

Evidence-based approach in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps. From data to knowledge, from knowledge to practice. 5-6 November 2024, Warsaw

## Connecting research and practice: Experience of ENIS network

Thais França  
CIES-ISCTE, Portugal & ENIS COST Action



# Welcome

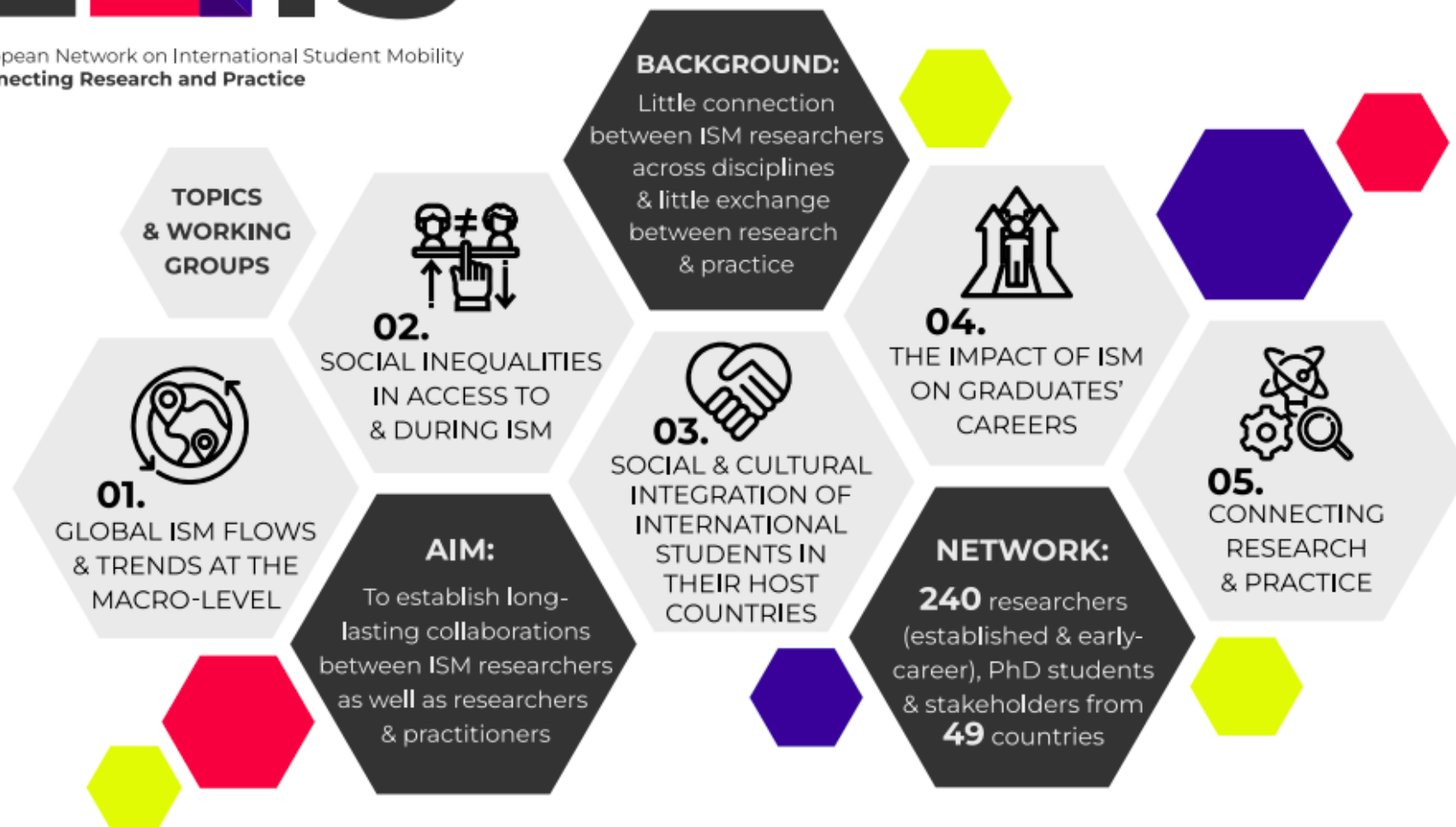
# ENIS

European Network on International Student Mobility  
Connecting Research and Practice

  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
[www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)

[www.enisnetwork.com](http://www.enisnetwork.com)

Join Here!



