Public attitudes towards mobility 2021

Survey Report, April 2021

Implemented by STEM/MARK exclusively for the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research

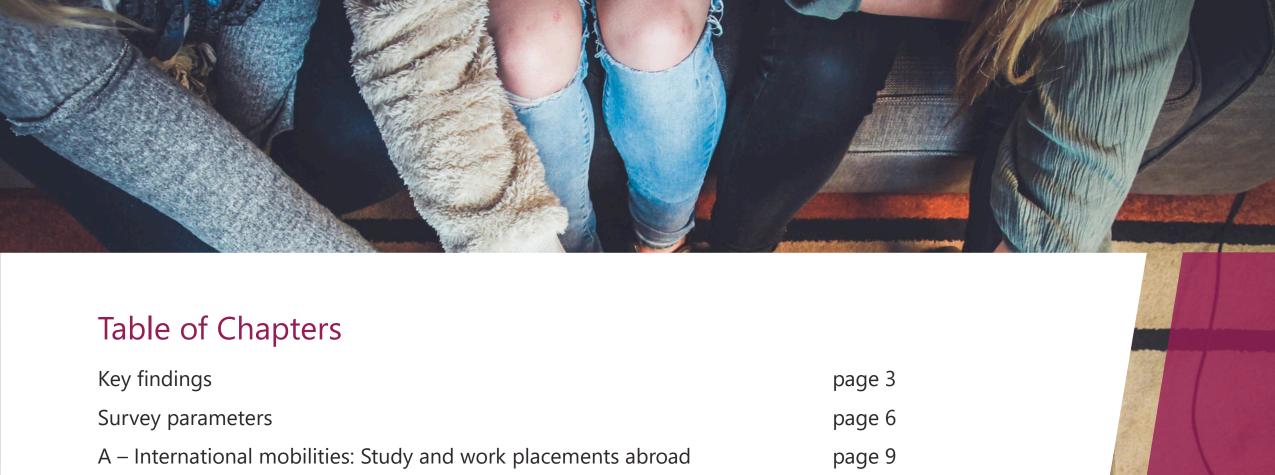












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Key findings – Study and work placements abroad

Czech society generally perceives travel as a good thing and overwhelmingly agrees with both secondary and higher education students completing study or work periods abroad.

In particular, the stays teach students to be independent, improve their work and study opportunities, and are completed by successful people. Exchanges are seen as beneficial to Czech economy, but more information should be provided about the advantages of having foreign students here.

Most people appreciate the free movement of persons within the EU, support the possibility of completing a period abroad, and do not share the negative perceptions of EU membership. However, only a minority of the population is currently satisfied with the functioning of democracy in the Czech Republic.



Key findings – **Support programmes**

One fifth of the respondents know the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS), but only a minority know exactly what it does.

More than half of the respondents have heard about Erasmus+ (with a quarter spontaneously mentioning Erasmus/Erasmus+ as the best-known study/work programme).

Mostly, people tend to associate the Erasmus+ programme with secondary or higher education students, there is less awareness of its potential use for other groups.

Less than one tenth of them have completed a study or work period abroad. These were typically arranged through Erasmus+ because it is interesting, beneficial or was offered by someone, information was obtained at school or from fellow students/colleagues. The period abroad primarily improved foreign language proficiency and independence, and in most cases there were no complications or, where relevant, administrative obstacles were encountered.

Less than half of respondents aged up to 59 years expressed an interest in participating in a period abroad in the future, these mainly include work placements or periods, language stays or teaching periods, and work abroad. Those interested mainly look for information about periods abroad on the internet, and they expect to improve their language proficiency and gain experience. They cite lack of funds and family commitments as obstacles.

Overall, a fifth of Czechs have lived abroad for at least a month, and half of them speak a foreign language at least at an intermediate level, most often English, Russian or German.



Key findings – **Sustainable behaviour within mobilities**

About a quarter of Czechs correctly understand the notion of sustainable or responsible travel, but active interest in this topic is rare. In part, lack of information is an obstacle, but two-fifths admit outright that they are not interested in this topic.

It would be helpful for information on sustainable tourism to be better published and especially promoted, only a minority of respondents are satisfied in this respect. At least half of them would appreciate tips, recommendations and information on sustainable travel options, especially on the internet (web or blog).

Efforts to reduce the negative impacts of personal travel are cited by a fifth of people aged up to 59 years, and they mainly include maintaining cleanliness, using public transport or walking, sorting and minimising waste. However, less than one-tenth of respondents actually make transport choices depending on the environmental impact of the means of transport. Both transport and accommodation decisions are made primarily based on price, followed by other factors (safety, convenience, etc.), with environmental impacts being the least important.

The willingness to follow the rules of sustainable behaviour is greater in the Czech Republic than when travelling. Nowadays, it is more common to sort and minimise waste, prevent wasting food, conserve natural resources and eliminate plastic. On the other hand, steps such as volunteering, limiting meat intake, offsetting the personal carbon footprint, or buying fair trade products are still used less frequently.

With respect to those who are actually interested in completing a study or work period abroad, most of them state they are willing to follow the principles of sustainable behaviour during their period abroad. Some of them would appreciate specific examples.



Key findings – **Expatriates**

The majority of Czechs have heard of foreign communities of Czech expatriates, one-fifth can name specific ones. Especially those in the USA, the Banat in Romania and Ukraine are well-known.

One third are aware of Czech language teaching abroad.

The majority of respondents agree with the government's support for expatriates and for teaching Czech abroad.



Survey parameters

Objective of the survey

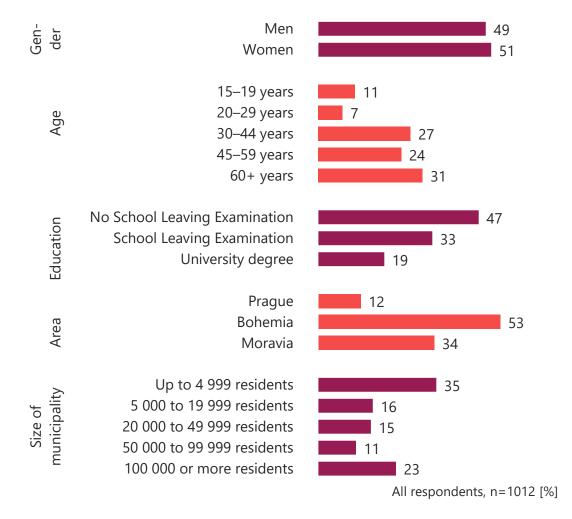
- To determine the perception of periods abroad
- To determine interest in such periods, their benefits and potential barriers to participation
- To determine the willingness to travel sustainably

Target group

- Czech population aged 15+
- Representative by gender, age, education, region, size of place of residence

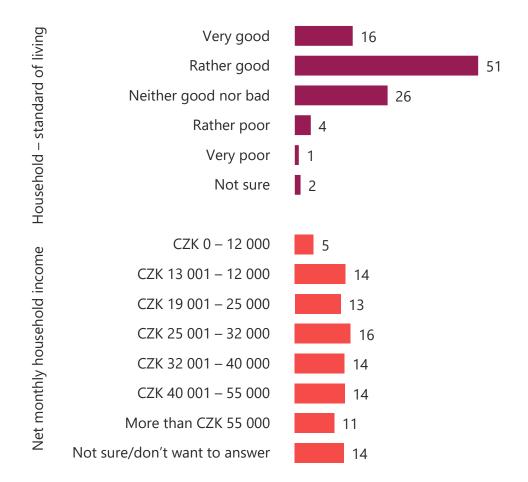
Details of the field survey

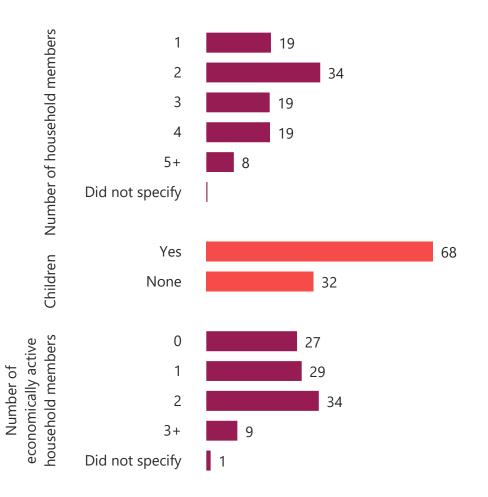
- Methodology: a combination of CAWI and CATI interviews
- Number of interviews conducted: 1012
- Data collection period: 18–27 March 2021
- Sampling method: quota sampling
- Data: unweighted





