



Kansainvälisen liikkuvuuden ja yhteistyön keskus  
Centret för internationell mobilitet och internationellt samarbete  
Centre for International Mobility

# Finnish-Russian experience on mobility and recognition:

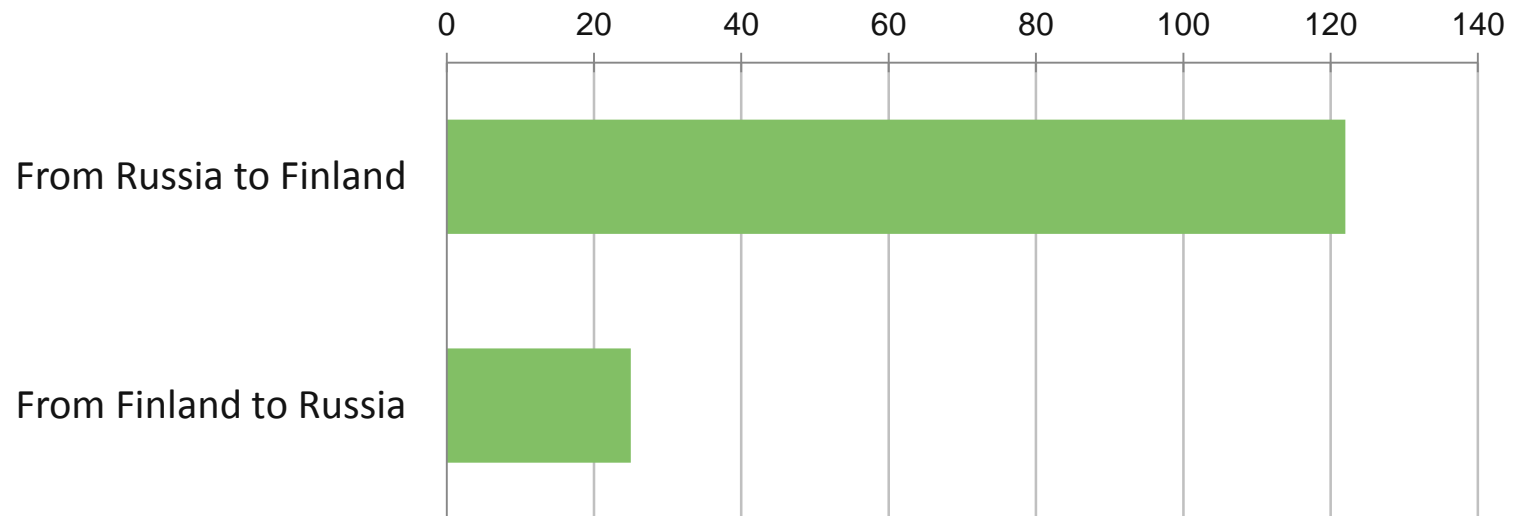
