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Erasmus Mundus: analysis of the results of the first 2021-2027 Call
(Joint Masters and Design Measures)

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Erasmus+ Programme

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Introduction

The Erasmus Mundus action aims at fostering excellence and worldwide internationalisation of higher education institutions via study programmes – at Master course level – jointly delivered and jointly recognised by higher education institutions (HEIs) established in Europe, and open to institutions in other countries of the world. The action comprises two independent lots: the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) and the Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM).

The EMJM supports high-level integrated transnational study programmes at Master level delivered by an international consortium of HEIs from different countries worldwide and, where relevant, other educational and/or non-educational partners with specific expertise and interest in the concerned study areas/professional domains.

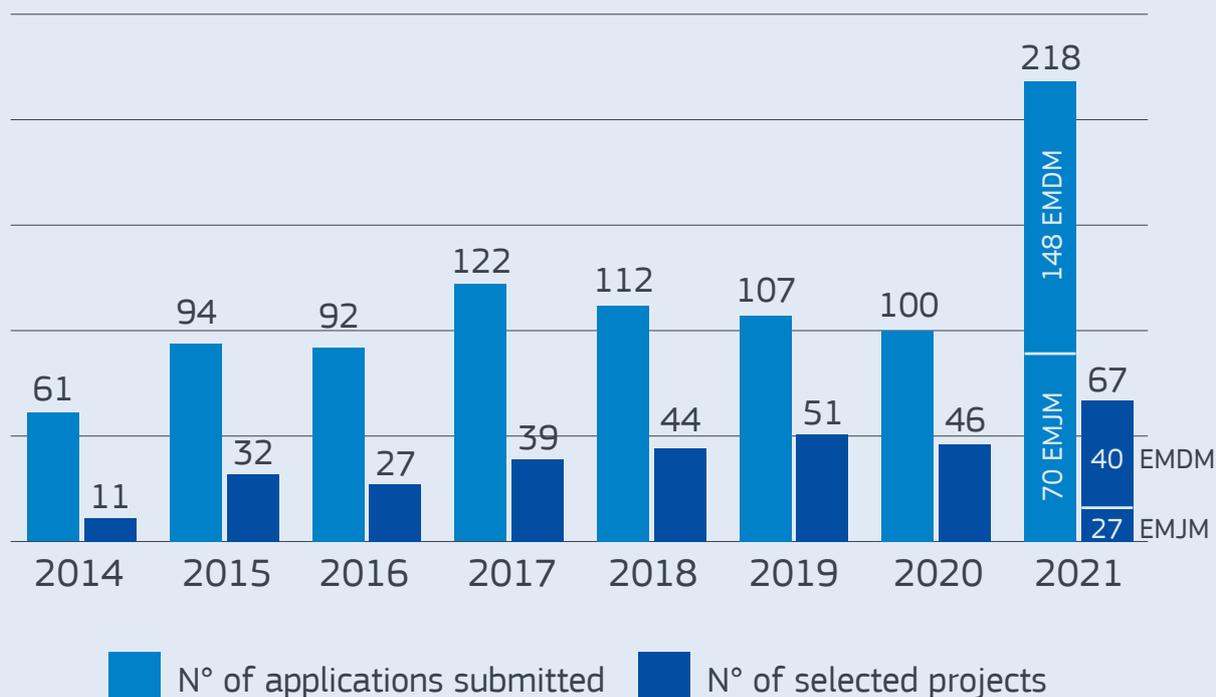
The specificity of EMJMs lies in the high degree of jointness/integration among the participating institutions and the excellence of their academic content. The completion of an EMJM leads to the award of a joint, double or multiple degree depending on the programme.

The EMDM aims at encouraging the development of new, innovative, high-level integrated transnational study programmes at Master level in Europe and beyond and in particular in Erasmus Mundus under-represented EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, and/or institutions from these countries, and/or thematic areas. The Calls for EMJM and EMDM proposals were published on 25 March 2021 with a deadline on 17 June 2021, under the new Erasmus Mundus, which will run until 2027.



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Figure 1 : Number of applications and selected projects per year from 2014 to 2021



Background

This report analyses the results of the first Erasmus Mundus Call of the programme 2021-2027. The report focuses on the main features of both the applications and selected projects notably from an institutional and participating country point of view. It also provides some elements of comparison with the former 2014-2020 programme.

In 2021, a total of 70 applications were received under the EMJM Call for proposals. Applicants were from 20 Programme countries and 3 Partner countries¹, namely Israel (1), India (1) and the United Kingdom (3). Furthermore, 148 applications were received for the EMDM Call with applicants from 24 Programme countries and 16 Partner countries. The 27 selected EMJM projects are coordinated by 12 different Programme countries and the the 40 selected EMDM projects are coordinated by 16 Programme countries and 2 Partner countries.



