Executive Summary

As the Graduate Impact Survey (GIS) has been conducted for several years, there is now a large sample, which in this year’s report is used to draw longitudinal conclusions and to analyze developments and changes. Depending on the question of interest, the sample will be organized and displayed in three different ways: either with regard to graduates’ year of graduation or their year after graduation or according to the year GIS was conducted. Apart from its focus on longitudinal developments, this year’s survey deals with some newly introduced questions, which are supposed to shed light on questions concerning professional impacts and employability.

Over the years, students and graduates have been asked to indicate why they study Erasmus Mundus – the prospective to receive a scholarship has always been the most appealing factor throughout all years of conducting GIS. An increasing trend to start EMMC because of its good reputation, however, could not be observed. When it comes to EM’s visibility, it seems that it has been increasing with the years since EM has been set up. But among potential employers the visibility is not yet enhanced.

By studying EM, students obtain some valuable skills. According to the majority of graduates they especially acquired intercultural competencies and subject related expertise. With the years after graduation, however, some perceived effects, like the intercultural competence or the impact on personality, show significant decreases. Indeed other perceived impacts, like the subject related expertise and the attitude towards Europe and the EU remain stable with the years after graduation.

Comparing graduates’ estimations with students’ expectations it can be observed, that students overestimate EM’s impact on their career, while they underestimate the possible impact on soft skills. In order to prevent disappointment among students, the programme should be promoted by outlining the wide range of positive effects EMMC can have.

Apart from the social impact of EM, graduates’ professional development has always been of interest in this survey. The present report explores reasons, why graduates did not find a job yet or how they succeeded in getting one.
IV. Implications and Outlook

Based on this year’s survey, some suggestions can be made, which could contribute to keeping up EM’s quality and the high satisfaction levels reported by students:

- **Promoting EM**: The role of universities in promoting EM has declined in the last years. Therefore universities should be encouraged to inform skilled and motivated students about the programme. Apart from that the importance of friends as EM ambassadors could be confirmed in the light of this longitudinal survey: Therefore EMMC students and graduates could be supported by promoting the programme.

- The present survey provided some new information on **professional impacts** of EM. In order to allow a deeper analysis, the questions should be kept next year with differentiated answering options.

- Last year the survey had already asked for **monitoring the involved universities**. In this year’s survey this need became again obvious. Therefore possible efforts that may already have been undertaken should be continued or even broadened.

- When it comes to **perceived and expected influences** of EM, it turns out that students underestimate EM’s effect on social skills, while they overestimate EM’s effect on their career – which is, according to the graduate’s perception high, but not as high as expected by students. These results should be taken into account, when promoting EM, as wrong expectancies might lead to a high level of dissatisfaction.