## FIRST Student Survey 2013-14

Outi Jäppinen, CIMO

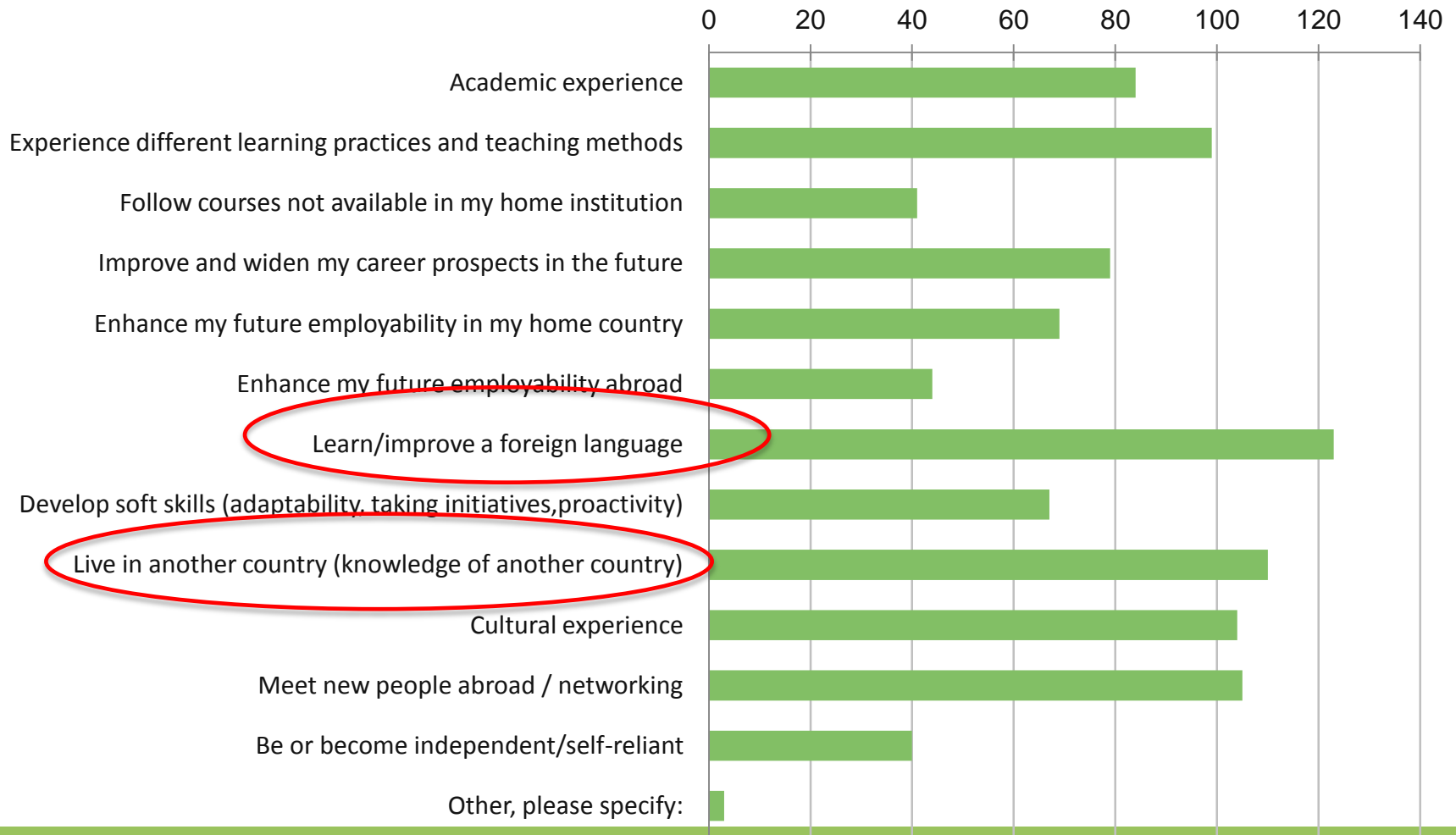
May 15 2014

BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK (BSRUN)  
ANNUAL FORUM, St. Petersburg