Social structure



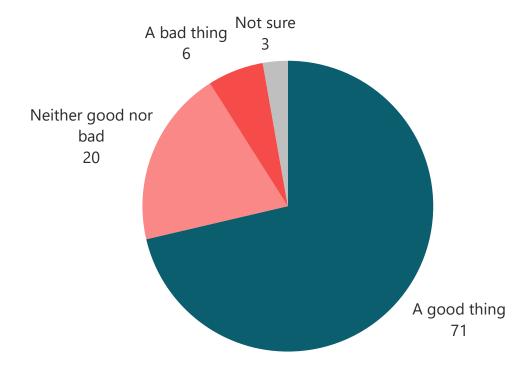




All respondents, n=1012 [%]



Attitude towards travel in general



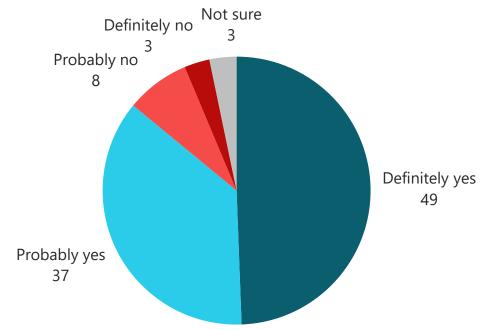
- Almost ¾ of people consider travelling abroad to be positive. These are more likely to be people with a good standard of living, a higher income and a higher education attainment (at least the School Leaving Examination), and either in the youngest (20–29 years) or the oldest (60+ years) age groups. By contrast, their opinion is not influenced by their gender, size of municipality or self-governing region
- ☐ This attitude is further reflected in other issues. People who perceive travel as a positive thing are also more likely to agree with study/work periods for secondary and higher education students and their benefits both for the participant and the country (see the following pages)

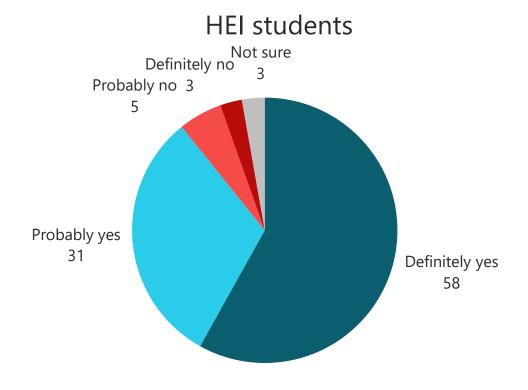


Students' periods abroad

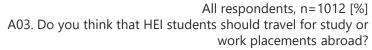
☐ The majority of respondents agree with both secondary and higher education students completing periods abroad

Secondary school students

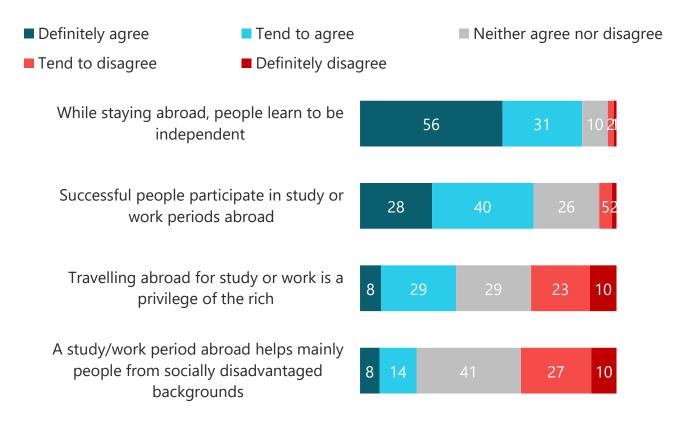








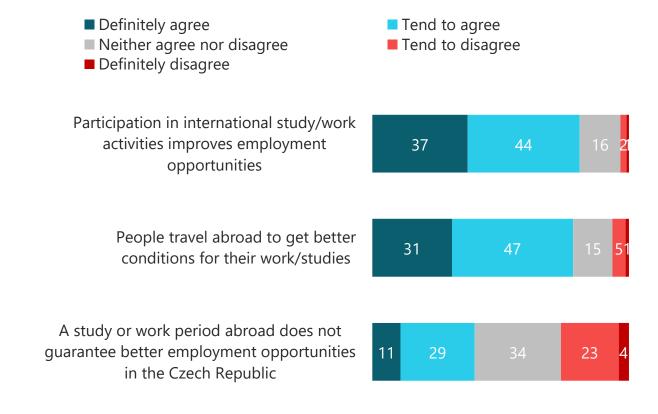
Perception of periods abroad (1)



- Periods abroad are perceived by the majority as programmes that teach independence and are for successful people
- Periods abroad are not perceived by the majority as programmes that are dependent on economic situation, i.e. for rich or poor people. The minority of respondents who believe that periods abroad are for the rich are more likely to be people without the School Leaving Examination, with a lower income and a poor standard of living



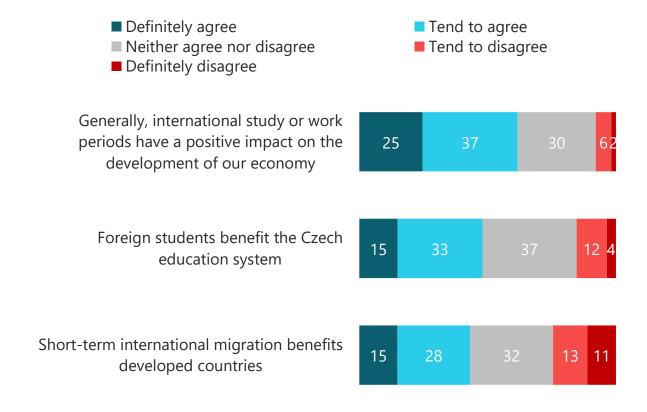
Perception of periods abroad (2)



- Periods abroad are perceived by the majority as programmes that improve participants' future opportunities (both for study and work) and are completed by people who are motivated to improve their future chances in this respect
- ☐ The positive effect of periods abroad is more often cited by people aged 60+ and people from Prague



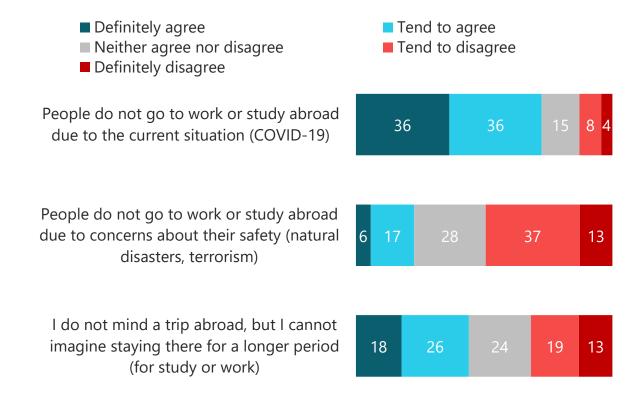
Perception of periods abroad (3)



- ☐ The positive effect of exchange periods on the domestic economy is cited by more than half of respondents
- □ However, the benefits to our education system and the overall usefulness of these periods are not cited by more than half and there is room for improvement of public information
- ☐ The positive effect on the economy and education in the Czech Republic is more often confirmed by people with a good standard of living. Conversely, people with a lower standard of living and a lower income are more likely to disagree with the overall usefulness of exchange periods