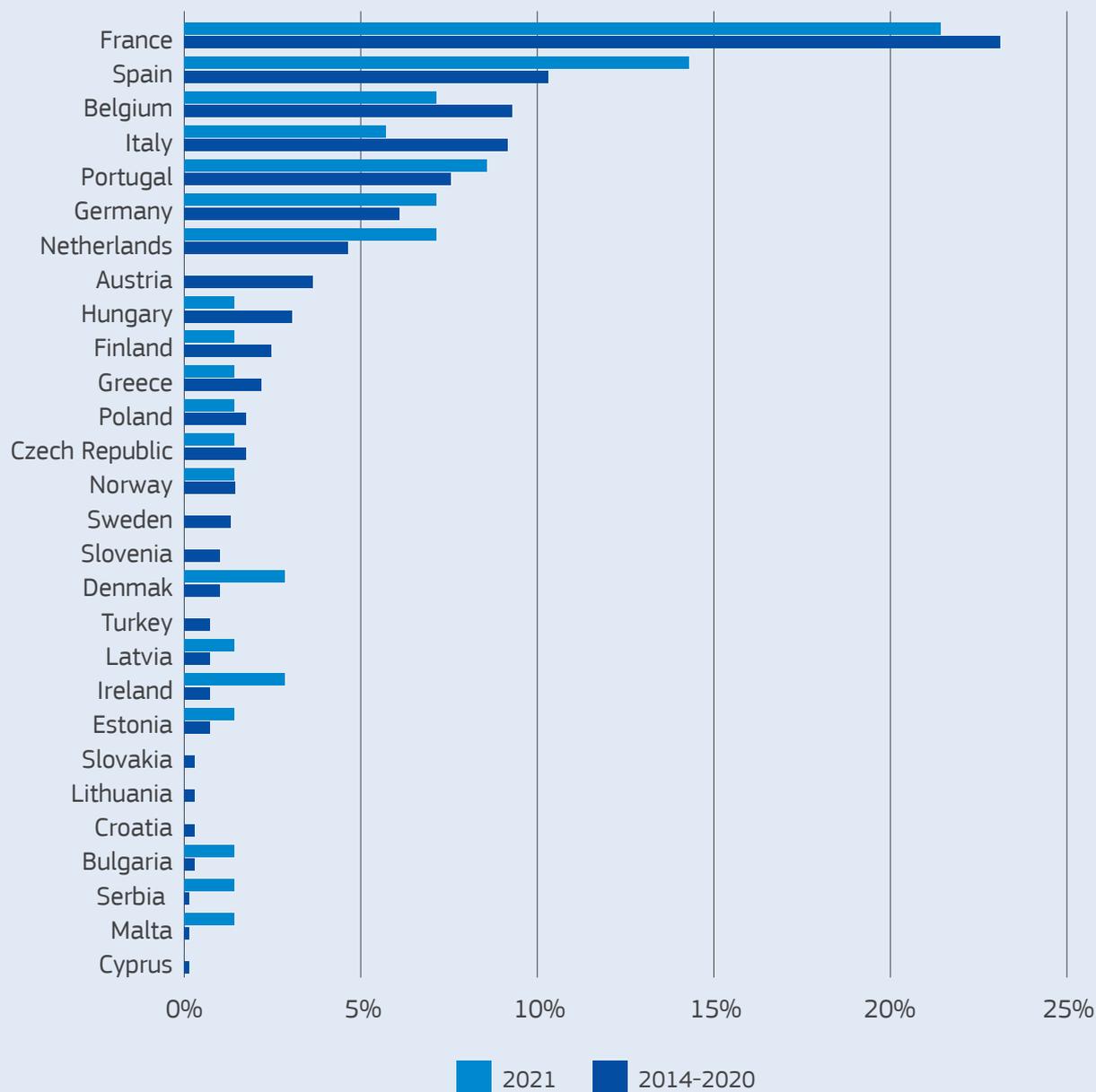
Image : © Song_about_summer, stock.adobe.com

¹ Whereas, the 2022 Erasmus+ Programme Guide uses the terms Member States of the European Union (EU), Third countries associated to the Programme and Third countries not associated to the Programme to classify countries that are eligible to Erasmus+, the 2021 Programme Guide referred to the previous terminology, namely Programme and Partner countries. For the sake of simplification, this report uses the latter. Programme countries refer to the EU Member states + North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. Partner countries refer to the other countries worldwide.

Section A – Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters

1. Statistical overview of the applications submitted under the 2021 EMJM call for proposals

Figure 2: Percentage of applications coordinated per Programme country (2014-2020 vs. 2021)



The percentage of applications submitted by Programme countries is distributed similarly when comparing both periods. No new countries applied as project coordinators in 2021 and 8 countries (Austria, Sweden, Slovenia, Turkey, Croatia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Cyprus) did not submit an application under the 2021 call. France is the country that submitted the highest number of applications under both periods (23.1% in 2014-2020 and 21.3% in 2021) followed by Spain, which submitted a higher number of applications for the 2021 call compared to the 2014-2020 period (10.3% in 2014-2020 and 14.3% in 2021). Belgium and Italy are among the other Programme countries applying the most in both programme generations. Similarly to Spain, the percentage of applications submitted by Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands is higher in 2021 than in 2014-2020.

Countries with a limited participation in 2014-2020 (Austria, Sweden, Slovenia, Turkey, Croatia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Cyprus) did not send any application in 2021. By contrast, some Programme countries (Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Bulgaria, Latvia, Malta and Serbia) with a limited number of applications in 2014-2020 were more active under the 2021 call.

Concerning the Partner countries, it is interesting to note that there were 5 applications submitted by those countries in the 2021 call, namely 1 by India, 1 by Israel, and 3 by the United Kingdom. Partner countries could not participate as coordinators in the 2014-2020 Erasmus Mundus.

Figure 3: Percentage of applications involving each Programme country as full partner or coordinator (2014-2020 vs. 2021)



The participation of Programme countries as full partner or coordinator is similar when comparing both periods. Furthermore, no new country participated as full partners in 2021. France (48.5% in 2014-2020 and 51.4% in 2021), Spain (45.6% vs. 44.2%), Italy (39.8% vs. 38.5%), Germany (31.9% vs. 28.5%) and Portugal (27.6% vs. 38.5%) are the countries that participated the most in both periods. Within this group, Portugal stands out for its significant increase in the 2021 call. Among the 4 Programme countries which did not participate in the first call (Sweden, Turkey, Cyprus, and Republic of North Macedonia), 2 of them had a limited participation during 2014-2020 (Cyprus, and the Republic of North Macedonia). Conversely, Croatia (4.2% in 2014-2020 and 11.4%, in 2021), Serbia (2.6% vs. 7.1%) and Luxembourg (0.4% vs. 4.2%) which had a limited submission rate in 2014-2020, were the countries whose participation as full partners increased the most in 2021.

Figure 4: Percentage of applications involving each Partner country that participated in both generations of Erasmus Mundus as a full partner or coordinator (2014-2020 vs. 2021)