# You participated in FIRST student exchange: (N=147)

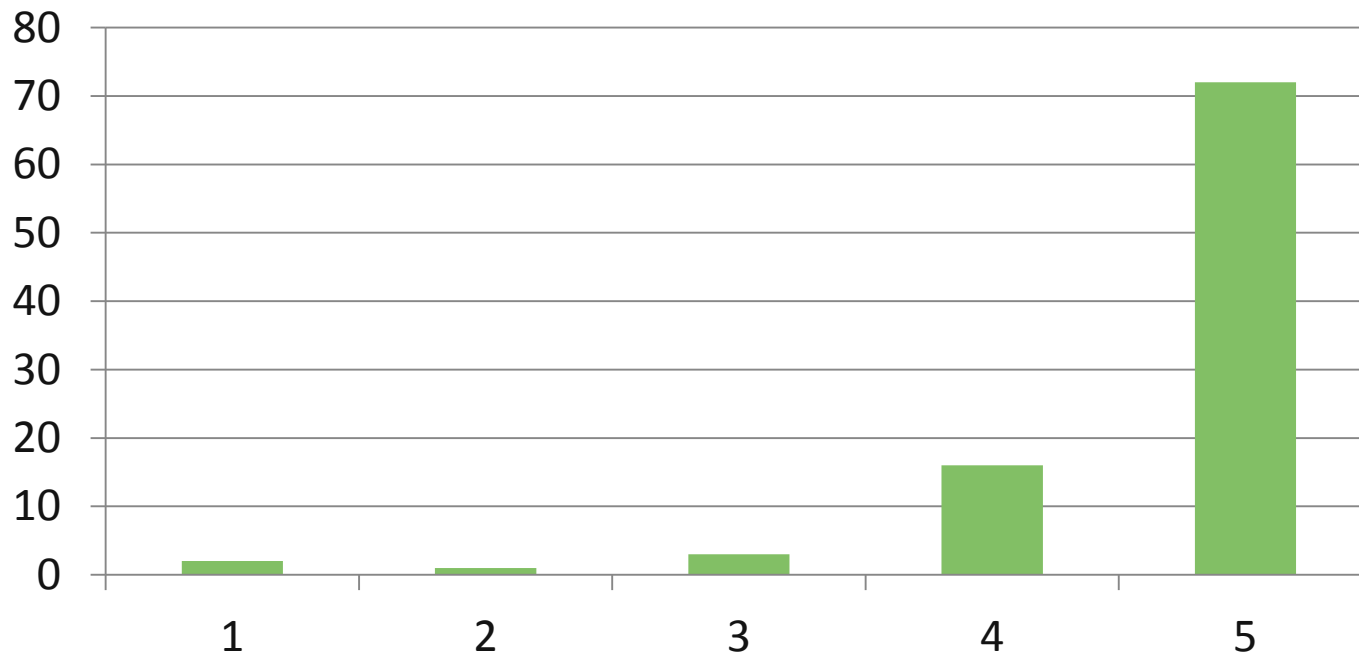


# Which were the factors that motivated you to go abroad? (N=147)

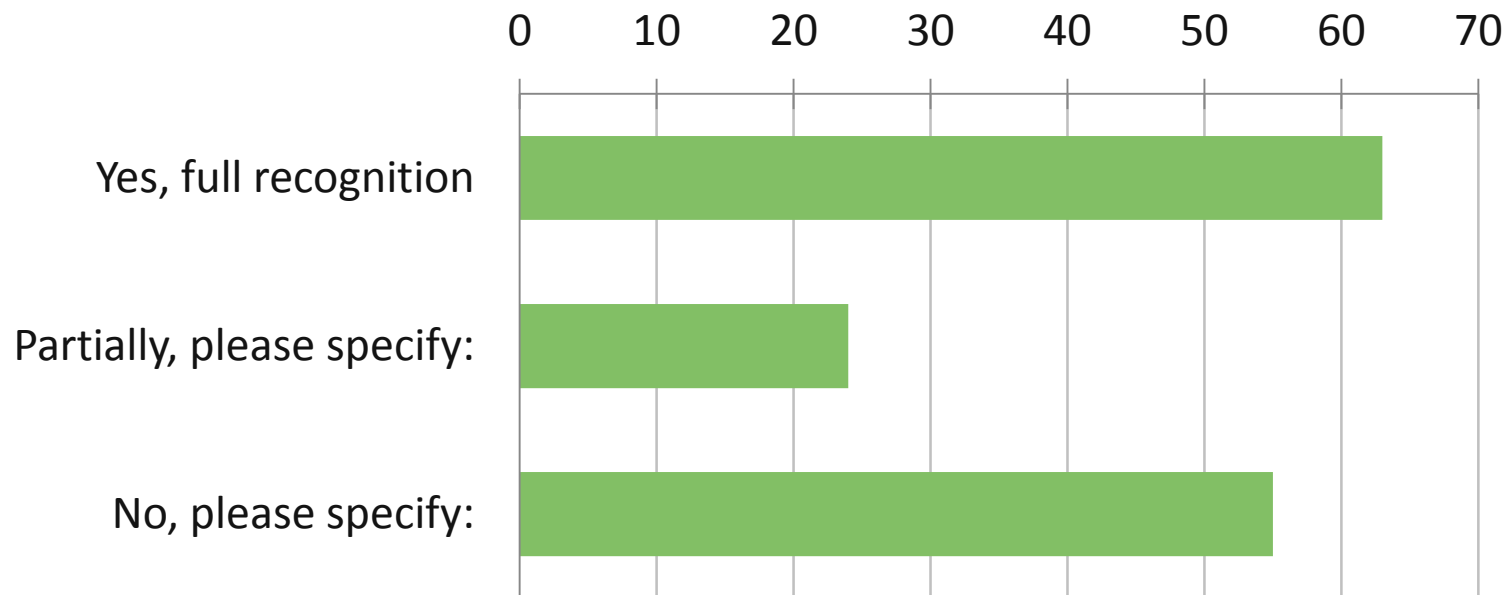


# How do you evaluate in general the quality of your studies at your host institution abroad? (N=145)

1= poor 5= excellent



