ProSPER.Net Mobility Workshop
Strategies for Enhancing Academic Mobility Within the Network

A Summary Report

Introduction

The global call to action on sustainable development transitions higher education from the traditional "ivory tower", discipline-oriented paradigm into one of innovative problem solving and creating sustainable solutions. The new paradigm takes on the interplaying sustainability issues in an inter-trans-disciplinary, holistic fashion, and fostering and enabling this paradigm shift entails mainstreaming and institutionalizing academic mobility into higher education, thereby enriching academic offerings.

There are various forms of academic mobility programmes in higher education. This summary report reflects and highlights the results of a survey (see Annex) conducted during December 2022 to January 2023 by the *ProSPER.Net Expert Advisory Panel on Academic Mobility Programme* and the subsequent discussions at the *Workshop on Academic Mobility* held on 28 April 2023 organized by the Panel.

Student Mobility

ProsPER.Net members are generally engaged in student exchange programmes such as for *thesis in part conducted in another institution*, and participating in *short courses* organized by other institutions.

ProSPER.Net respondents would like to advance student mobility to also cover *credit-transfer arrangements* such as *student exchange* and *visiting student programmes* in which students earn credits for degree purposes from another institution. This would require *'credit-transfer agreements'* between institutions and would likely need ratification by the respective academic authoritative bodies of the member institutions.

Faculty/Researcher Mobility

The priorities are *visiting faculty/researcher arrangements*, *joint conduct and supervision of research projects*, and *faculty/researcher exchange programmes*. *Visiting and exchange arrangements* may be implemented through conduct of *joint research projects*, as well as *sabbatical leave arrangements*.

Curriculum Mobility

The priorities are *joint development/offering/exchange of a course*, *joint development and offering of curriculum*, and *joint evaluation of academic/research programmes*. *Joint development/offering/exchange of a course* could be enabled through online mode. *Joint development/offering of curriculum* may be implemented through *dual/joint degree programmes* which would require respective academic ratification. On *joint evaluation of academic and research programmes*, higher education institutions from time to time are required to undergo external review in which ProSPER.Net members could be involved.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

For ProSPER.Net, *Climate Change, SDG 13 (Climate Action)* is a strategic area and is reflected as such in the survey. Other priority SDGs from the EAP Mobility Program survey are *SDG 4 (Quality Education)*, *SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)*, *SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)*, *SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)*, and *SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)*. These priority SDGs and other SDGs could utilize *Circular Economy* and *Equity and Inclusion* approaches which are the two other strategic areas of ProSPER.Net.

Ways Forward

Keys to success in academic mobility would require members to have *shared interests*, *course matching*, *credit transfer mechanism*, *open communication*, *strong partnership*, *co-creation model* and *funding*. It is also important that mobility policies and practices are mainstreamed and institutionalized in higher education institutions.

ProSPER.Net organizes *Leadership Programmes* and the *Young Researchers' Schools* hosted by ProSPER.Net members on a rotating basis, as well as conduct *Joint Research Projects* on curriculum development. ProSPER.Net also organizes the *Forum on Sustainability in Higher Education*. It is recommended that in addition to members' own mobility initiatives, they also utilize these regular ProSPER.Net activities to implement mobility programmes. Information on mobility programme opportunities in member institutions should be shared through the *ProSPER.Net Bulletin and Portal* as well as in regular communications to members.

Annex: [Power Point Slides of Summary Results of Survey](#)

(Reported by the ProSPER.Net Expert Advisory Panel on Academic Mobility Programme)