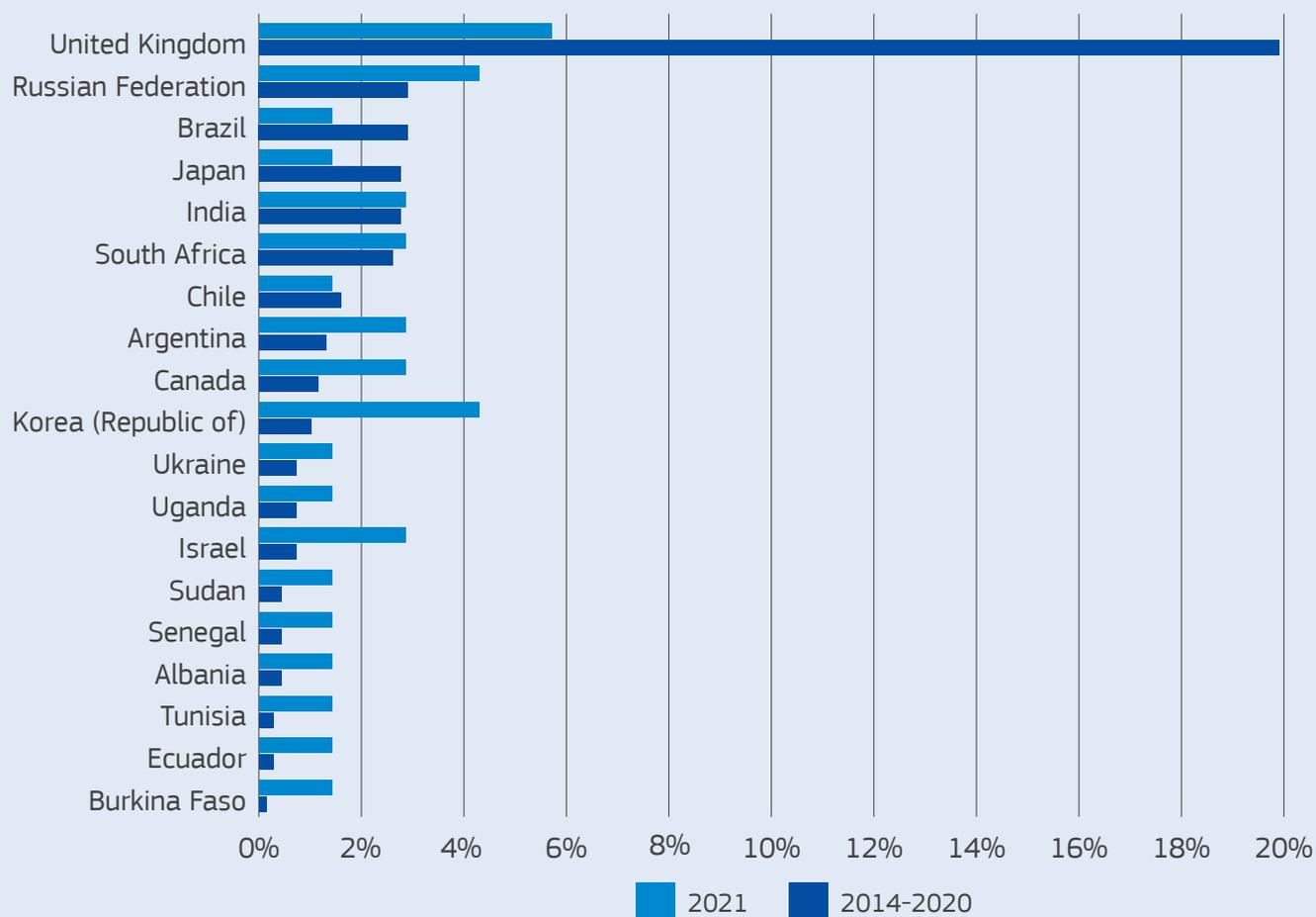
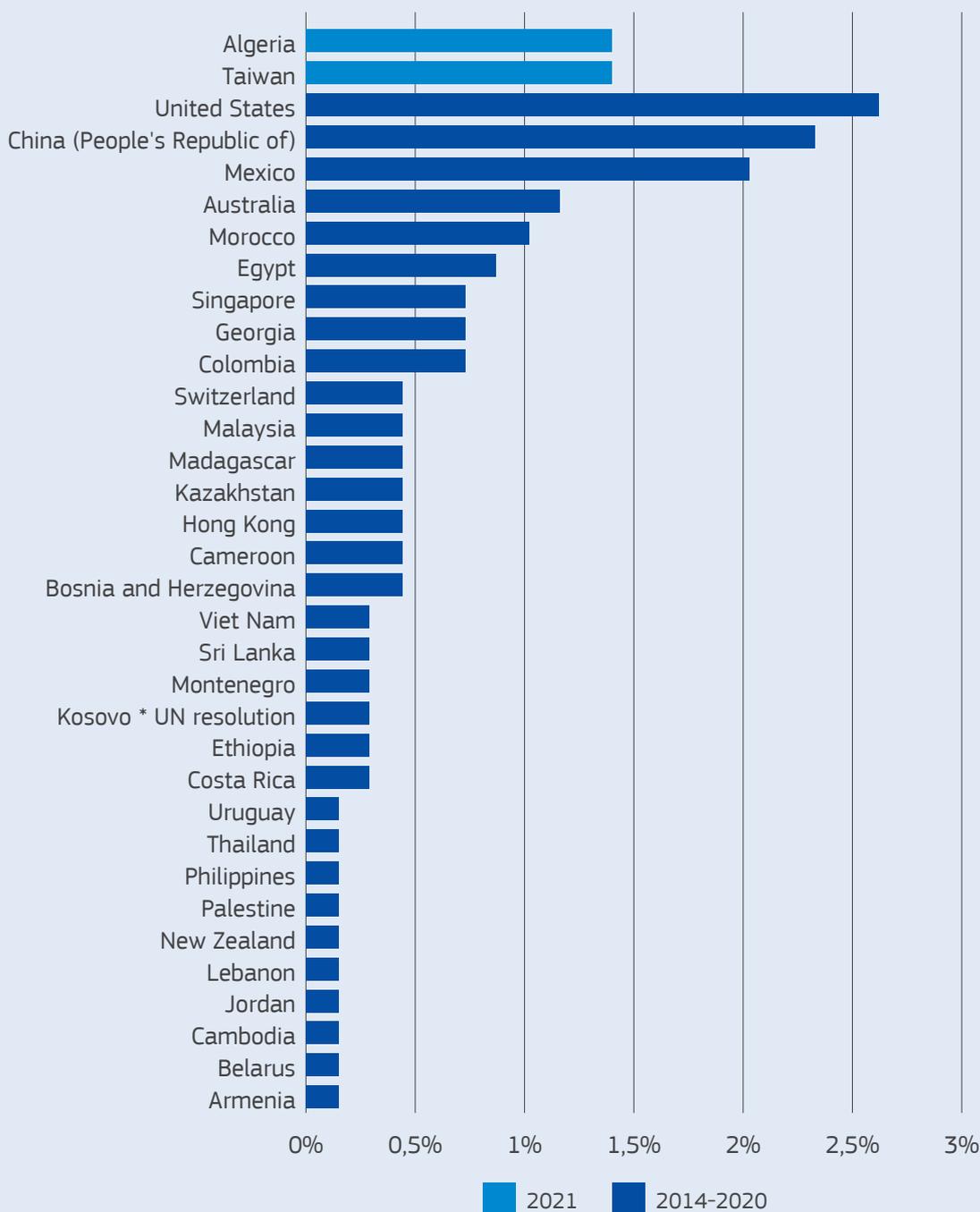


Figure 5: Percentage of applications involving each Partner country who participated as full partner or coordinator in only one generation of Erasmus Mundus.