Will you gain academic recognition for your mobility period abroad? (academic recognition= studies at the host institution abroad will be included in your degree at your home institution after the mobility period) (N=142)



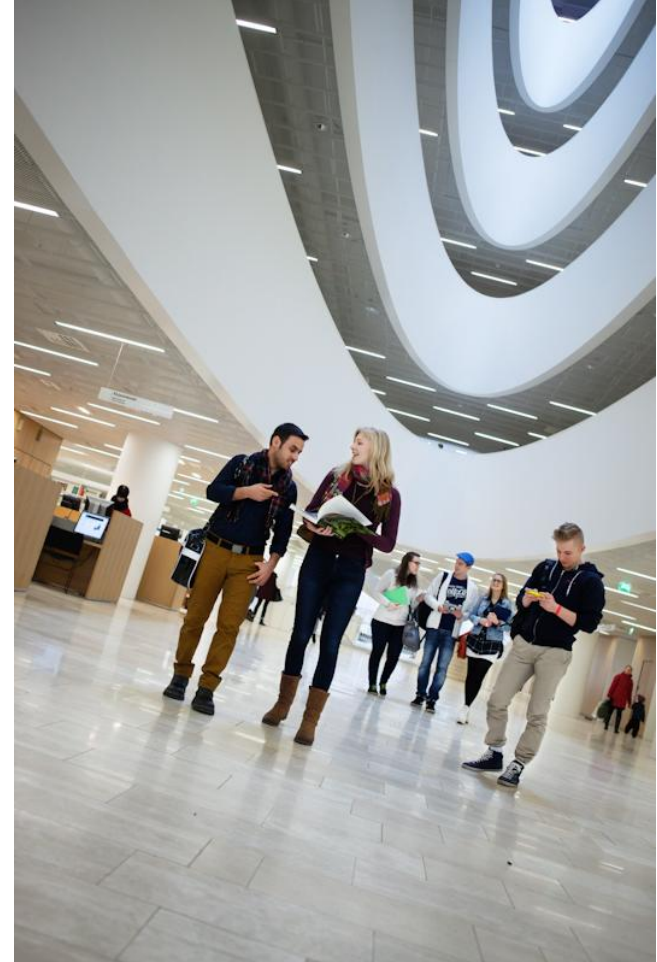
# Will you gain academic recognition for your mobility period abroad? Answers for partial or no recognition

