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Mobility and the European Dimension in Teacher Education

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ABSTRACT

International cooperation in higher education has a long tradition; since the 1990s, it has been in constant increasing. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the European higher education systems have been challenged from two sides: by European "coming together" as well as by broader international cooperation and globalisation. In this respect, teacher education as a specific subject area within higher education often encounters problems. In a comparative perspective, mobility of students and staff is weaker in teacher education than in other subject areas. This is mainly a negative heritage of the traditional position of teacher education in most of European countries: it was treated as a predominantly national concern; it was predominantly focused to national systems of education only; it was a "non-university" subject area and international academic cooperation in teacher education was not encouraged.

Therefore, the on-going process of "Europeanisation" is a real challenge to European systems of teacher education today as well as an important issue with regards to their future. Encouraging and increasing mobility in teacher education seems to be both - a problem and a solution.