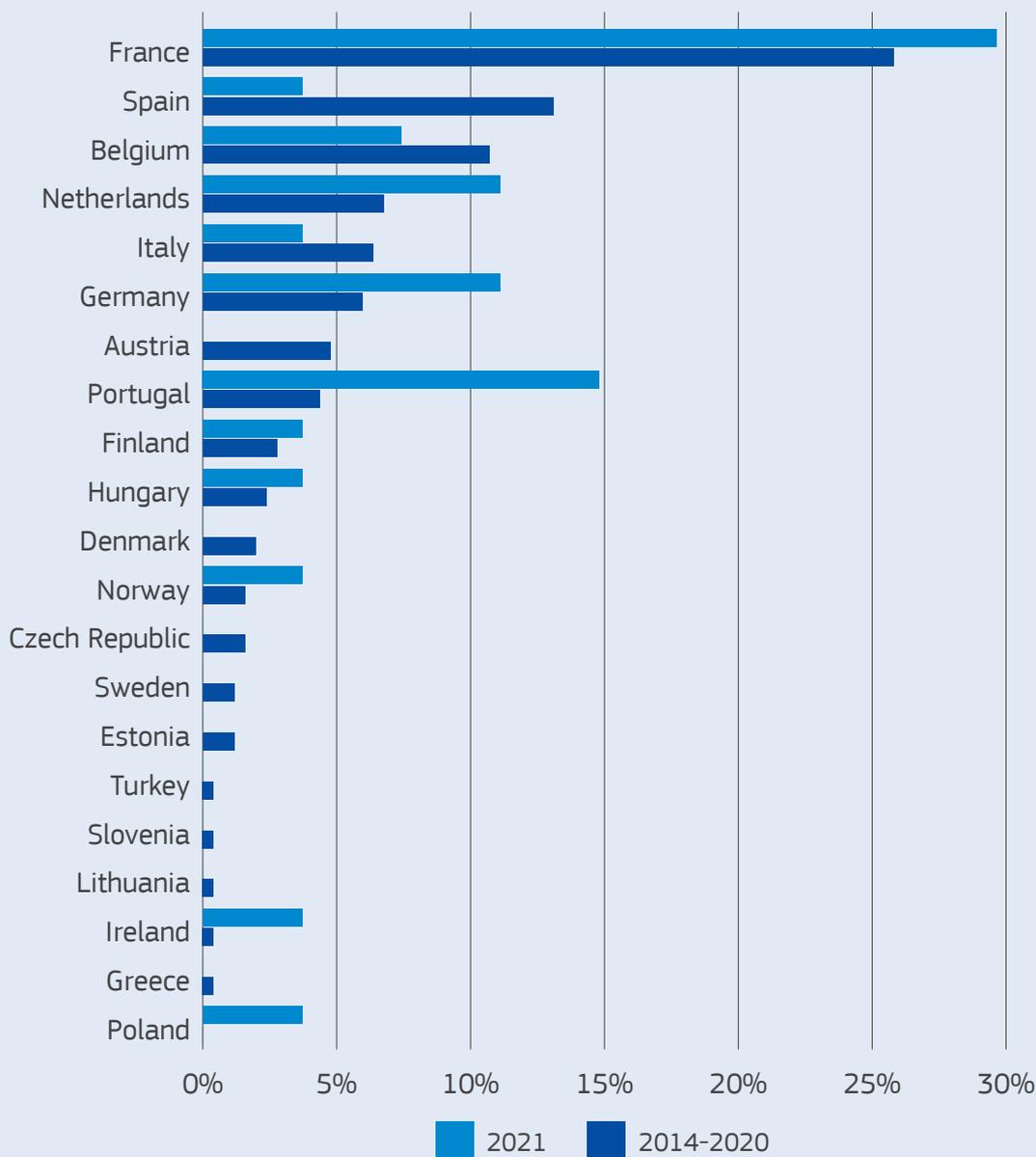
The United Kingdom is the partner country that participated in the highest number of applications in both editions of the programme, however with a steep decrease in 2021 (19.9% in 2014-2020 and 5.7% in 2021). This significant difference is obviously linked to Brexit and the subsequent change of status of this country (from Programme country in 2014-2020 to Partner country in 2021-2027). Brazil (2,9% vs. 1,4%), the Russian Federation (2,9% vs. 4,3%), India (2,8% vs. 2,9%), Japan (2,8% vs. 1,4%), and South Africa (2,6% vs. 2,9%) are the countries which participated the most after the United Kingdom. Some countries with low participation in the 2014-2020 Erasmus+ generation, such as the United States, Mexico, and China, did not participate as full partners in 2021. Contrarywise, other countries increased their presence as full partners under the 2021 EMJM call for proposals. This was particularly the case of South Korea and Israel, who increased their participation from 1% to 4.2% and from 0.7% to 2.8% respectively.

Finally, Algeria and Taiwan participated for the first time as full partners in the EMJM call for proposals 2021 (1.4% each).

2. Statistical overview of the selected projects under the 2021 EMJM call for proposals

2.1. Participation of the Programme and Partner countries in the selected 2021 EMJMs

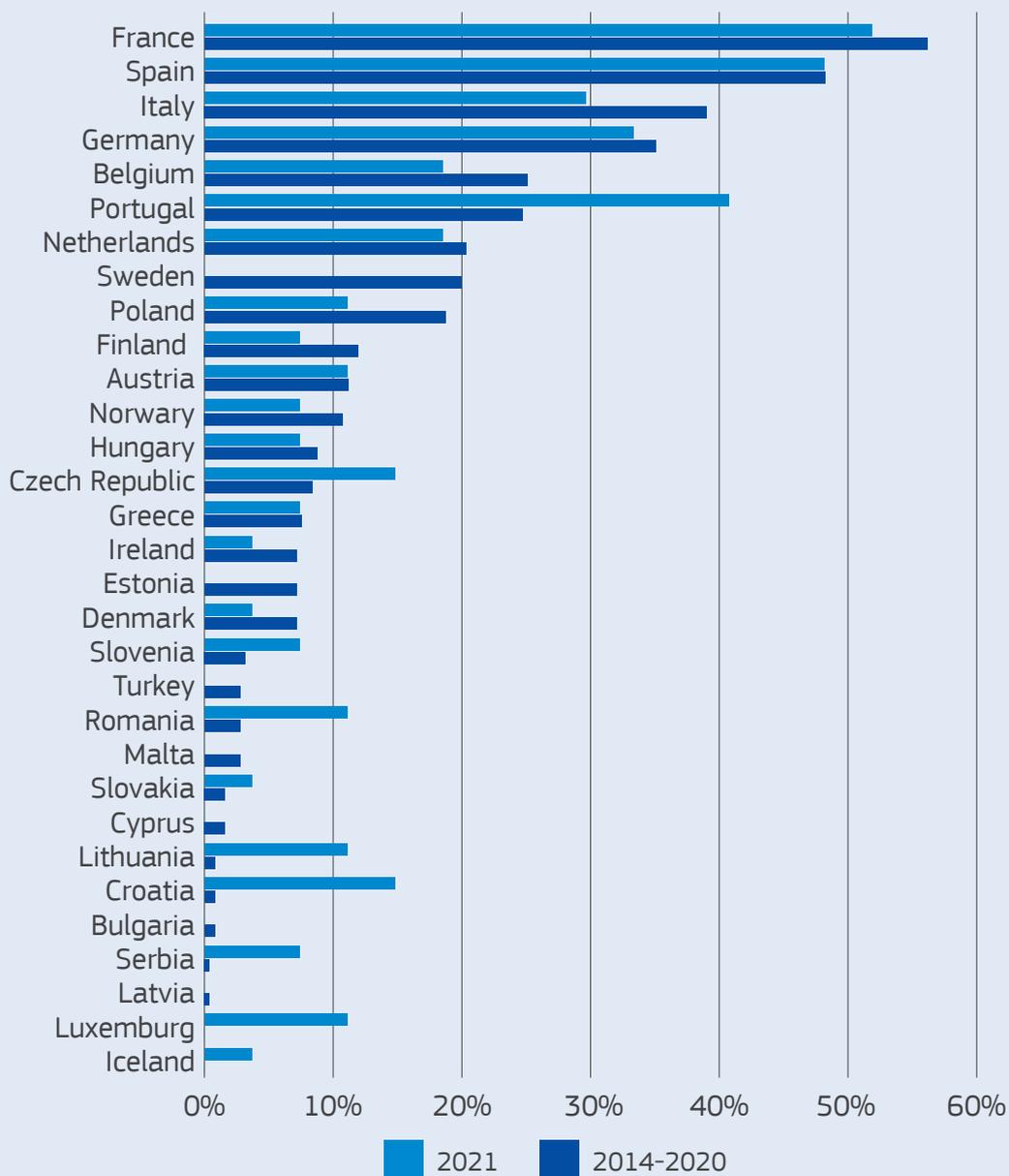
Figure 6: Percentage of selected projects coordinated by each Programme country (2014-2020 vs. 2021)



