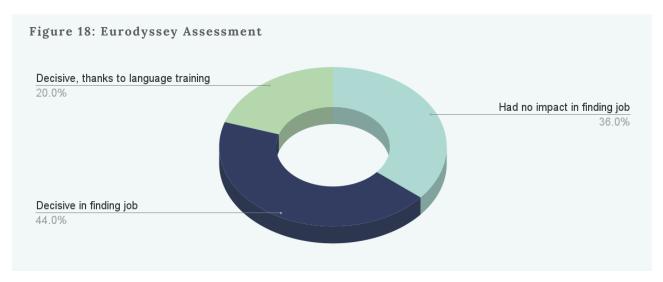
The survey shows that the programme helps the participants find long-term employment: of the total employed participants after Eurodyssey, 39% held a permanent position.



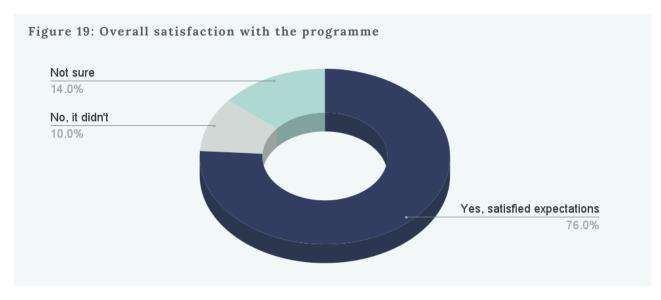
The survey shows that 75% of the employed participants after Eurodyssey found a full-time job.



**42%** of the total survey respondents found the work in their region of origin which proves that investing in mobility eventually benefits the Eurodyssey sending regions as well.



**64%** of the overall survey respondents affirmed that Eurodyssey was decisive in finding a job and **20%** of these attributed such a fact to the language training received.



**76%** of the overall survey respondents stated that the Eurodyssey experience lived up to their professional and personal expectations.



## ELABORATED BY THE AER SECRETARIAT

Published in November 2020 Data, charts and visuals by Yasser El Koura Edited by Andrés Muñoz Rojo