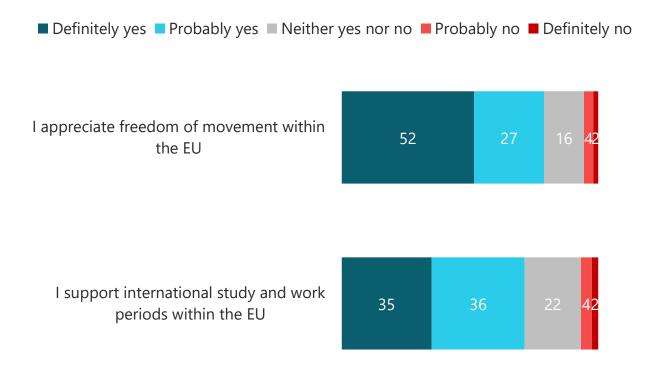
Perception of periods abroad (4)



- □ According to most people, students do not travel for study periods abroad due to the pandemic. By contrast, concerns about terrorism or disasters do not restrict travel
- Only two out of five respondents could imagine a longer period abroad. These are more often young people under 29, people with the School Leaving Examination, people with a good standard of living and a higher income



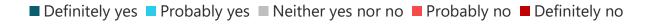
Perception of Czech membership in the EU (1)



- ☐ The free movement of persons and the possibility of work/study periods abroad is perceived by the majority as a positive thing
- □ Positive views are more likely expressed by men, people up to 19 or 60+ years old, people with the School Leaving Examination or a university degree, people from big cities – especially Prague, people with a good standard of living and people with a higher income



Perception of Czech membership in the EU (2)



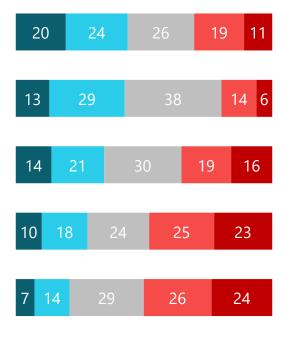
EU membership has resulted in the influx of foreigners and poor immigrants into our country.

Accession to the EU has mainly benefited young people.

For people in the Czech Republic, EU membership brings more disadvantages than advantages.

The Czech Republic's membership in the EU threatens Czech culture.

Since EU accession, the standard of living has declined and social conditions have deteriorated.



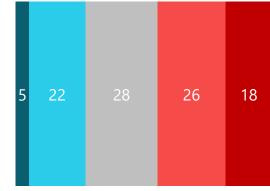
- The negative views that membership has brought immigration, more disadvantages, threats to our culture and worsening conditions are shared by a smaller (but not insignificant) proportion of respondents
- □ Such beliefs are more often held by people 45+ years old, with a lower income, lower standard of living and lower education (these people have probably not benefited from membership in any way and their lives have not improved)



Perception of Czech membership in the EU (3)

■ Definitely yes ■ Probably yes ■ Neither yes nor no ■ Probably no ■ Definitely no

I am satisfied with the functioning of democracy in the Czech Republic.



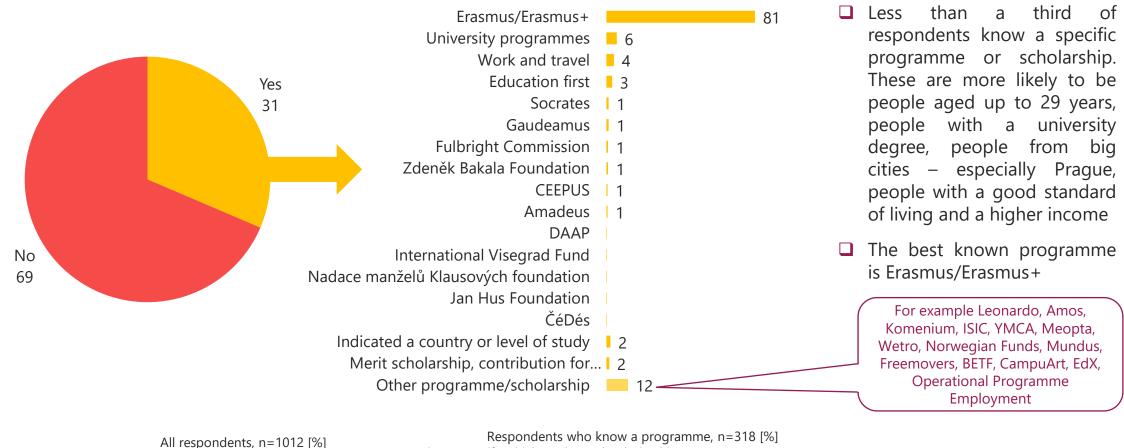
- Only a quarter of respondents are satisfied with the functioning of democracy
- People aged up to 19 years and those with a good standard of living are more likely to be satisfied.
- □ Conversely, people over 20 and those with a lower standard of living are more likely to be dissatisfied. This view is unrelated to the attitudes towards the EU that have been tested (there is a very weak negative correlation with the view that membership has lowered the standard of living, brought disadvantages and threatened our culture) and it is widespread among both supporters and opponents of EU membership





PART B – MOBILITIES AND THEIR SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Knowledge of specific study and work programmes



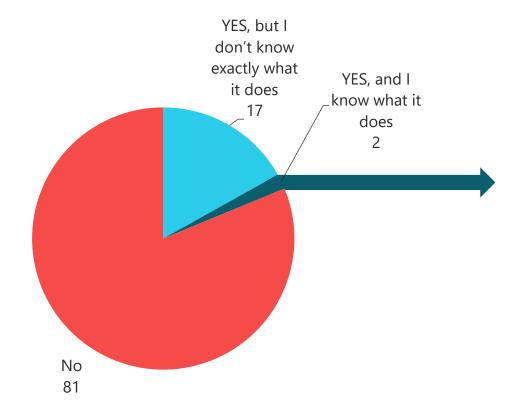


B01. Do you know any specific study/work scholarships

or programmes?

Knowledge of the Czech National Agency for International Education and

Research (DZS)



One in five respondents have already heard of DZS. More often, these are people aged up to 29 years

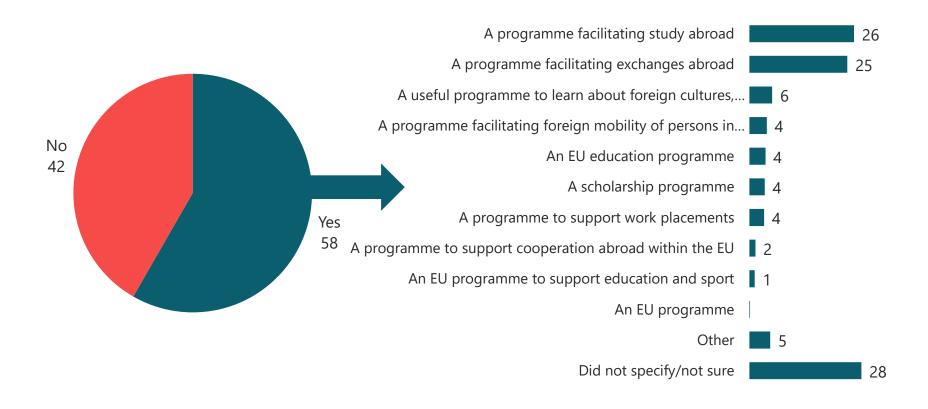
"It awards scholarships" "It organises periods abroad" "It helps get grants" "It contributes funds for exchange periods" "It arranges international cooperation"

All respondents, n=1012 [%]

B03. Have you ever heard of the Centre for International Cooperation in Education, a semi-budgetary organisation under the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports?