## Partial:

- Recognised as **additional supplementary studies** or **language** studies
- Included only **in a separate diploma**, not in the actual degree
- **Exams** still have to be passed at the home university

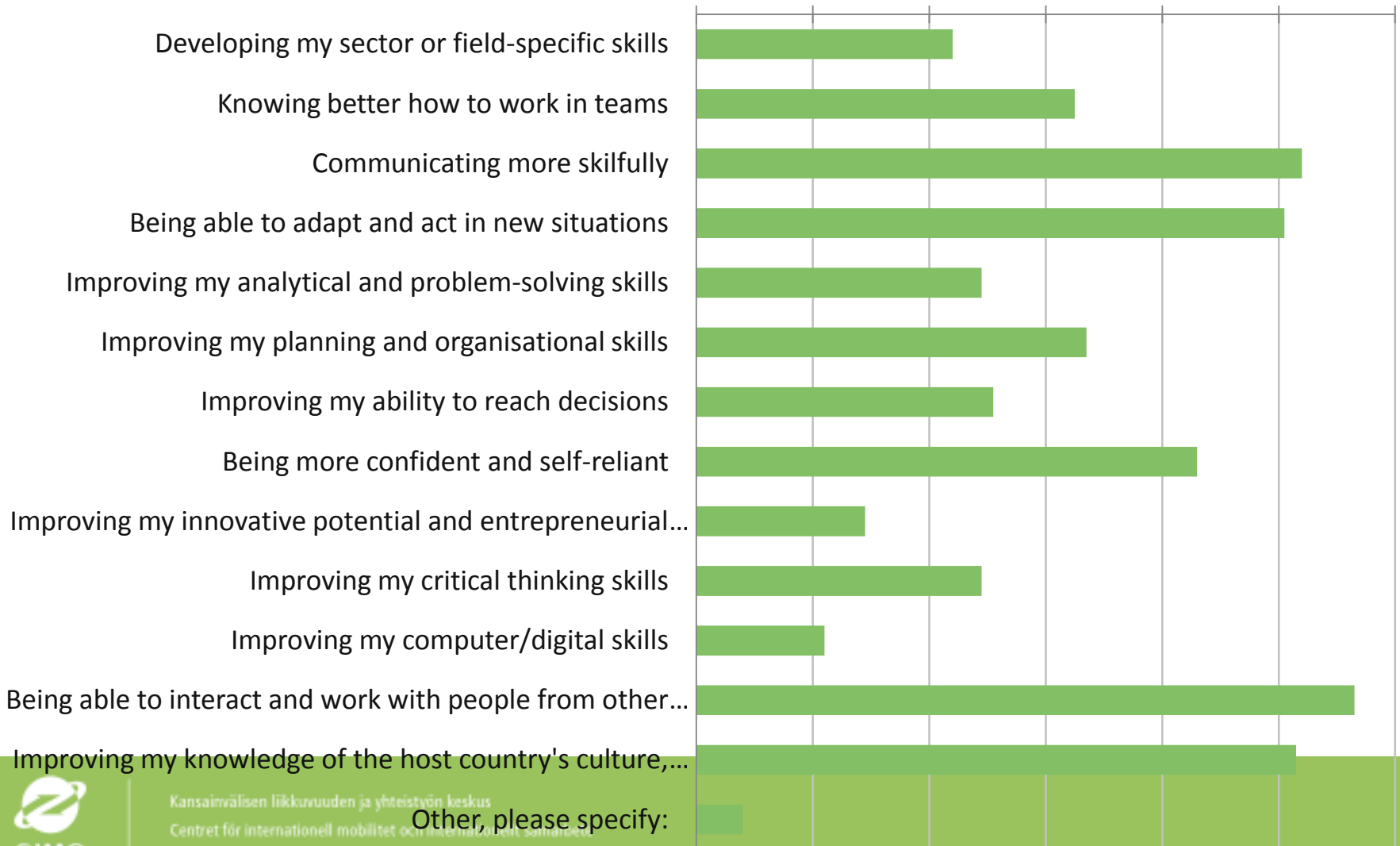
## No recognition:

