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WEBINAR: Experiences of virtual internship in Europe, 15 October 2021

Mapping exercise and key findings

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COVID-19 pandemic and virtual internships

- Remote internships/traineeships boosted by the COVID-19 emergency
- Necessity to explore the context by conducting a mapping exercise to understand the arrangements and the solutions implemented by universities in Europe

Methodology to map the virtual experiences

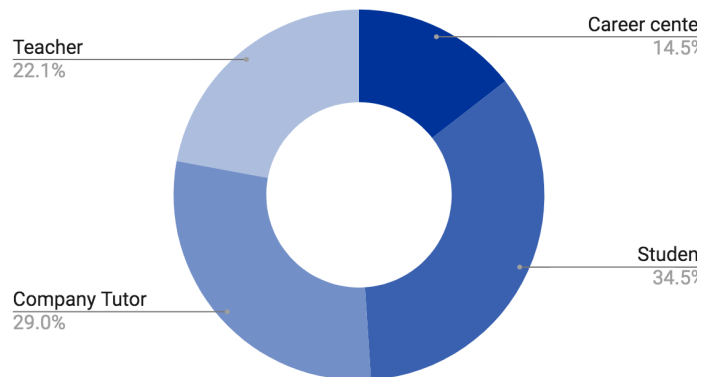
- Online survey targeting University teachers or tutors, students, Internship office or career centers and Company tutors
- Semi-structured interviews
- Case study's report

Key findings

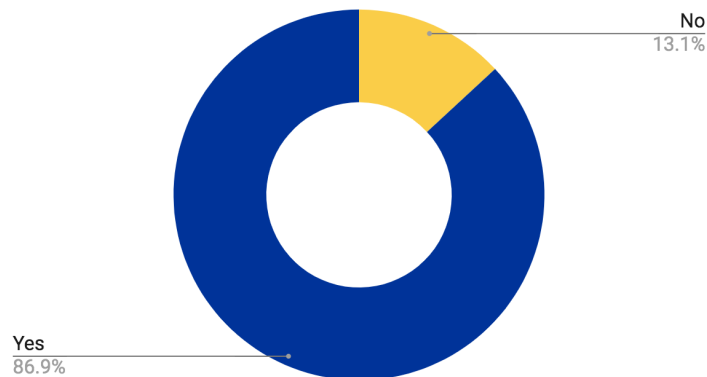
- 145 mapped experiences mapped from 14 countries, 23 in-depth analysis
- The vast majority of respondents had never organized or participated in a virtual internship experience before the COVID-19 pandemic
- The pandemic has significantly accelerated the activation of online internships
- The alternative learning: different prospective according to the different categories concerned

Findings

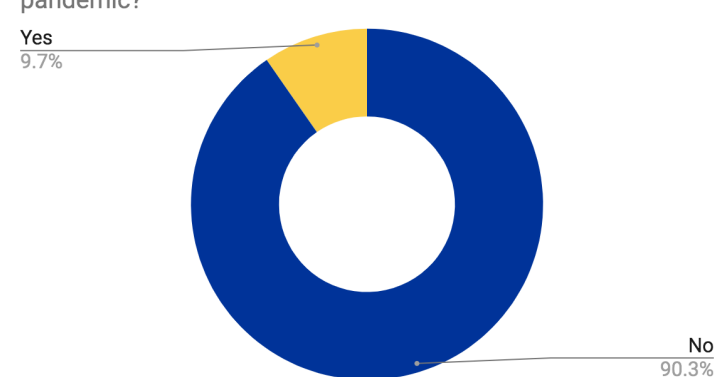
Respondents



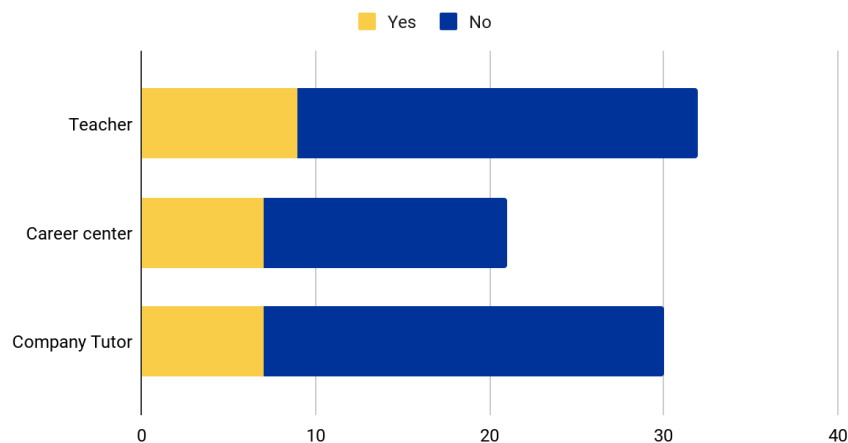
Online internship conducted during the COVID-19



