



Conference Report

Title: Transnational Cooperation Activity on Responsible Internationalisation

Date: 25-27 March 2026

Location: Congress Paasi, Helsinki, Finland

Organiser: Finnish National Agency for Education, EDUFI

Co-organisers: The National Erasmus+ Agencies in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

Objective and Programme Overview

The question of responsible internationalisation is increasingly relevant in international higher education partnerships. Shifts in geopolitics and security concerns now touch academic cooperation as well. By responsible internationalisation, we refer to ensuring knowledge security and managing geopolitical risks in international academic cooperation, while simultaneously safeguarding core academic values.

The programme included expert presentations on best practices and interactive workshops designed to deepen understanding and foster collaboration around these topics. Our goal was to provide a practice-oriented programme that stimulates reflection and equips participants with practical ideas and tools for their daily work in higher education institutions.

Expected results:

- Increase awareness on responsible internationalisation
- Gain new knowledge to support the development of your institution's strategies and methods
- Share and learn best practices from peers
- Create networks with higher education specialists across the Nordic region

Keynote Presentations:

Dr. Bård Drange, Senior Adviser from Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills gave a keynote on What world does academia have to deal with going forward?

Dr. Erik Mo Welin, analyst from Swedish National China Centre at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs talked more broadly about authoritarian states' attempts to influence academia focusing more specifically to China.

Dr. Tommy Shih, Director Forum for Responsible Internationalization and Research Security, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Associate Professor, Lund University talked about proportionality of reactions in higher education & responsible internationalization.

Panel discussion on national policies regarding responsible internationalization in international higher education cooperation gathered national representatives from Iceland, Estonia, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The discussion touched upon the different national approaches to the topic and the importance of international cooperation in higher education.

Workshops:

There were three workshops which all participants attended on the topics of:



- 1. Due Diligence**, which aimed at strengthening international knowledge cooperation while helping higher education institutions manage risks when screening and working with global partners. We introduced the European Commission's risk appraisal methodology and took a closer look at the Norwegian guidelines for partnerships in higher education. We also invited participants to share reflections and experiences relevant to their everyday work.
- 2. Mobility practices and responsible implementation** This workshop was aimed at practitioners working with student mobility and focuses on three core areas where mobility work both affects and is affected by ethical, legal, and security-related considerations: risk assessment, preparation of outgoing students, and the support for incoming students from complex contexts.
- 3. Ethics and Responsible internationalization** Building on insights from earlier sessions on due diligence and mobility, this workshop invited participants to reflect on what ethics contributes to everyday decision-making in international cooperation. Through concrete cases and peer exchange, participants examined practical dilemmas and potential solutions.

Participant feedback

After the event, we conducted a participant survey. Out of 57 participants, 41 replied. We are happy to state that the response rate was 71%. Participants found the content of the TCA very helpful with their everyday work with Erasmus+ mobilities. Also, many recognized the lack of institutional policies and the need to establish ones. Practical arrangements received an overall positive feedback.

Overall conclusions

The topic was well received, and we believe that the objectives of this TCA were met through capacity building, the sharing of best practices, and strengthened networking among Nordic colleagues. While national approaches vary, the feedback highlighted a strong need for clear institutional-level policies and practices. We hope the TCA provided participants with valuable opportunities to develop their capacities and expand their professional networks across the Nordic region. The TCA was also a meaningful learning experience for the organizing team and further strengthened Nordic cooperation among the Erasmus+ National Agencies.