- **ECTS not accepted** in Russia
- **Courses, study plan differ** from the ones at the home HEI
- **All exams need to be taken again:** a lot of extra work
- **“My university did not pay attention on my results”**

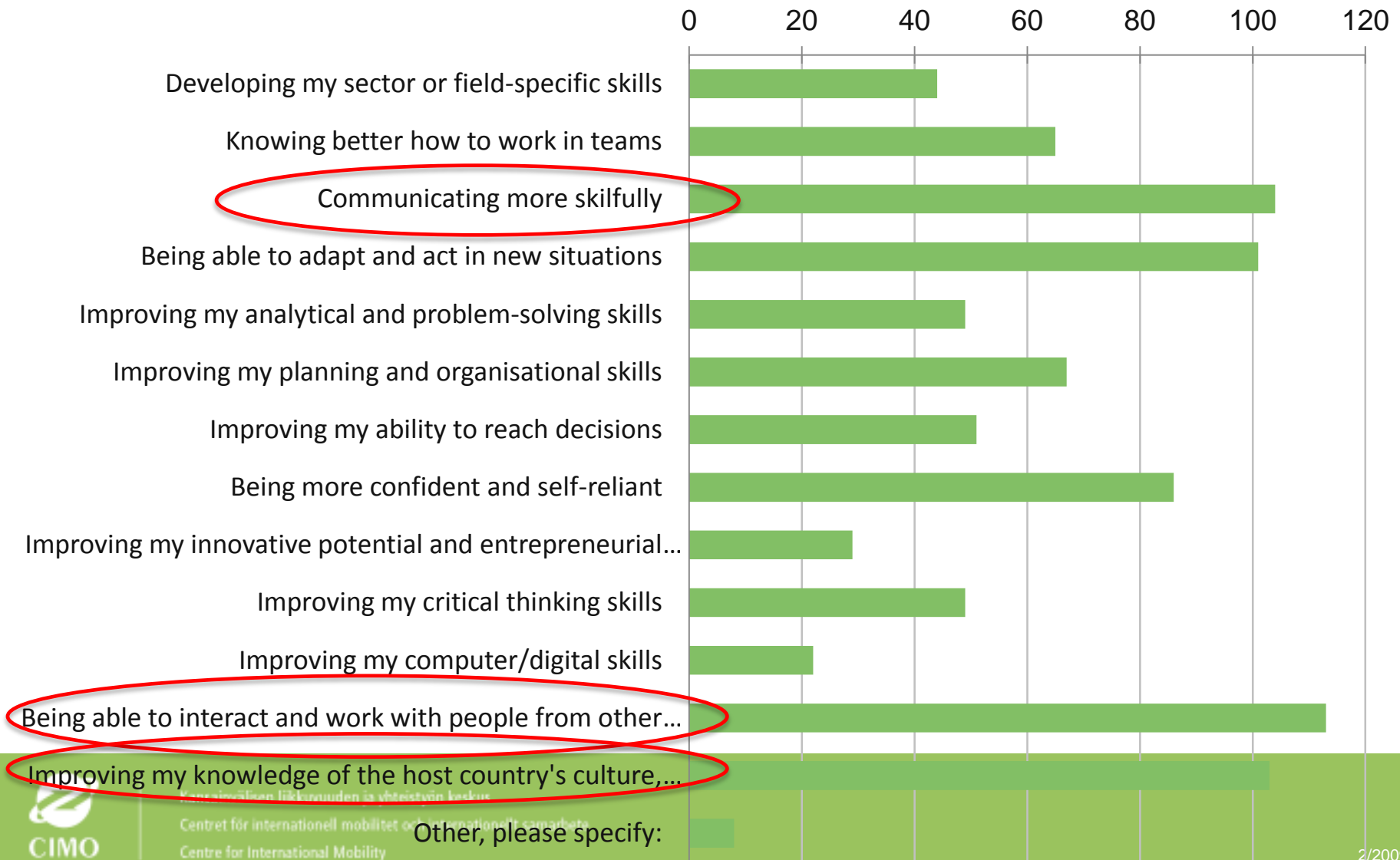


# Evaluation of the **personal outcome** of the FIRST student exchange period - please rate the following skills as to how you feel that they improved by your mobility period abroad (N=146)