Knowledge of Erasmus+ and its focus



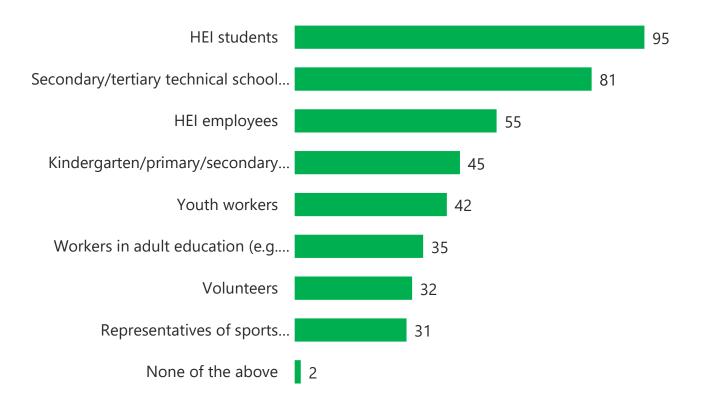
- □ Almost 6 out of 10 respondents know the programme. These are more likely to be people aged up to 29 years, people with a School Leaving Examination or a university degree, people from big cities especially Prague, people with a good standard of living and a higher income
- People most often said that it was a programme for study or exchange periods abroad
- Several people said they did not know Erasmus+ but they knew Erasmus (question B02)

All respondents, n=1012 [%] B05. Have you ever heard of the current European Union programme called Erasmus+?

Respondents who have heard of Erasmus+, n=590 [%] B06. How would you briefly describe the Erasmus+ programme?



Who is Erasmus+ for

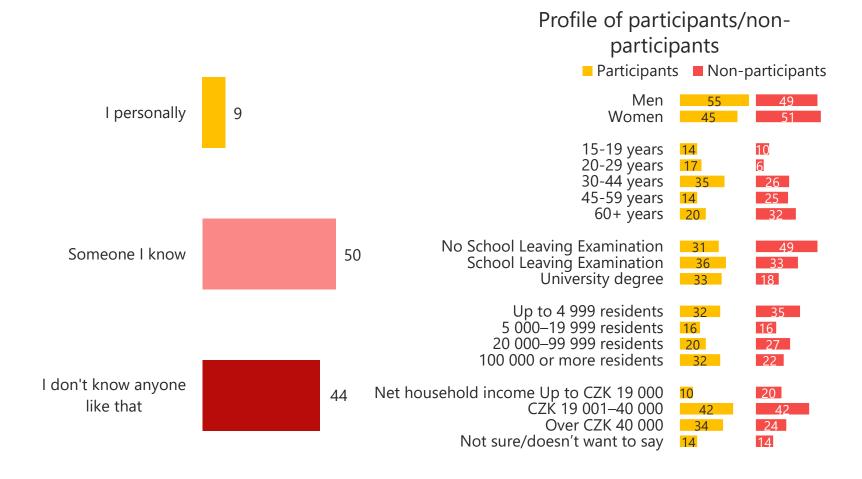


Respondents who have heard of Erasmus+, n=590 [%] B08. Who do you think may use the Erasmus+ programme to support a study or work period abroad?

- The majority are aware of the possibilities for secondary and higher education students
- Awareness of opportunities for other groups is significantly lower. Awareness does not depend on the social factors under review, except for age:
- Young people aged 15–19 years are more likely to know about the possibilities for kindergarten, primary and secondary school teachers (i.e. their teachers)
- ☐ Young people aged 20–29 years are more likely to know about the possibilities for HEI teachers (i.e. their teachers)



Participation in a study or work period abroad



- Nearly one in ten respondents completed a period abroad
- ☐ These are more likely to be men, younger people (under 44), people with a university degree, people from big cities and people with a higher income



All respondents, n=1012 [%] B09. Do you personally know someone who has completed a study or work period abroad?

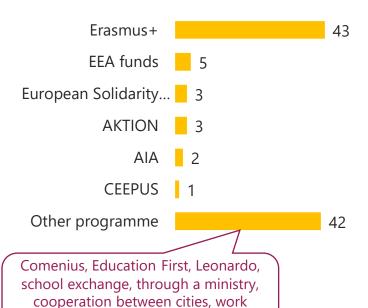
Respondents who have completed a period abroad, n=88 Respondents who have not completed a period abroad, n=924

Information about a completed period abroad (1).

`Hálf of participants went abroad through Erasmus+.

Participants learned about the programme mainly at school or from peers



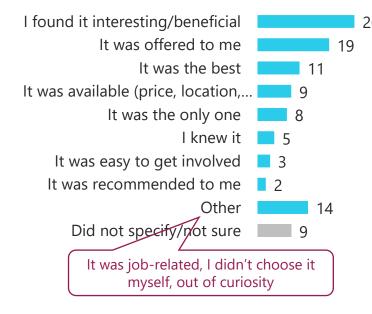


Respondents who have completed a period abroad, n=88 [%] B10. Under which programme(s) did you go for a period abroad?

placement, it was not a programme,

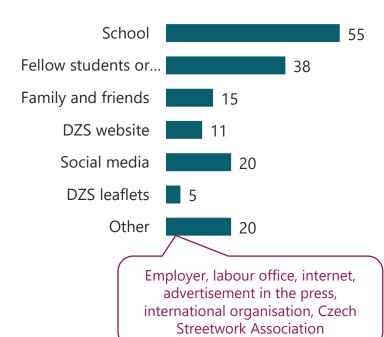
self-funded trip, or doesn't know

The reason for this programme



Respondents who have completed a period abroad, n=88 [%] B10A. Why did you choose this programme or programmes?

Source of information about the mobility

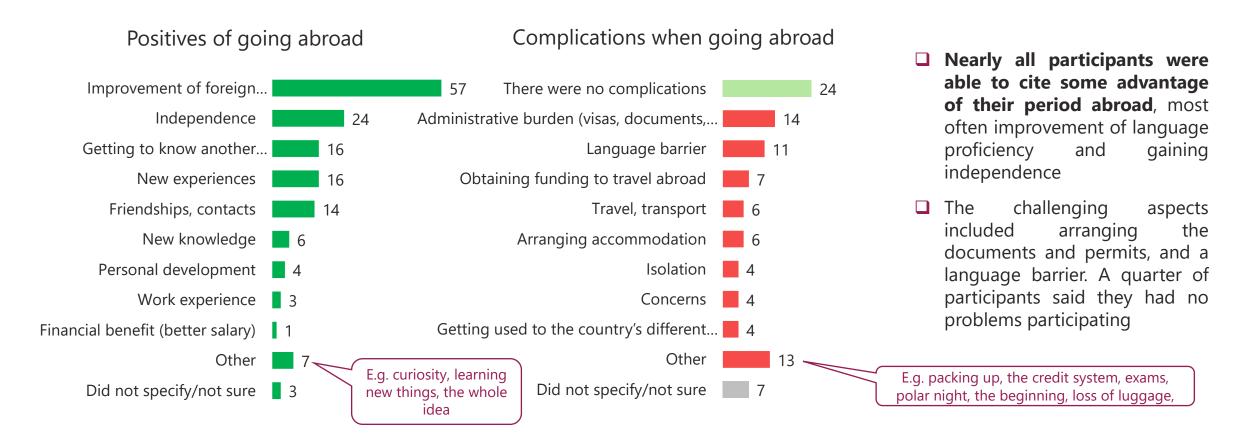


Respondents who have completed a period abroad, n=88 [%] B11. Where did you get information about your options to

go abroad?



Information about a completed period abroad (2)

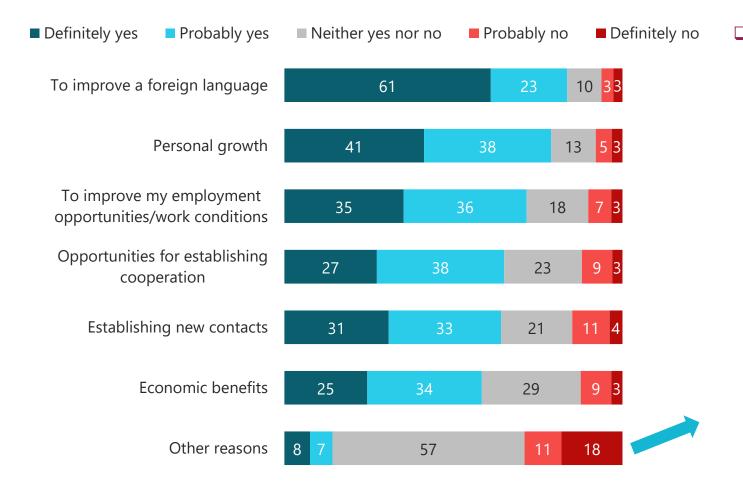


Respondents who have completed a period abroad, aged under 60 years, n=70 [%] B11b. What do you see as the main positives of your going abroad?