Whereas France coordinated/is coordinating the highest number of selected projects in both generations of Erasmus Mundus (25.8% in 2014-2020 and 29.6% in 2021), Portugal achieved outstanding results as coordinating country in 2021, followed by Germany and the Netherlands. On the other hand, a decrease in the participation of some Programme countries as coordinators can be observed in 2021. Spain which coordinated a high number of selected projects in the previous period, shows a lower success under EMJM (13.1% in 2014-2020 and 3.7% in 2021) as is the case for Belgium (10.7% vs 7.4%) and Italy (6.3% vs 3.7%). Other Programme countries (Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Finland, Hungary, Norway, and Ireland) were more successful in 2021 compared to the past period. Finally, while Poland participates as coordinating institution for the first time under the EMJM, some countries with a limited participation in the period 2014-2020 (Austria, Denmark, Czech Republic, Estonia, Sweden, Greece, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Turkey) did not have any project selected in 2021. Last, it is worth noting that no project coordinated by any Partner country was selected in the 2021 call.

Whereas the overall success rate of the 2021 EMJM selection is in average 38% (70 applications), most of the countries coordinating the selected projects reached a success rate above average. For some countries, namely Finland, Hungary, Norway and Poland, the success rate is 100% (1 application each). Germany (5), the Netherlands (5), and Portugal (6) follow with 60% whereas for France (15) and Ireland (2) it is around 50%, and for Belgium (5) 40%. Italy (4) and Spain (10) are the only two countries with a success rate below 25%.

Figure 7: Percentage of selected projects involving each Programme country as full partner or coordinator (2014-2020 vs. 2021).



France is the country that participated/is participating the most as a full partner or coordinator in the projects selected under both generations of Erasmus Mundus (56,9% in 2014-2020 and 51,8% in 2021) followed by Spain (48,2% vs. 48,1%), Italy (39% vs. 29,6%), Germany (35% vs. 33,3%), Belgium (25,1% vs. 18,5%), Portugal (24,7% vs. 40,7%), and the Netherlands (20,3% vs. 18,5%). Within this group, Portugal participates in a proportionally higher number of projects selected in 2021 compared to the 2014-2020 period. Likewise, Czech Republic (8,4% vs. 14,8%), Romania (2,8% vs. 11,1%), Croatia (0,8% vs. 14,8%), Lithuania (0,8% vs. 11,1%), and Serbia (0,4% vs. 7,4%) also show a proportionally higher participation as full partners or coordinators under the EMJM. Some countries with limited participation in the period 2014-2020 (Estonia, Malta, Turkey, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Latvia) did not participate as full partners in the selected projects of the last Erasmus Mundus call. In contrast, Luxemburg and Iceland are participating as full partners in the 2021 call for the first time.

Figure 8: Percentage of selected projects involving each Partner country who participated as full partner or coordinator in both generations of Erasmus Mundus (2014-2020 vs. 2021)