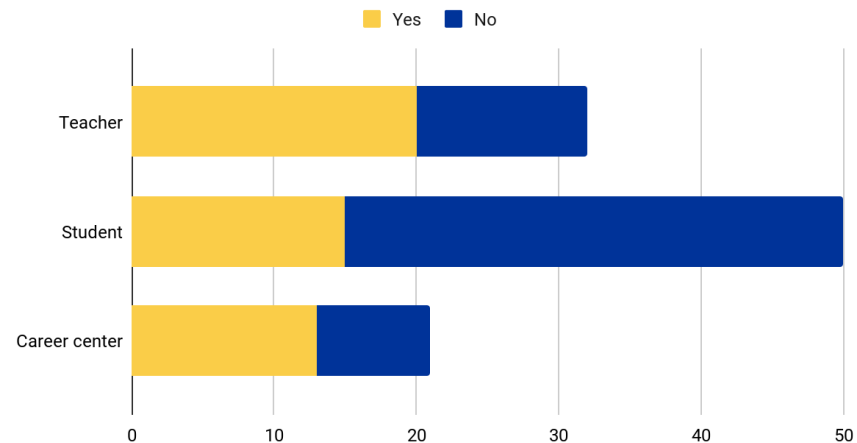
Was online internship usual at before the COVID-19 pandemic?



Specific procedures



Alternative learning



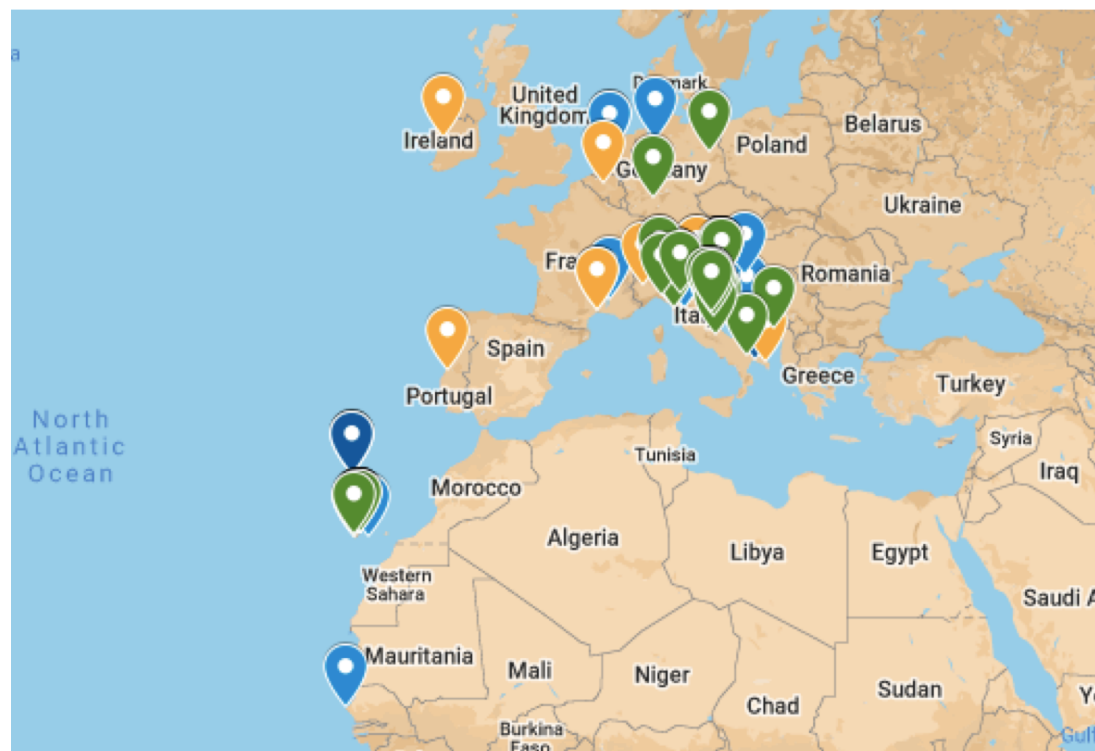
Overview of the cases

- Online internships as a meaningful alternative to on-site training activities
- Online internships as an opportunity for a big cohort of students (B.A. & M.A.) to gain professional experience
- International interaction with remote areas: virtual internship arranged by the University of la Laguna and the NGO la casa de Africa in Guinea Bissau
- A novelty for both University teaching staff and personnel and their students
- Little time and tangible progress
- Documents, preliminary administrative tasks and bureaucracy
- The key role of the supervisors
- Structural lack of funds by universities and the high costs involved in pre-COVID on-site international internships

Conclusions

- Virtual experience does not replace the on-site one: it just provides an additional opportunity for all
- A great potential to be implemented
- Timing and supervision
- A proper equipment
- Hard and soft skills
- European Universities can pave the way for the rest of the world

Map of Experiences & Full Report



THANK YOU!

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