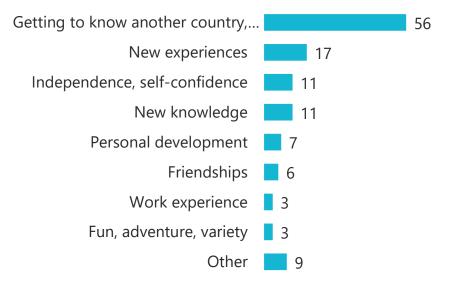
Respondents who have completed a period abroad, aged under 60 years, n=70 [%] B11c. What was the most challenging thing about going abroad?



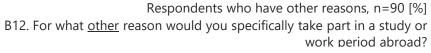
Motivation for participation, if relevant



☐ All of these reasons are strong motivators for potential participation. Respondents would expect to improve their language and other skills, improve their job prospects and salary, and establish cooperation and contacts

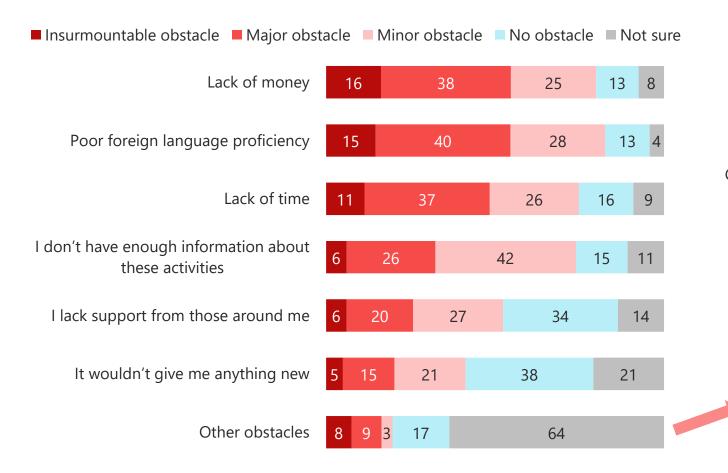


Respondents who have not completed a period abroad, aged under 60 years, n=632 [%] B12. For what reasons would you specifically take part in a study or work period abroad?

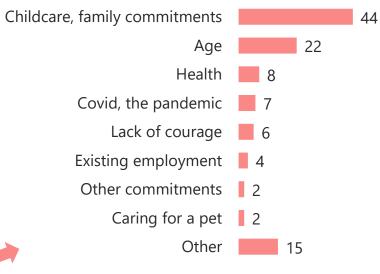




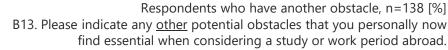
Barriers to possible participation



☐ Half of respondents perceived funding, a language barrier and a lack of time as significant obstacles. The other listed barriers tend not to be a problem for most respondents (or they are unable to rate them)



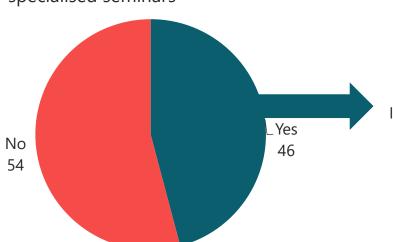
Respondents under 60 years of age, n=702 [%] B13. Please rate the following potential obstacles that you personally now find essential when considering a study or work period abroad.

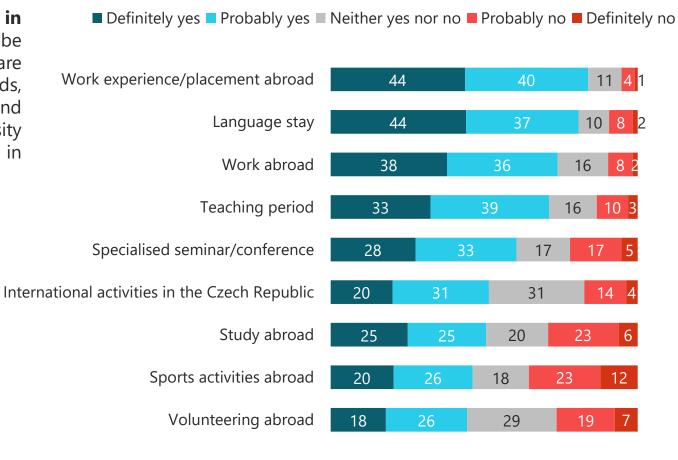




Interest in participating in the future

■ Nearly half of respondents are interested in participating. These are more likely to be young people aged up to 29 years – they are interested in work placements, study periods, specialised seminars, sports activities and volunteering. Also, people with a university degree are more likely to be interested in specialised seminars





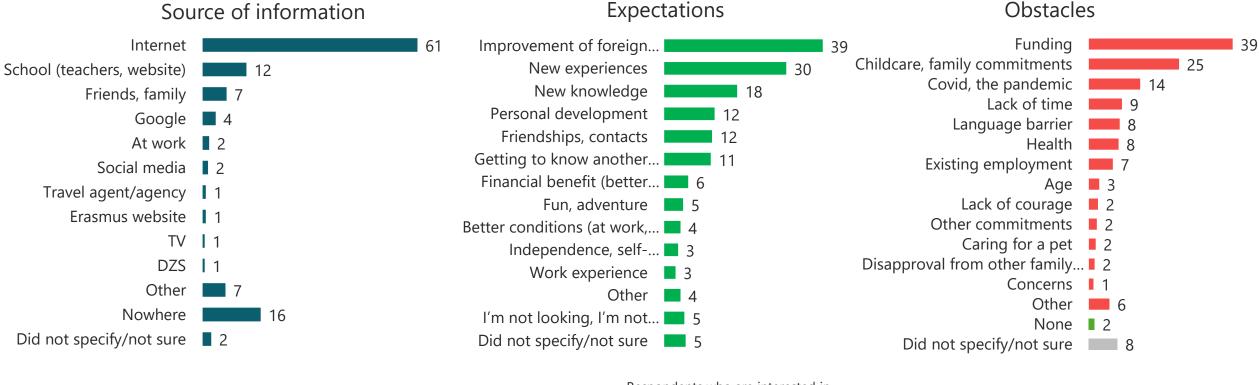
Respondents under 60 years of age, n=702 [%] B14. Would you be interested in participating in a study/work period abroad in the future?

Respondents who are interested in participating, n=322 [%] B14A. Would you be interested in participating in any of the following activities in the future?



Activities and expectations of potential participants

□ Those interested in participating mainly look for information on the internet or at school (nearly a fifth do not look for information at all). During their period abroad, they expect to improve their language and other skills, gain experiences, and learn about the people and the country. The main obstacles include funding and family commitments. Age and health were more likely cited by people 45+, finances by people under 29, family commitments or employment by people 30–44 years of age

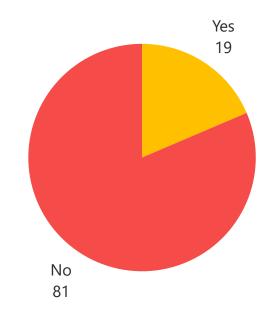


Respondents who are interested in participating in the future, n=322~[%] B14b. Where do you look for information about your options to go abroad?

Respondents who are interested in participating in the future, n=322 [%] B14c. What do you expect from going abroad?

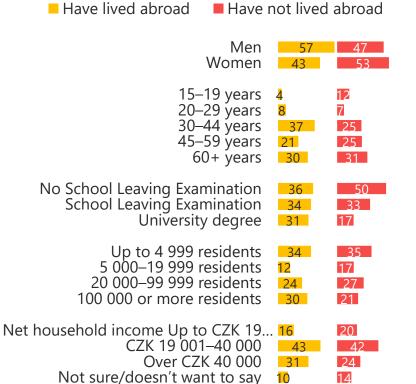
Respondents who are interested in participating in the future, n=322 [%] B14d. What obstacles could possibly complicate your going abroad?