0 20 40 60 80 100 120



Evaluation of the **personal outcome** of the FIRST student exchange period - please rate the following skills as to how you feel that they improved by your mobility period abroad (N=146)



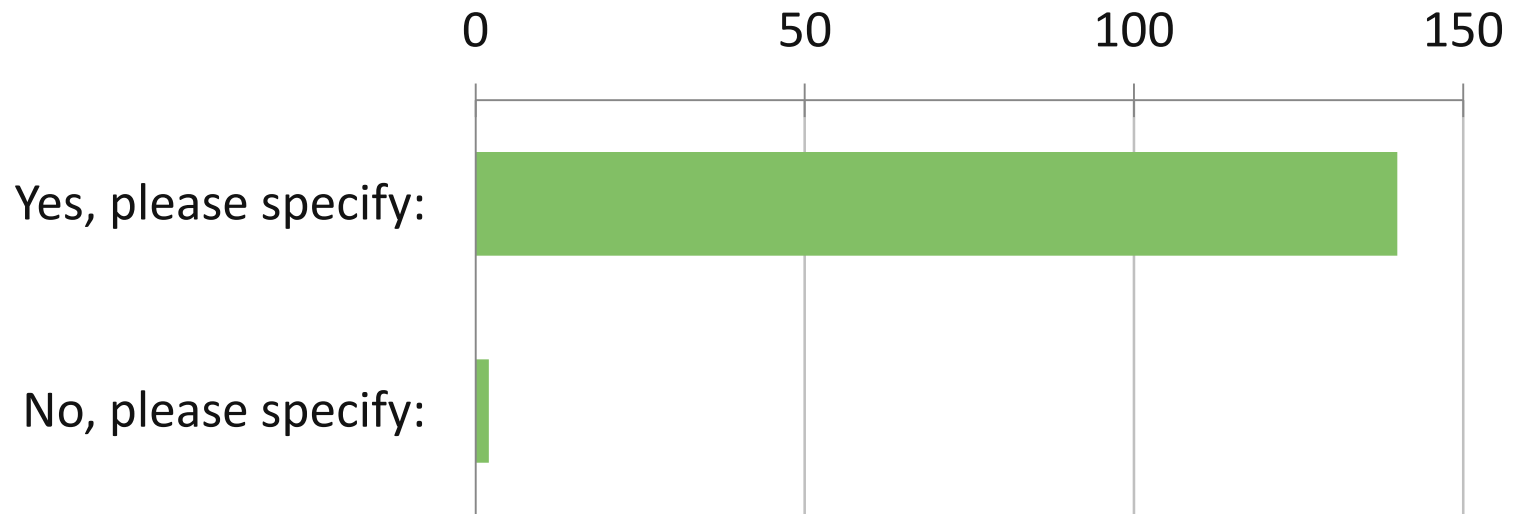


# What was **best** in your FIRST student **exchange experience**?

(N=134)

- Improving language skills
- "people, people, people..."
- New ways of learning (team-work etc.)
- "possibility to choose courses and collect as much as you could fit to 24 hours"
- Adapting in a new society

# Would you recommend FIRST exchange to fellow students? (N=142)



**Would you recommend FIRST  
exchange to fellow students?  
(N=142)**

”It’s your possibility to find yourself”  
”It was the best 5 months of my life!”