# Why Is It Essential to Connect Research and Practice in International Student Mobility?

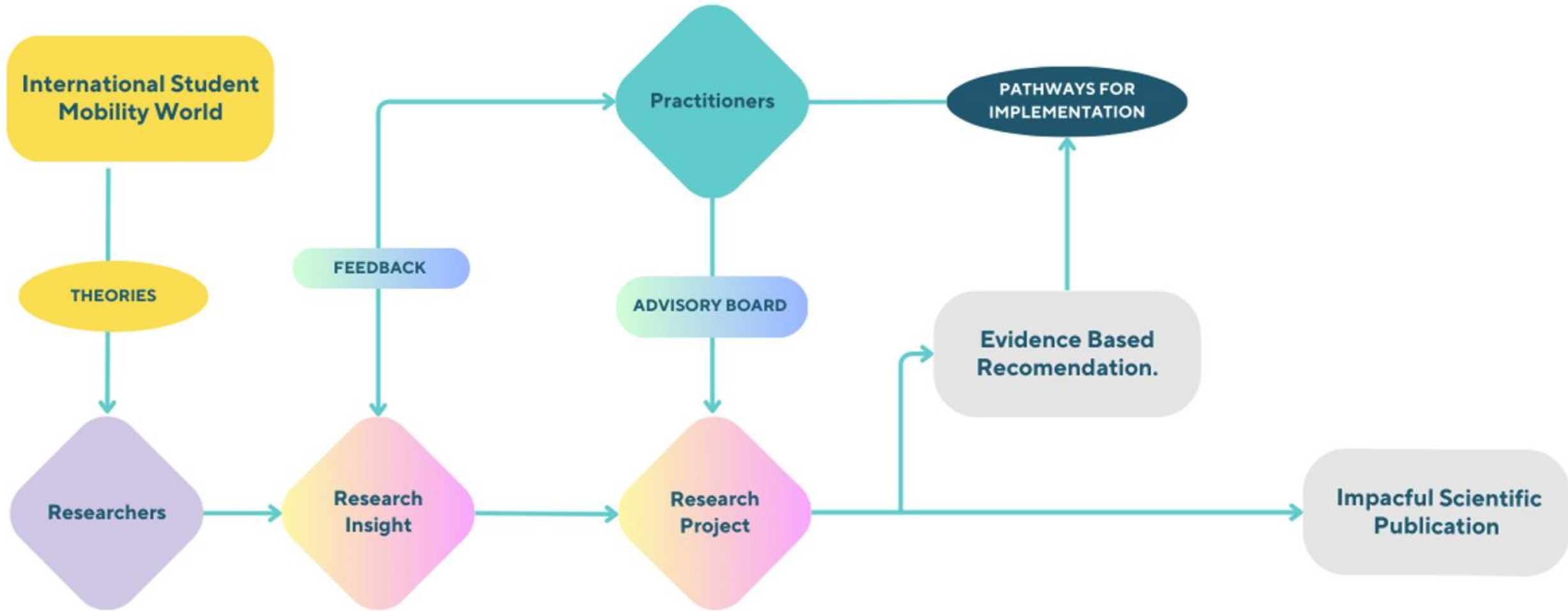


*The best research is that which leads to action, and the most impactful practitioners are those who implement evidence-based strategies to support international students.*