Life abroad



All respondents, n=1012 [%] B15. Have you lived in a foreign country (i.e. for more than 1 month)?

Profile of people who have/have not lived abroad for a longer period of time



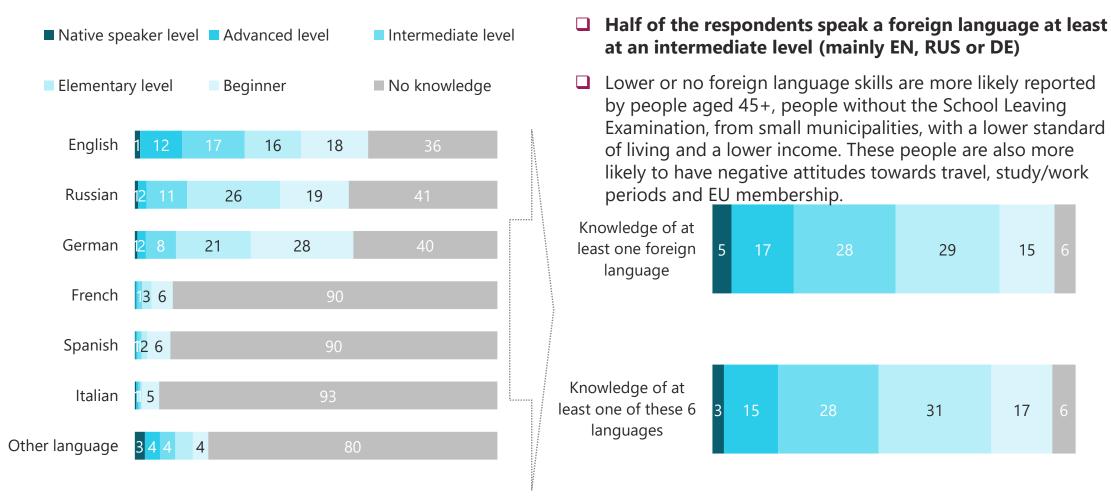
Respondents who have lived abroad, n=88 Respondents who have not lived abroad, n=924 [%]

- Nearly one fifth of respondents had lived abroad for a longer period of time
- These include a half of the participants in study and work periods abroad (question B9)*
- □ These are more likely to be men, people aged 30–44, people with a university degree, people from big cities – especially Prague and people with a higher income
- ☐ Their language skills are better than those of other people (see the charts on the following pages)
- □ They consider study/work periods to be beneficial for both society and individuals (question A4) and, in terms of EU membership, they appreciate free movement (question A5)



^{*} For the other half, the period was probably shorter than 1 month

Language skills





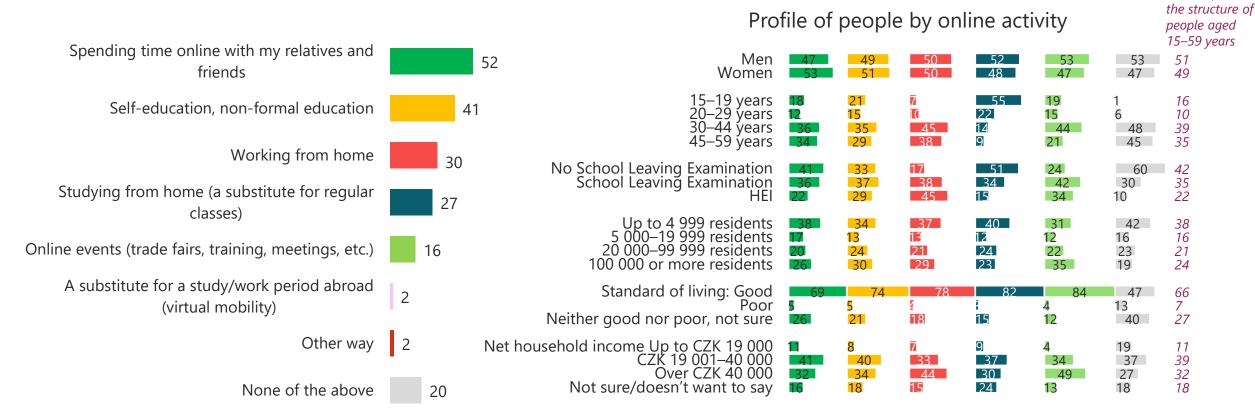
All respondents, n=1012 [%] B16. Please rate your current knowledge of languages

Online activities during the pandemic

☐ The online environment is now used for social networking, self-education and also for working and studying from home

Specific activities are related to age, educational attainment, standard of living and income, and municipality size (see the significant differences in structure compared to the structure of the population aged 15–59 in the last column)

For comparison,





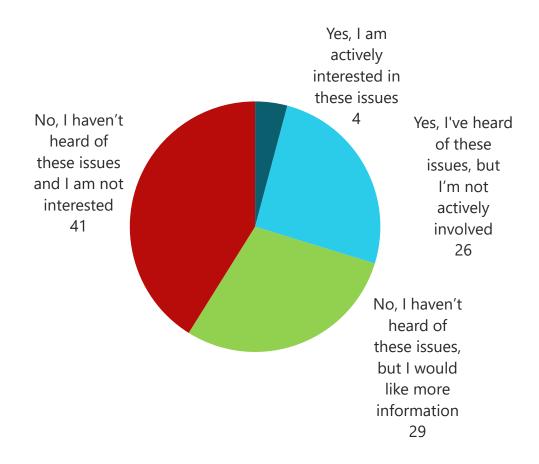
Respondents aged under 60, n=702 [%] B17. How do you use the online environment in the current COVID-19 pandemic situation?

Respondents who performed the online activities Contact with relatives/friends: n=368, self-education: n=287, working from home: n=209, studying from home: n=188, online events: n=113, none of the ways listed: n=139 [%]



PART C – SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOUR WITHIN MOBILITIES

Knowledge of the term "sustainable/responsible travel"



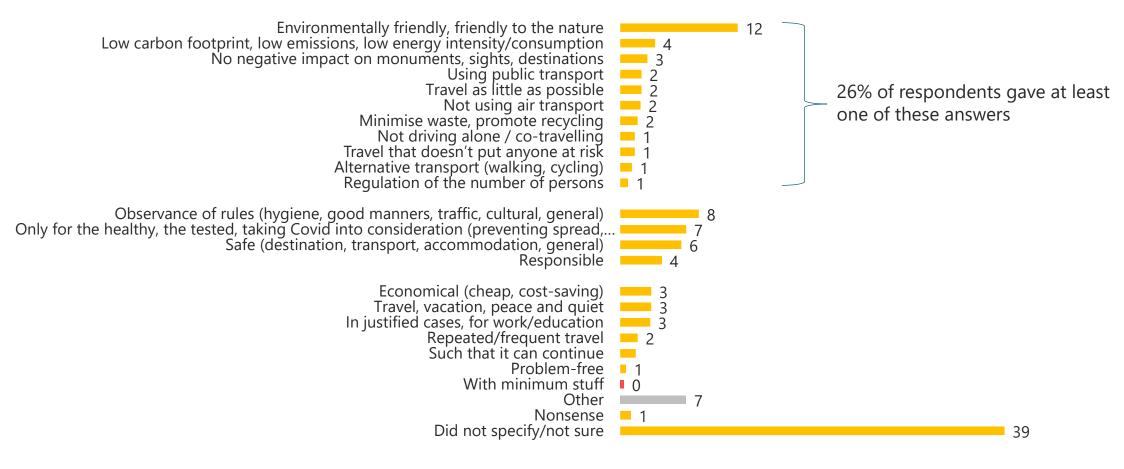
All respondents, n=1012 [%] C01. Are you familiar with the issue of sustainable or responsible travel?