”It’s a good way to look at the home  
academic system from outside”

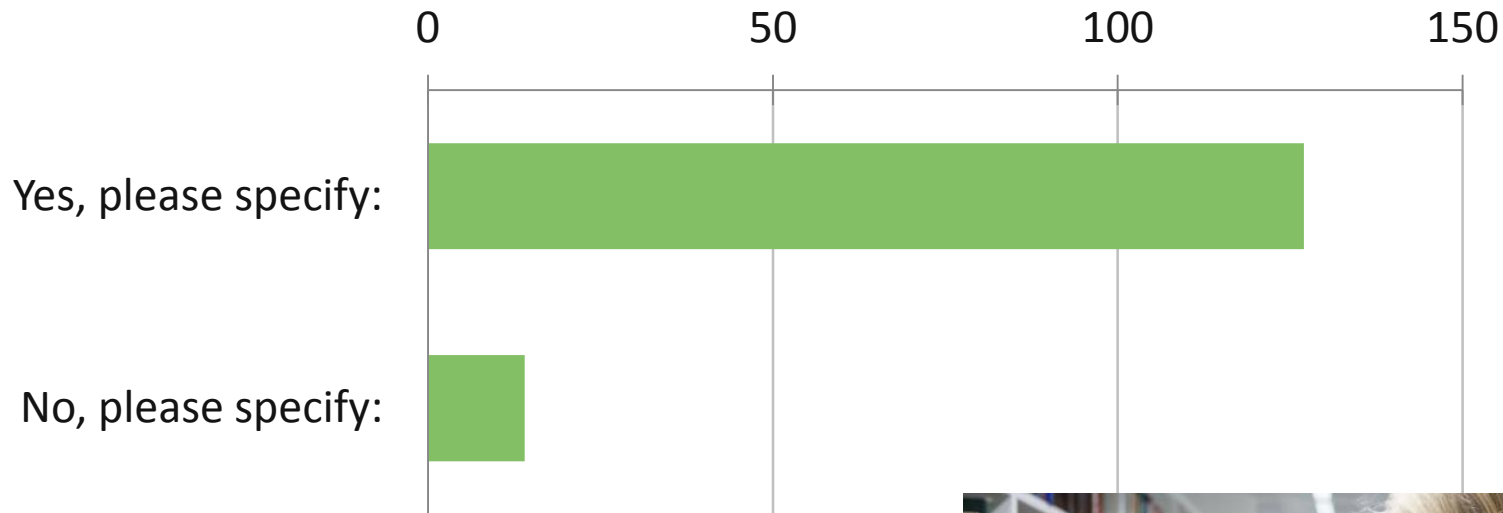
”It’s great to try and experience  
absolutely other studying  
environment”

”It will change your whole life”

”I was happy abroad as bird in its  
flying”



# Do you think the FIRST student exchange will affect your future career plans? In which way? (N=141)



Do you think the FIRST student exchange will affect your **future career plans**? In which way?

(N=141)



- Improved **language skills** are beneficial for a career in many companies, especially international companies
- "Career plans turn more **international**"
- International study experience is helpful in getting a position in an international company
- Ability to **work in teams** is appreciated by employers
- A positive exchange experience leads to a continuation of **degree studies abroad**

# Conclusions

- Student experiences are extremely positive but the study period abroad remains "extra-curricular activity"



**How to improve recognition?**

# Extended European Recognition Manual

- Published (April 1st 2014)
- An instrument that will help institutions to further improve the quality of admission and recognition.
- The EAR HEI manual is freely accessible at <http://www.eurorecognition.eu/News.aspx>

The European Recognition Manual  
for  
Higher Education Institutions

Practical guidelines  
for credential evaluators  
and admissions officers  
to provide fair and flexible recognition  
of foreign qualifications  
and periods of study abroad

# Thank you!

## Questions?

Contact:

[outi.jappinen@cimo.fi](mailto:outi.jappinen@cimo.fi)

[erasmus@cimo.fi](mailto:erasmus@cimo.fi)