# Collaboration for Success

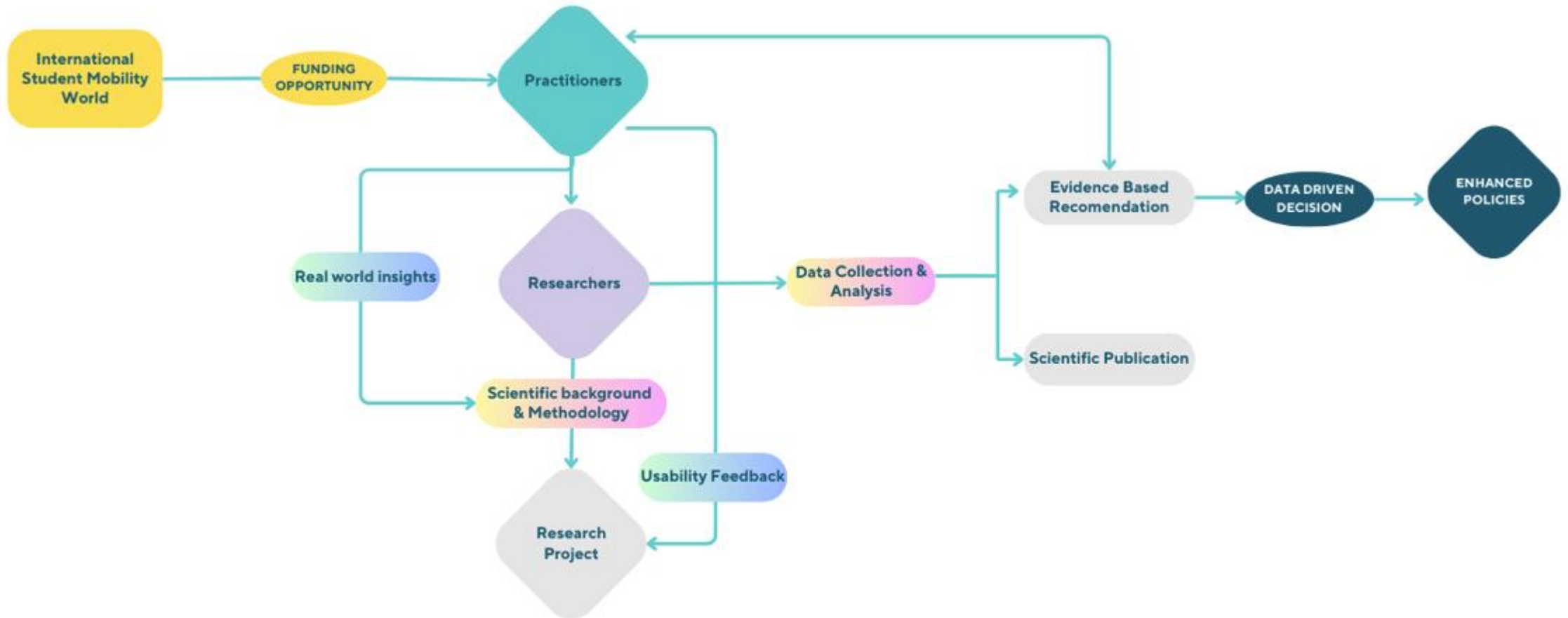
<b>What Researchers Can Offer</b>	<b>What Practitioners Can Offer</b>
Evidence-based strategies and interventions	Real-world insights into student needs and challenges
Data analytics tools and methodologies	Validation and Testing of Theories
Benchmarking studies for comparative analysis	Access to student populations for research purposes
Documentation of best practices	Collaboration in developing practical applications
Publication opportunities for shared knowledge	Identification of emerging trends in student mobility
Customized research reports	Data and metrics from student performance
Evaluation of specific interventions	Perspectives on policy implications and challenges
Access to longitudinal studies	Contextual knowledge of local educational landscapes
Cultural insights into student experiences	Pathways for Impact and Implementation
Support in grant writing and funding applications	Knowledge of institutional resources and network
Feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement	Participation in advisory committees for research projects