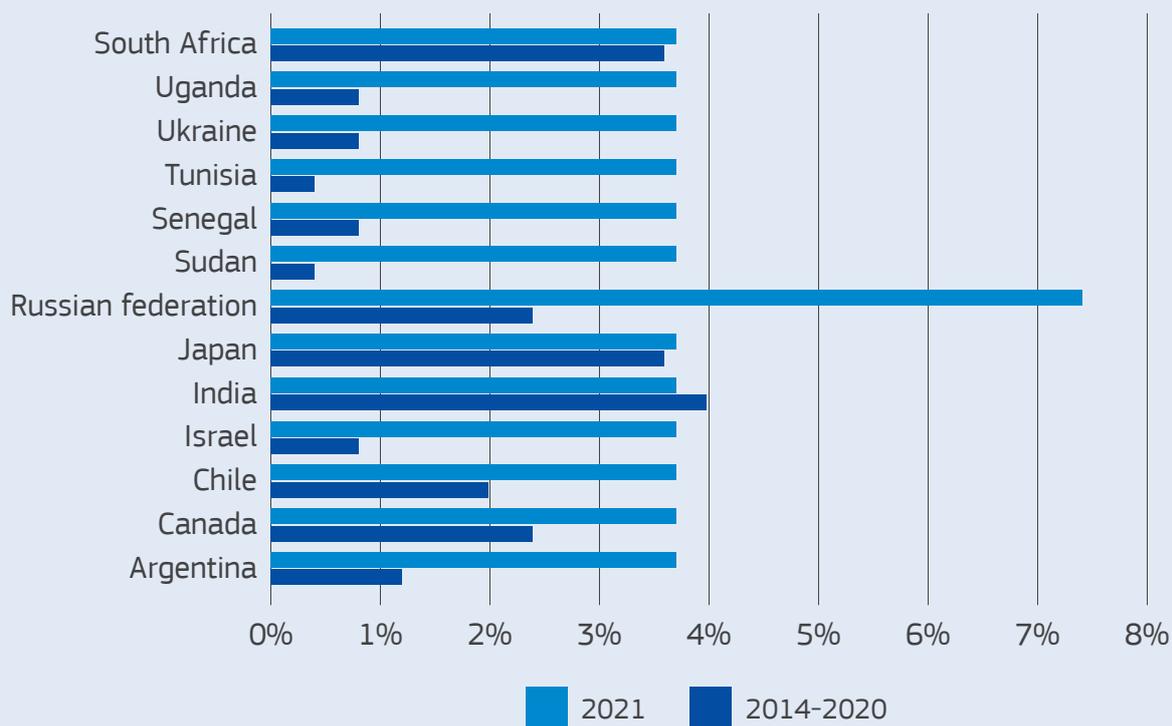
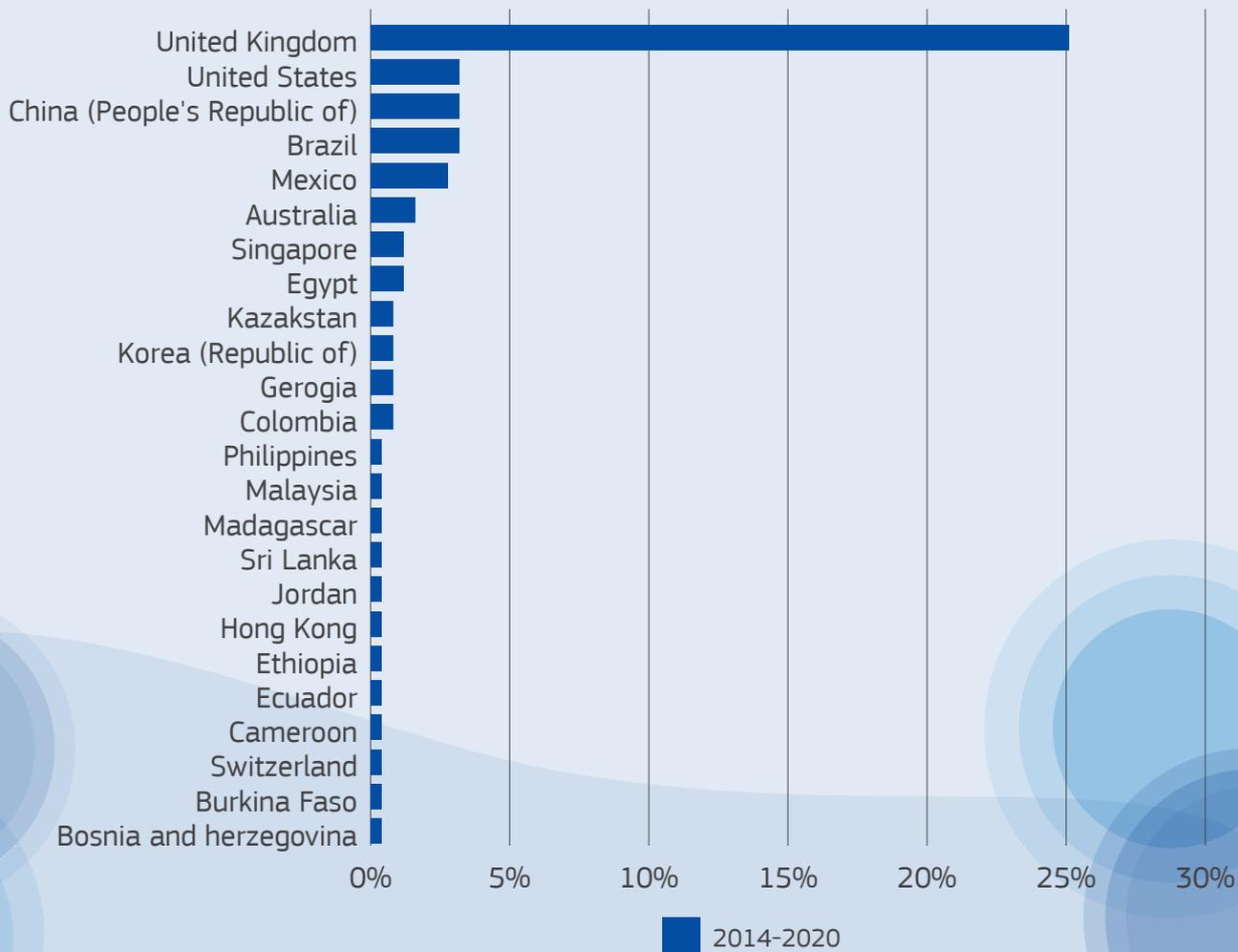


Figure 9: Percentage of selected projects involving each partner country who participated as full partner or coordinator only in the 2014-2020 generation of the Erasmus Mundus.



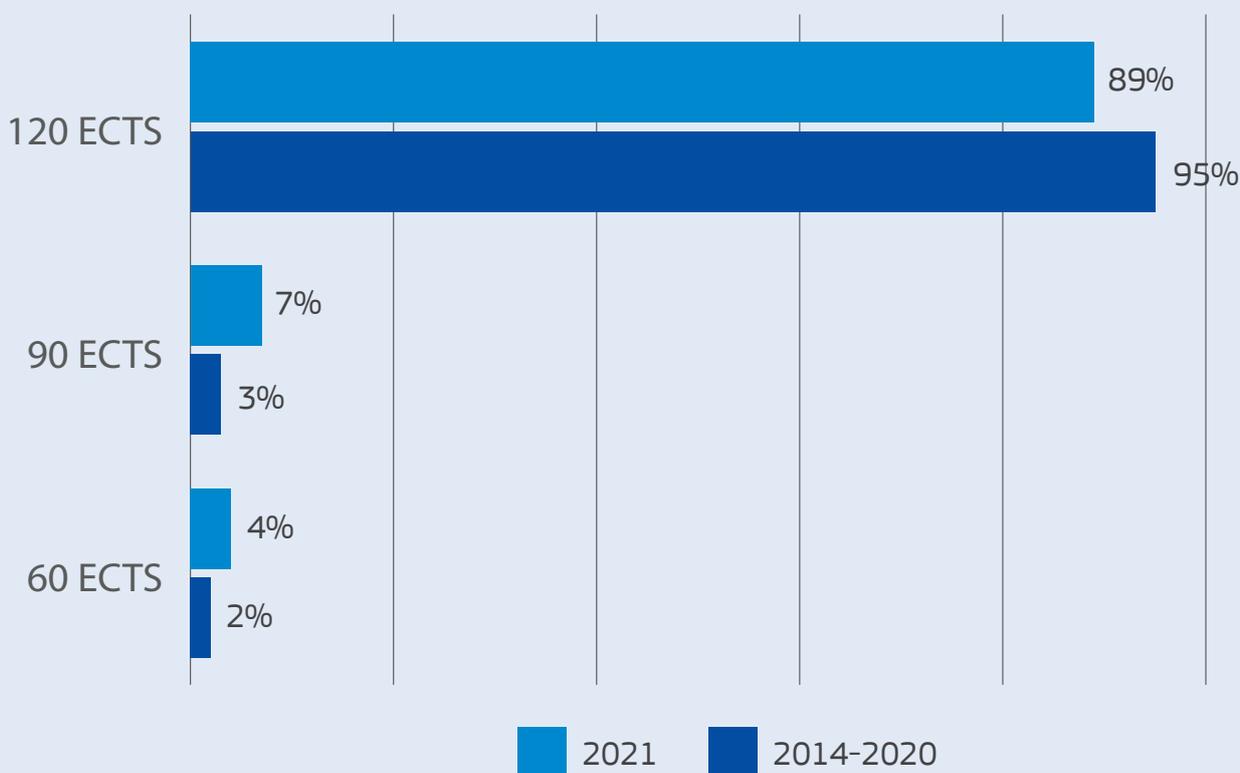
The United Kingdom was the partner country that participated the most as full partner under Erasmus+ 2014-2020 (25.1%) as a result of its former status of Programme country. However, no project involving British partners has been selected in 2021. By contrast, some Partner countries with little involvement in the former Erasmus Mundus (Uganda, Ukraine, Tunisia, Senegal, Sudan, Israel) increased their presence as full partners to various extents in 2021 (from 0.4%-0.8% in 2014-2020 to 3.7%-7.4% in 2021). Data from the forthcoming calls will tell if this trend continues throughout the programme.

