

# Internationalization of higher education & Ethics

Brussels 13 June

Adinda van Gaalen

Senior Policy Nuffic / PhD student Ghent University

## Aims & risks in student mobility



Intercultural learning

Prestige

Influence

Human resources

Revenues

Exploitation of cultures

Exclusion/inequality

Neo-colonialism

Brain drain

Disinvestments

People	Planet	Prosperity
Universally accessible education	Promoting sustainable travelling	Equal (job market) opportunities
Respecting race, ethnicity and cultural diversity & fostering intercultural understanding	Sustainable consumption and production patterns	Reduction of inequalities of outcome
Protecting and educating on human rights	Sustainable use of natural resources	Income growth for the most vulnerable
Respecting human dignity		Planned and well-managed migration policies
Shared responsibility		

Source: United Nations (2015) Transforming our world. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development

	People	Planet	Prosperity
Outgoing Credit Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unequal student opportunities</li> <li>• Over-simplified views of cultures reinforced</li> <li>• Exclusion of students and/or HEIs</li> <li>• Less diversity of HEIs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon emissions through academic travelling</li> <li>• High level of fossil fuel consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global inequality reinforced</li> <li>• Intensifying social and economic inequality</li> </ul>
Incoming Degree Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unequal access</li> <li>• Exclusion because of equal or unequal treatment (discrimination and racism)</li> <li>• Treatment of being in deficit</li> <li>• Occupying places of domestic students</li> <li>• Decreased linguistic, cultural and curricular diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon emissions</li> <li>• Fossil fuel consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brain drain</li> <li>• Unequal labour market competition</li> <li>• Poor countries subsidise education in rich countries</li> <li>• Mismatch between international education content and local application</li> <li>• Exploitation</li> </ul>

Source: van Gaalen (forthcoming) Mapping ethical and responsible internationalisation of higher education

## Examples of ethical dilemmas

- International class room vs brain drain
- Homogenisation vs diversity
- Global citizenship vs elitism and carbon footprint

## Examples of ethical policy and practice

1. Sustainable travel policies of HEIs and EAIE
2. Inclusion in Hanzehogeschool Physiotherapy program
3. Human rights policy Ugent

## Ethics & internationalisation in national policies

- Germany, Luxembourg, UK, Canada, Mexico, US, China, Japan en Singapore
- Ethical issues rarely mentioned in policy documents
- Sustainability and inclusion
- Only effects on home country

# Thank you!

[avangaalen@nuffic.nl](mailto:avangaalen@nuffic.nl)

[Adinda.vangaalen@ugent.be](mailto:Adinda.vangaalen@ugent.be)

Gaalen, van A., Huisman, J. and Sidhu, R. (Forthcoming). National Policies on Education Abroad - addressing undesired consequences. In: Ogden, Streitwieser and Van Mol (eds). *Education Abroad: Bridging Scholarship and Practice*. Routledge, Internationalization in Higher Education.