# Scenario I – Research led initiative

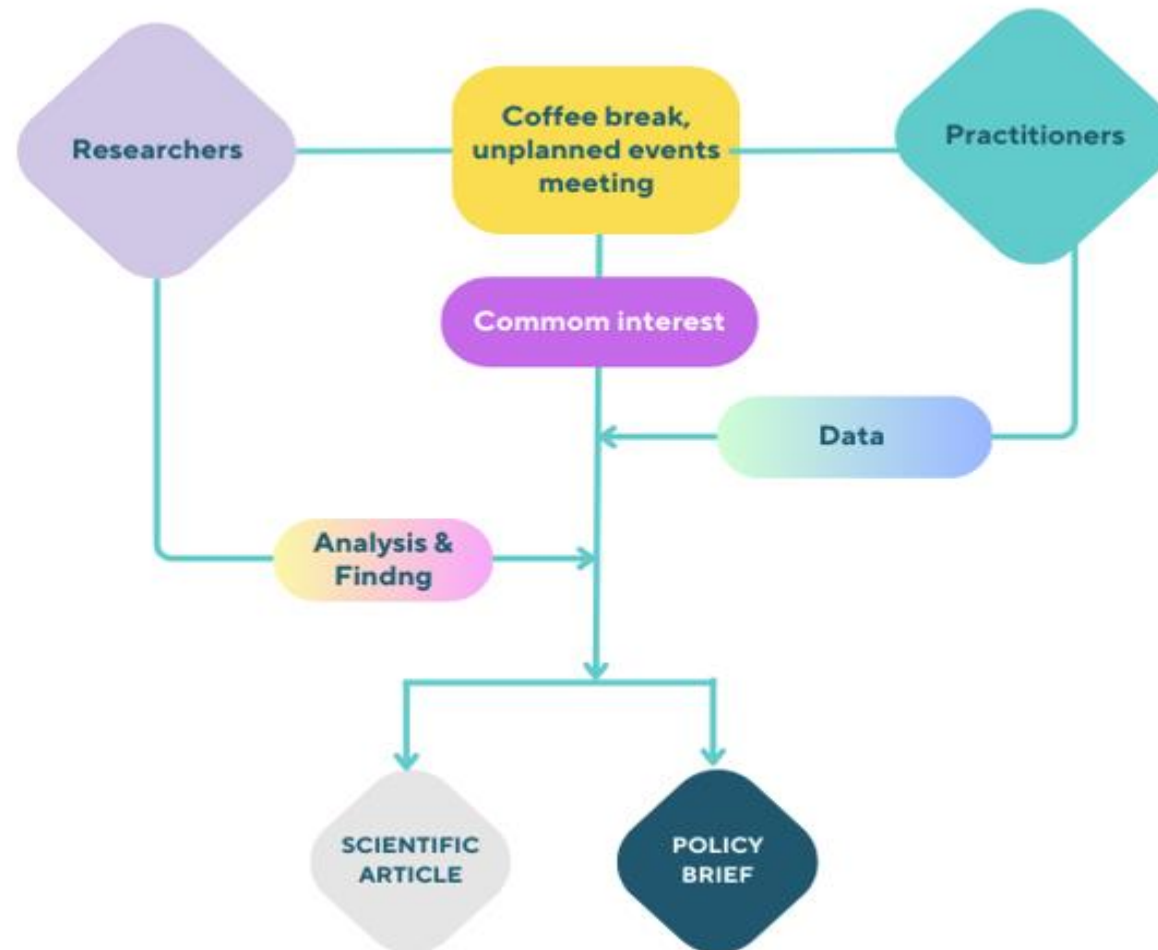




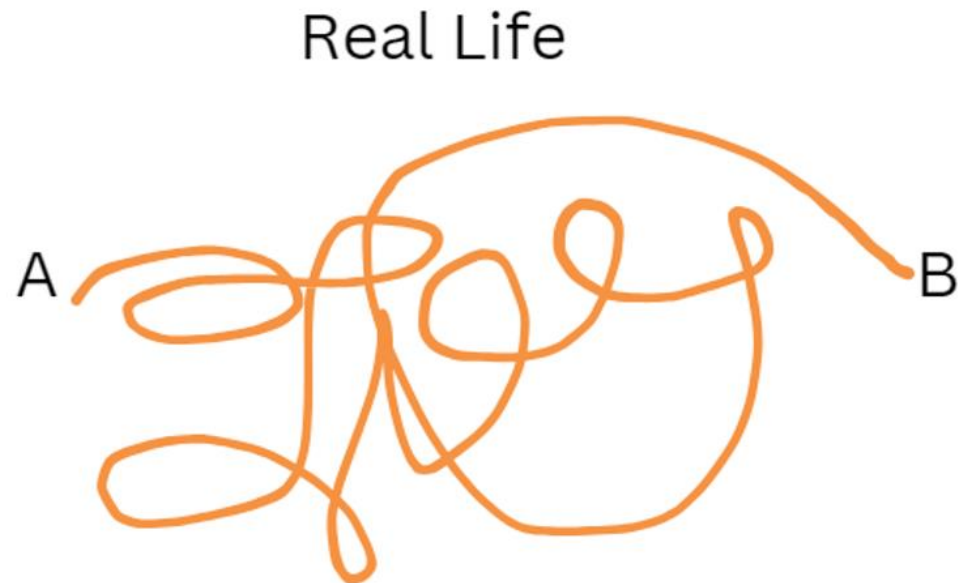
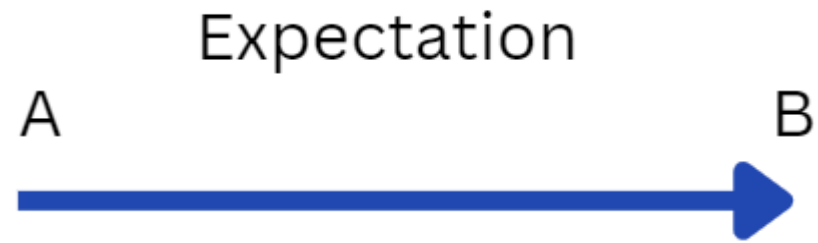