- By their own admission, only 4% actively follow this issue, another quarter have heard of it and just over a quarter would appreciate more information about it
- Overall, about a quarter of respondents* have a correct understanding of this issue (see the detailed responses on the next page). These are more likely to be people aged 20–44 years, people with the School Leaving Examination or a university degree, people from big cities especially Prague, with a good standard of living and a higher income. In addition, these are also people who were more likely to say they were interested in the topic or had heard of it (but not all of them, a similar portion of these two groups had a correct understanding only 43%)



^{*}Correct understanding = at least one of the following options appeared in question C02: environmentally friendly behaviour, small carbon footprint, no negative impact on the location, use of public transport, travel as little as possible, do not use aircraft, minimum waste, do not drive, travel that poses no risk, alternative transport or regulation of passenger numbers

Knowledge of the term "sustainable/responsible travel"





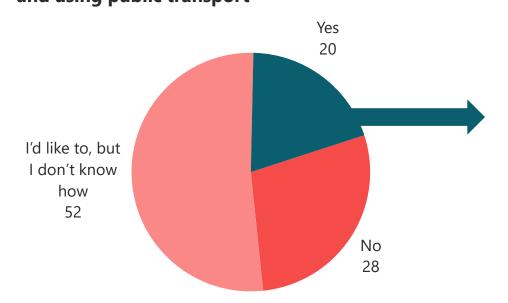
All respondents, n=1012 [%]

C02. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of sustainable or responsible travel?

Reducing the negative impacts of travel

☐ A fifth of respondents try to follow the rules (aged 15–59 years). These are more likely to be people with a university degree, people from Prague, with a good standard of living

■ The measures most often concern keeping the locations visited clean, and using public transport



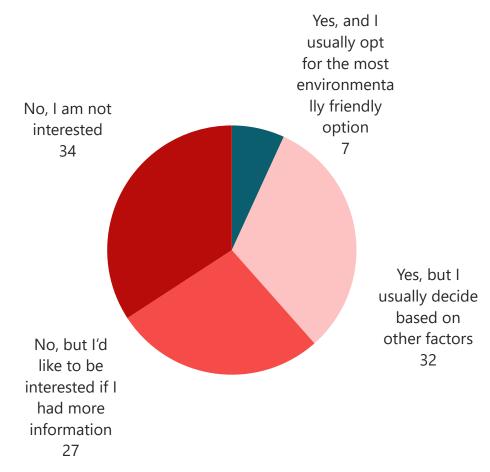


Respondents aged under 60 years, n=702 [%] C02b. When travelling, do you try to reduce your negative impact on the environment?

Respondents who try to reduce their negative environmental impact when travelling, n=138 [%] C02b. In what ways do you try to reduce your negative impact on the environment?



Reducing the negative impacts of travel when making transport choices

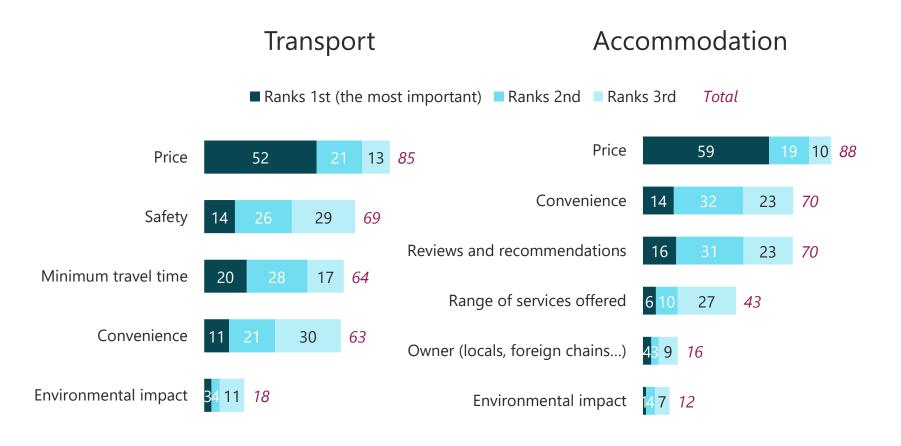


Respondents aged under 60 years, n=702 [%] C02c. Do you consider the negative impact on the environment when choosing your means of transport for travel?

- ☐ Just under a tenth of respondents always choose the most environmentally friendly option. Another third consider ecology but ultimately choose a different option. The others either are interested but lack information, or are not interested at all
- None of the social factors under review affect their attitude



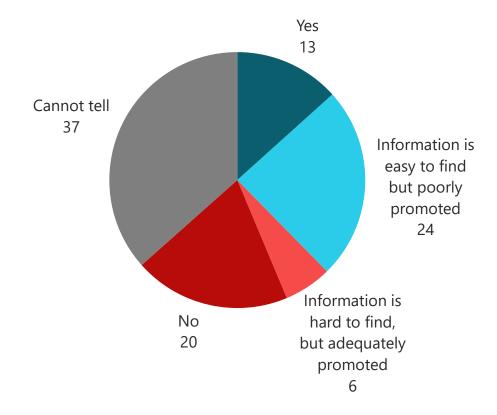
Priorities when choosing transport and accommodation



- Environmental impact is the lowest priority when choosing transport and accommodation
- Environmental considerations rank higher for 18% of respondents when choosing transport and 12% when choosing accommodation

Respondents aged under 60 years, n=702 [%] How important do you find the following factors when choosing your means of transport when travelling? Respondents aged under 60 years, n=702 [%] How important do you find the following factors when choosing your means of transport when travelling?

Availability of information on sustainable travel

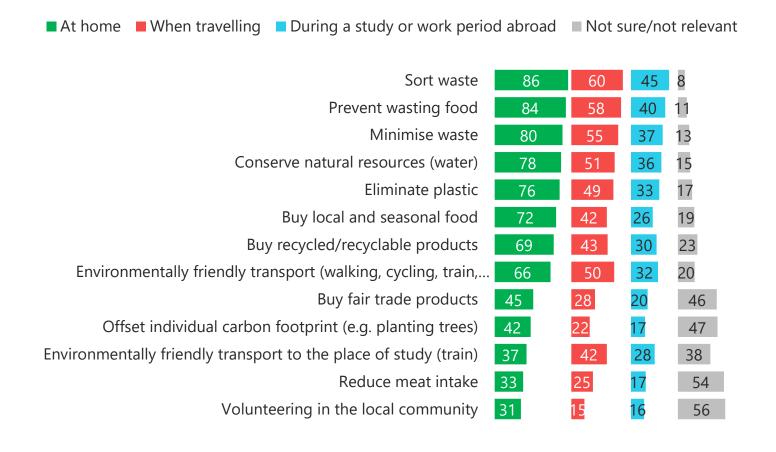


- Only 13% consider the information to be available and promoted => it would be useful to publicise/medialise the topic more
- ☐ A third of respondents consider this information to be available, these are more likely to be people aged 60+ and those without the School Leaving Examination
- ☐ A fifth of respondents consider it adequately promoted these are more likely to be people aged up to 29 years

All respondents, n=1012 [%] C02f. Do you feel that information on sustainable tourism is easy to find and adequately promoted?



Behaviour in different environments

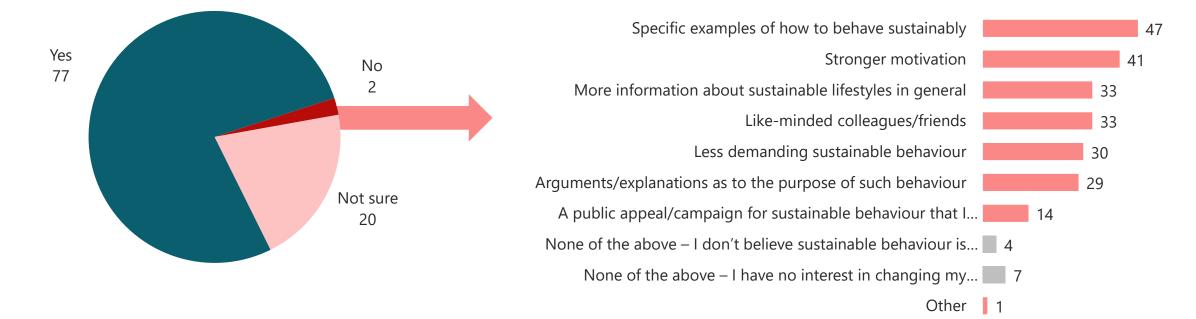


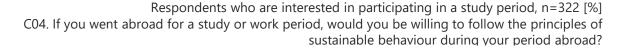
- People behave differently at home and when travelling
- While the majority minimise waste and plastic, do not waste food and save resources when at home, only a little more than half do so when travelling. Young people aged up to 29 years are willing to do most of the steps both at home and when travelling
- By contrast, slightly less than half of respondents do not take some steps at all – buying fair trade products, offsetting their carbon footprint, choosing environmentally friendly transport. Moreover, reducing meat consumption and volunteering are not done by more than half of respondents