On the other hand, India, South Africa, and the United States were involved as full partners in a proportionally similar number of projects in both programme generations (4%, 3.6% and 3.2% in 2014-2020 respectively and 3.7% each in 2021). Other big countries do not participate as full partners in 2021, such as Brazil, Mexico and also Japan in spite of its participation in the former Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees Partnership with Japan initiative in 2019.

2.2 Main characteristics of the selected 2021 EMJMs

Duration of the Master programmes

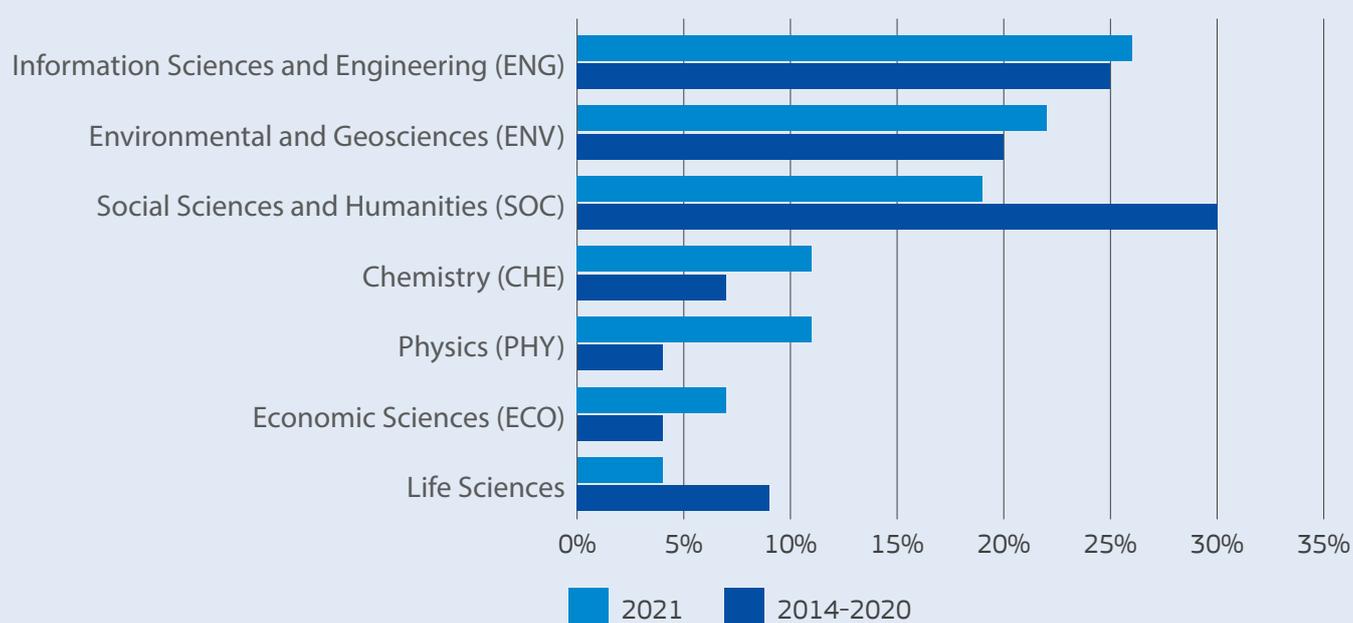
Figure 10: Breakdown of selected projects per number of ECTS (2014-2020 vs 2021)



The great majority of the master courses selected in both editions of Erasmus Mundus are of 120 ECTS (95% in 2014-2020 and 89% in 2021). Courses of 60 and 90 ECTS, however, represent a proportionally higher number in the 2021 call for proposals than in the previous generation (2% and 3% in 2014-2021 respectively and 4% and 7% in 2021 respectively).

Thematic areas

Figure 11: Breakdown of selected projects per thematic area (2014-2020 vs 2021)



With regard to the thematic areas, Information Sciences and Engineering, Environmental and Geosciences, and Social Sciences and Humanities are the prevailing thematic areas in both generations of Erasmus Mundus. However, whereas Information Sciences and Engineering and Environmental Geosciences were almost equally preferred in both periods, Social Sciences and Humanities were significantly more popular in 2014-2020 than in the 2021 call for proposals. Similarly to Social Sciences and Humanities, Life Sciences were also more popular in the 2014-2020 generation. Conversely, Chemistry, Physics and Economic Sciences had a higher proportional presence under the 2021 call.

Institutional participation

Ten institutions are coordinating EMJMs for the first time in the projects selected for 2021, of which three are new to Erasmus Mundus, namely the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (Magyar Agrár-Élettudományi Egyetem) in Hungary, the Valencia Catholic University Saint Vincent Martyr (Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir) in Spain, and the University Bourgogne Franche-Comté (COMUE Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté) in France.

The selection of the 2021 call includes several full partner institutions from Programme and Partner countries that are also new to Erasmus Mundus, such as the University of Applied Sciences Mittelhessen (Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen) in Germany and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze) in the Czech Republic for the Programme countries as well as the University of Toronto in Canada, Bar-Ilan University in Israel, Kagoshima University in Japan, and Rabindra Bharati University in India for the Partner countries.