# Scenario II - Practitioner led initiative



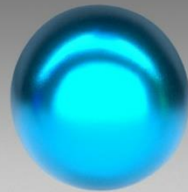
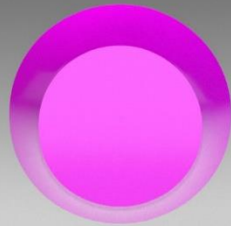
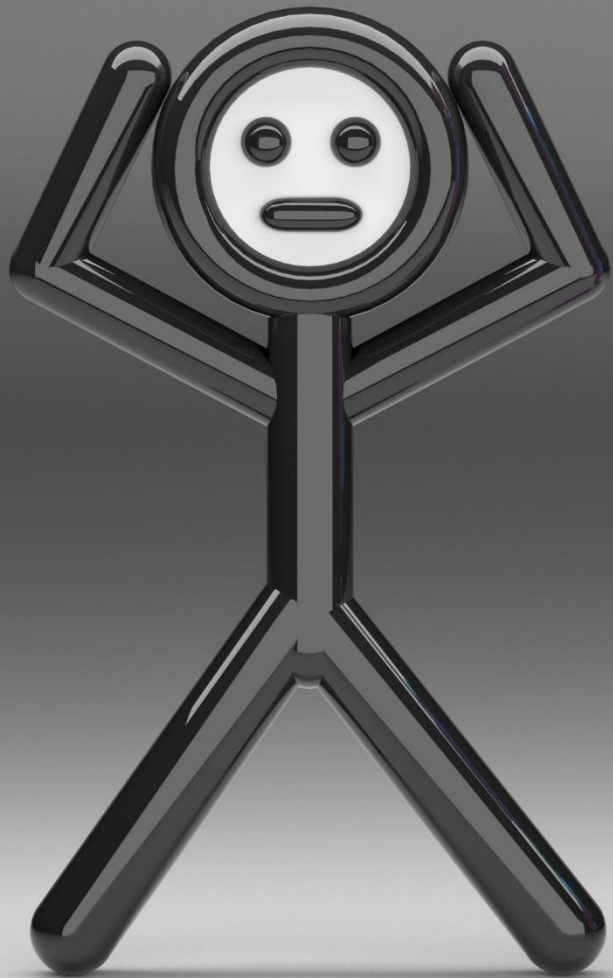
# Scenario III - The Power of Serendipity