Reducing negative impacts during a study period abroad

- ☐ The majority of those interested in a study/work period abroad state that they are willing to behave "sustainably"
- ☐ The minority who refuse to do so would need specific guidance and better motivation



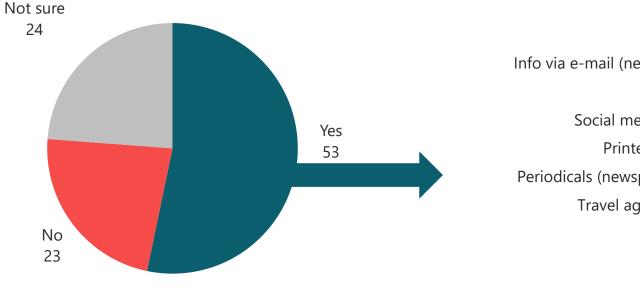


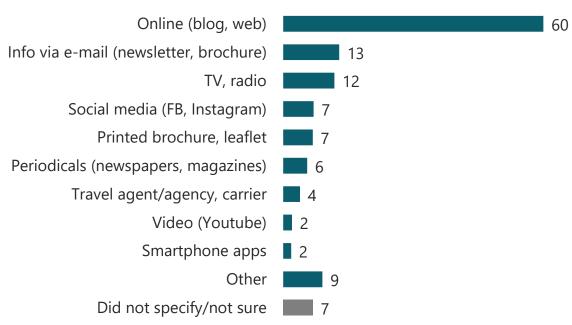
Respondents who are interested in a study period but are not willing to respect sustainable behaviour or are undecided, n=73 [%] C05. What would you make you change your behaviour in a sustainable way during your study or work period abroad?



Interest in specific information and its format

- Half of the respondents would appreciate information on sustainable travel these are more likely to be people aged 15–19 years
- ☐ The information could be available online or sent by e-mail. TV and radio, periodicals and travel agents were more likely to be indicated by people aged 60+ years, young people prefer social media, those aged 30–44 year prefer e-mail or smartphone apps





All respondents, n=1012 [%] C06. Would you appreciate tips, recommendations and information on sustainable travel options?

Respondents who would appreciate specific information on sustainable travel, n=539 [%] C07. What information source would you find convenient to get information on responsible travel and sustainable behaviour?

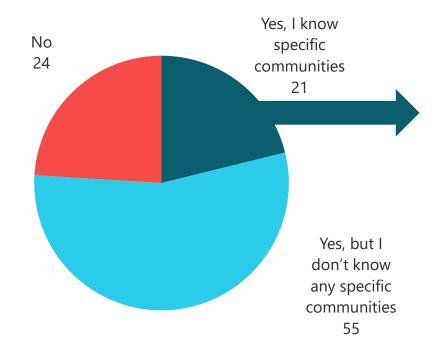


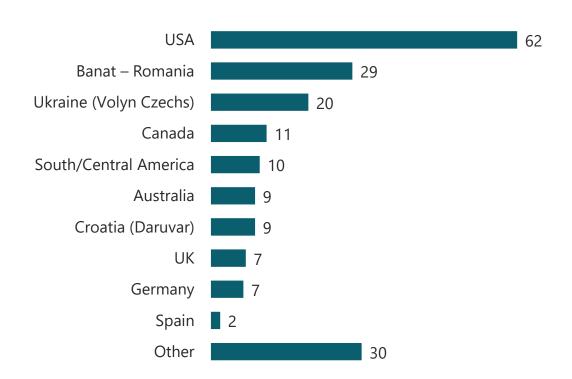


PART D – EXPATRIATES

Awareness of expatriate communities

- □ One-fifth of respondents are aware of foreign communities of Czechs. They have heard of communities in the USA and Romania
- ☐ People aged 60+ years are more likely to be aware of such communities





All respondents, n=1012 [%]

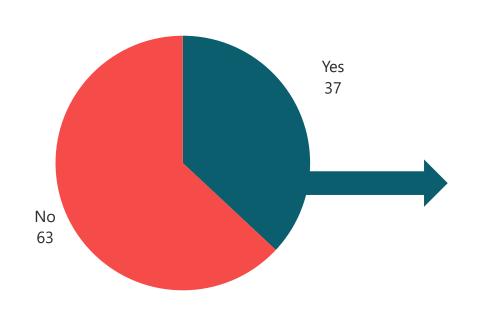
D01. Have you ever heard of Czech expatriate communities living permanently abroad?

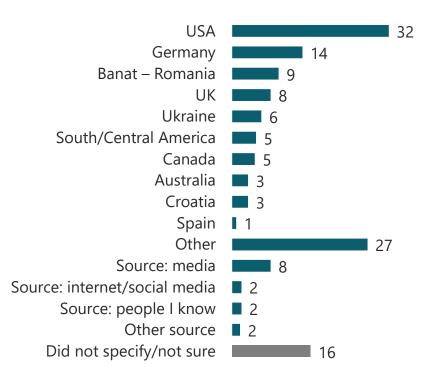
Respondents who know specific communities, n=214 [%] D01. Which Czech expatriate communities living permanently abroad have you heard of?



Awareness of Czech language teaching abroad

- ☐ More than a third of respondents are aware of the teaching of Czech abroad, mainly in the USA and Germany
- ☐ People aged 60+ years are more likely to be aware of it





All respondents, n=1012 [%] D02. Have you ever heard of the teaching of Czech language abroad?

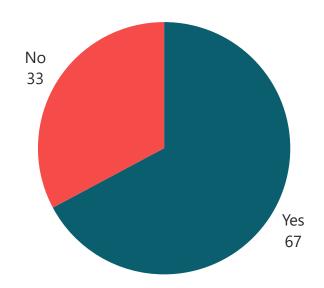
Respondents who have heard of the teaching of Czech language abroad, n=374 [%] D02. Where specifically did you hear of the teaching of Czech language abroad?



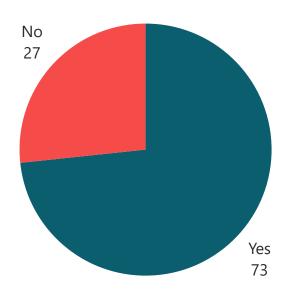
Support from the government of the Czech Republic

- ☐ A large proportion of respondents agree with support for expatriates
- Young people aged up to 19 years and those with a better standard of living are more likely to agree

for expatriates



for teaching Czech



All respondents, n=1012 [%] D03. In your opinion, should the government of the Czech Republic support expatriates

abroad?

All respondents, n=1012 [%] D04. In your opinion, should the government of the Czech Republic support the teaching of the Czech language internationally?



Survey conducted by, contact information

STEMZMARK



Smrčkova 2485/4, Praha 8



225 986 811



info@stemmark.cz



www.stemmark.cz



slideshare.net/stemmark



twitter.com/stemmark





Iva Ryznerová

Production Manager

+420 721 458 298 ryznerova@stemmark.cz

Zuzana Švalbová

Analyst

+420 737 455 462 svalbova@stemmark.cz



PRO VÝZKUM

NÁZORY MĚNÍ SVĚT

- ✓ We guarantee that the survey is not for sale
- ✓ We protect data
- ✓ We minimise the amount of data we collect and process
- √ We are transparent
- ✓ We have consent or other legal basis for processing.

- ✓ We never share data without explicit consent
- We respect respondents' rights
- We follow the rules of due professional care
- √ We accept responsibility for subcontractors
- ✓ We abide by our principles in practice



We help not only our clients