Section B – Erasmus Mundus Design Measures

1. Statistical overview of the applications submitted under the 2021 EMJM call for proposals

Figure 12: Number of applications coordinated per Programme and Partner country (2021 call)

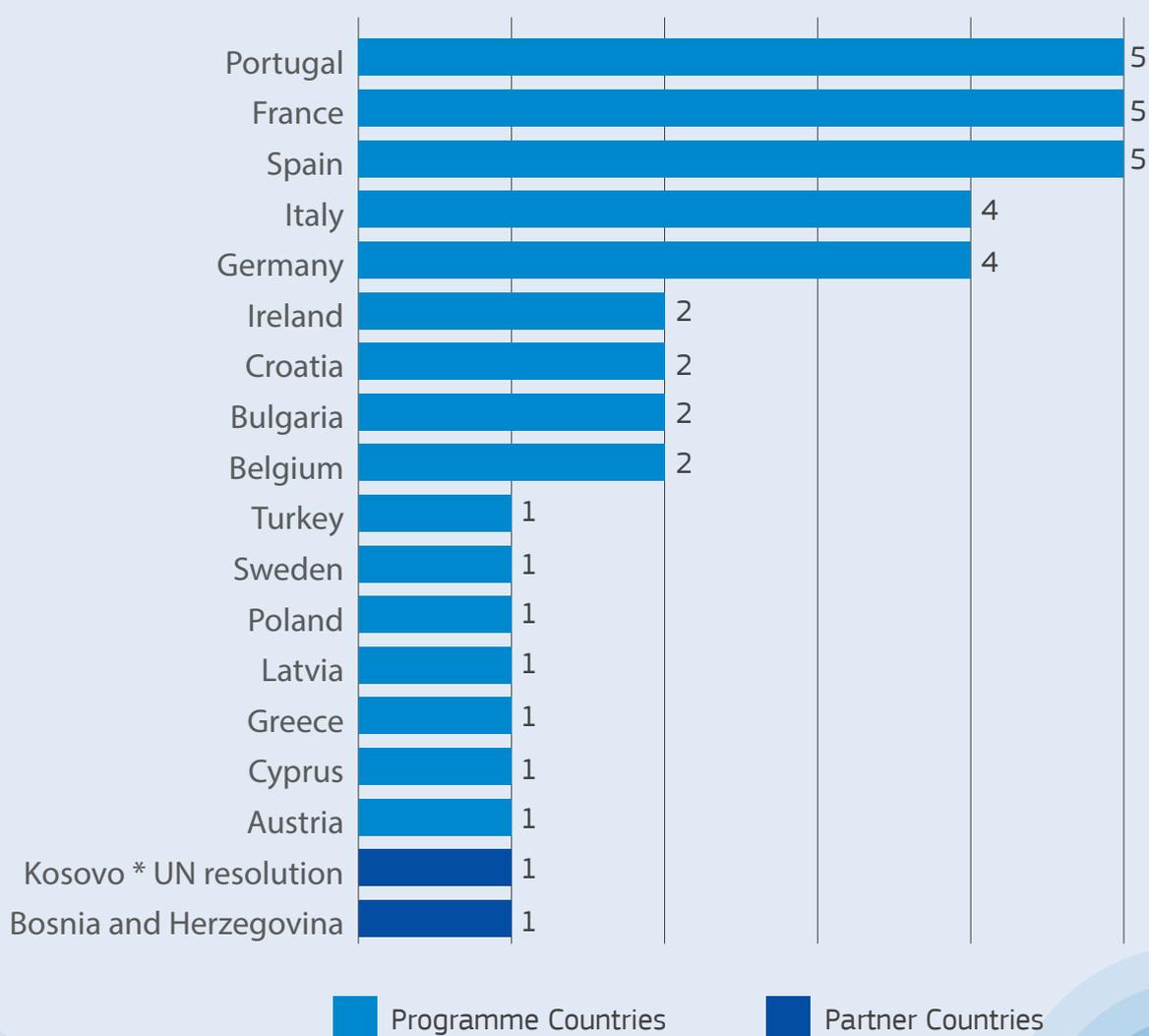


For the first EMDM call, 148 applications were submitted from 24 Programme countries and 16 Partner countries. Three Programme countries submitted the highest number of applications namely Spain (17), France (15) and Italy (15) followed by a partner country, the Russian Federation (10). This list of countries is a positive sign with regards to the policy priority of the action. It also confirms the potential opening of Erasmus Mundus to the Partner countries.

Moreover, the presence of countries such as Romania and North Macedonia, who never submitted as coordinator an application in the past, and also Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Turkey, who had limited participation in the former Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees calls, is encouraging.

2. Statistical overview of number of selected projects under the 2021 EMDM call for proposals

Figure 13: Number of selected projects per Partner and Programme country (2021 call)



Under the 2021 EDM call for proposals, 40 projects were selected out of which 38 are coordinated by 16 Programme countries (Spain, France, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Sweden, Poland and Turkey) and 2 by two Partner countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo). Spain, France, Portugal are the countries with the highest number of selected EDM projects (5) followed firstly by Germany and Italy (4), and then by Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia and Ireland (2). The rest of the countries coordinate one project each.

These results are a success for countries such as Croatia and Bulgaria and, to a lesser extent, for Poland, Latvia, Cyprus, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have never participated in Erasmus Mundus as coordinators in the past. In addition, Turkey and Greece had a low participation in previous Erasmus Mundus calls coordinating only one project each.

To conclude, it is worth mentioning that 15 HEIs selected in the 2021 EDM call have not previously participated in Erasmus Mundus neither as coordinators nor as full partners. These institutions are listed below:

Institution	Country
University of Linz (Universität Linz)	Austria
Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (Sarajevska škola za nauku i tehnologiju)	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski	Bulgaria
Varna Free University	Bulgaria
Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek	Croatia
Rennes 2 University (Université Rennes 2)	France
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin	Germany
University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt (Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften Würzburg-Schweinfurt)	Germany
Munster Technological University	Ireland
University of Pristina (Universiteti i Prishtinës)	Kosovo
Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (Instituto Politécnico de Bragança)	Portugal
University of Murcia (Universidad de Murcia)	Spain
University of Burgos (Universidad de Burgos)	Spain
Linköping University (Linköpings universitet)	Sweden
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Erasmus Mundus: analysis of the results of the first 2021-2027 Call (Joint Masters and Design Measures)

This report has been produced as part of the Erasmus Mundus programme, funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. The purpose of the report is to analyse the results of the first Erasmus Mundus call for proposals which was published in 2021 (results published in autumn 2021). The report focuses on the main features of the applications and selected projects, mainly from the viewpoint of the institutions and the participating countries. It also offers comparisons with the former 2014-2020 programme.