# Piece of cake, no?

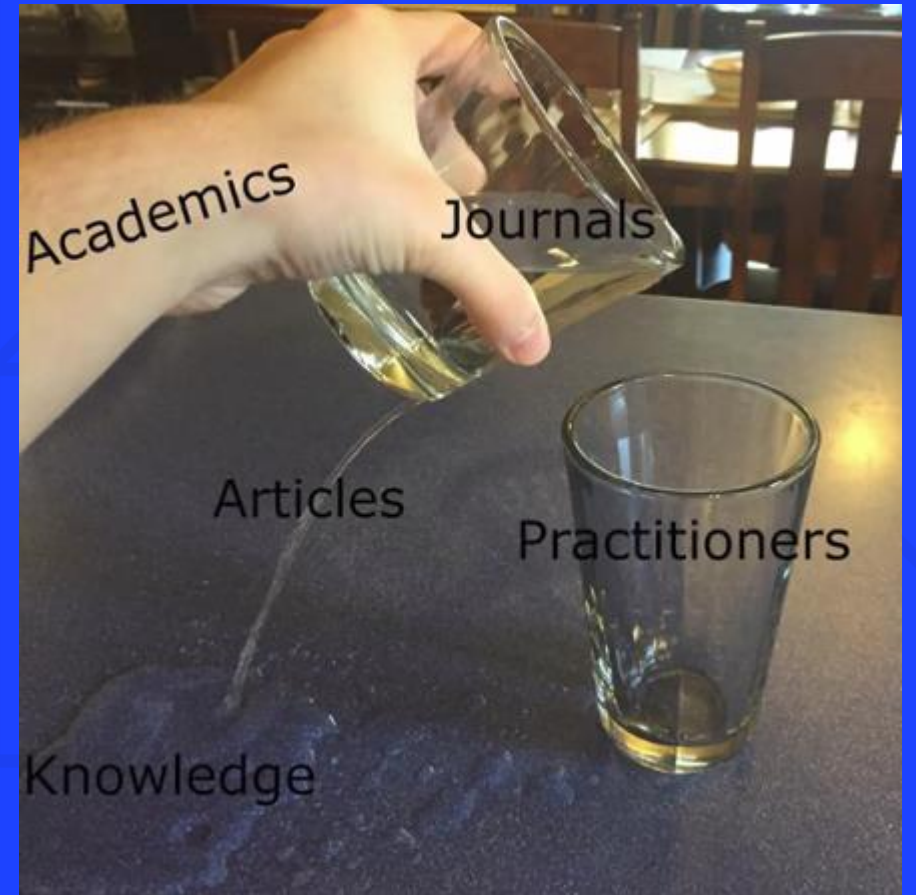






# Why does it not simply work?

- Differences in Goals and Priorities
- Time Constraints
- Funding Limitations
- Communication Gaps
- Resource Imbalance
- Intellectual Property and Credit Concerns
- Institutional Bureaucracy
- Different Evaluation Metrics
- Resistance to Change







# How to make it work?

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- *Cultivate dialogue spaces*
- *Committ to Mutual Learning*
- *Look for commom goals*
- *Establish Shared Goals*
- *Agree on Flexible, Realistic Timelines*
- *Seek Joint Funding Opportunities*
- *Divide Responsibilities Clearly*
- *Create Mutually Beneficial Success Metrics*
- *Reduce Bureaucratic Barriers*
- *Implement Small-Scale Trials*
- *Have a joint & diverse dissemination strategy*

## Tackling social inequalities in Erasmus+ participation

ENIS Policy Brief 01/2023

9 May 23



SCAN ME

## Transformative Success Story – I *Mapping the field*

- Scattered scientific knowledge on the evolution of the social composition of the Erasmus+ student population
- Partners: Researchers & Practitioners
- Context: Invitation by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture
- A policy brief summarizing the main research findings and providing evidenced base recommendations





# Transformative Success Story – II

## *Gender Diversity Awareness*

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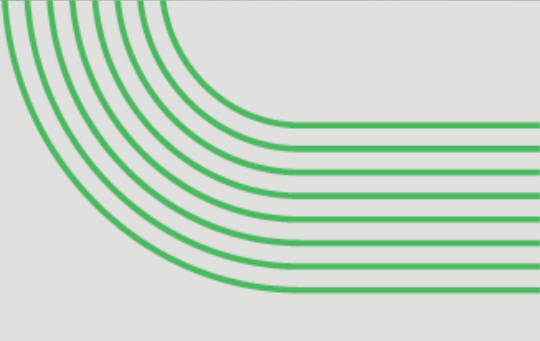
- Low levels of participation of LGBTQIA+ students in Erasmus+
- Partners: Thais França (CIES-Iscte, Portugal) & Rúna Vigdís Guðmarsdóttir (Rannis, Iceland)
- Context: ENIS Network
- Raising awareness tools: a policy brief, a podcast episode and a blog post on the EAIE

**Rúna Vigdís Guðmarsdóttir (National Agency of Erasmus+ in Iceland) & Thais França (CIES-Iscte)**

Podcast #12 | Inclusion of LGBTQIA+ students in international student mobility

# Inclusion +

Tackling the challenges of Erasmus+ mobility inclusion and diversity at higher education level



**Our Goals**

- Identify and Overcome Barriers to address the challenges faced by students with Disabilities and Students with Caring Responsibilities in international mobility programs.
- Create positive change by fostering diversity and inclusion in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Host Cities.

## Global Reach

The Inclusion+ project brings together partners from four different countries, spanning diverse geographies: Iscte and the University of Porto (Portugal), Turku UAS and and University of Turku (Finland), Vilnius University (Lithuania), and Galatasaray University (Turkey).



SCAN ME

## Transformative Success Story – III *Inclusion of students with fewer opportunities*

- Lack of knowledge and data about students students with caring responsibilities and students with disabilities
- Partners: Researchers for 5 HEIs in 4 different countries, local ESN, IRO, host cities representatives
- Context: Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation partnership
- Storytelling report, online inventory of promising practices, a roadmap os scenarios, inclusivity checklist to foster the institutional support for students



# TROVOADA DE IDEAS

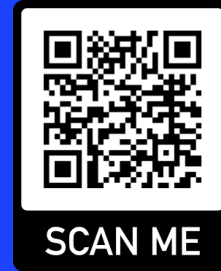
LIVRO DO/A PROFESSOR/A

## RECURSOS DIDÁTICOS DE PORTUGUÊS ACADÊMICO

PARA ESTUDANTES INTERNACIONAIS DOS PALOP

Paulo Feytor Pinto

**cies** -iscte  
Centro de Investigação  
e Estudos de Sociologia



## Transformative Success Story – IV *Linguistic Inclusion*

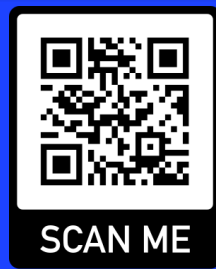
- African Portuguese-speaking students and the Portuguese Higher Education System
- Partners: CIES-Iscte, Transversal Competencies Laboratory, International Relations Offices, Association of Teachers for Intercultural Education (APEDI)
- A research project that resulted in several academic papers & manual: "Learning and Teaching in Diversity: Guidelines for Higher Education Teachers."

# Takeaways and Next Steps

- A. Connecting research and practice is crucial for impactful ISM initiatives.
- B. Both researchers and practitioners have valuable insights to share and learn from each other.
- C. Bridging the gap requires:
  - ❖ *Commitment to mutual learning and collaboration.*
  - ❖ *Shared goals and flexible timelines.*
  - ❖ *Innovative dissemination strategies to reach diverse stakeholders.*
- D. By leveraging practical knowledge and academic expertise, impactful changes can be achieved!

*Tensions between scholars and practitioners is a mistake, it blinds us to the very real opportunities that are possible from exploiting the differences underlying these tensions in the knowledge production process. (Van De Ven and Johnson, 2006)*

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[www.enis.com](http://www.enis.com)



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