

Is the Italian student “mammone”/ mama’s boy?

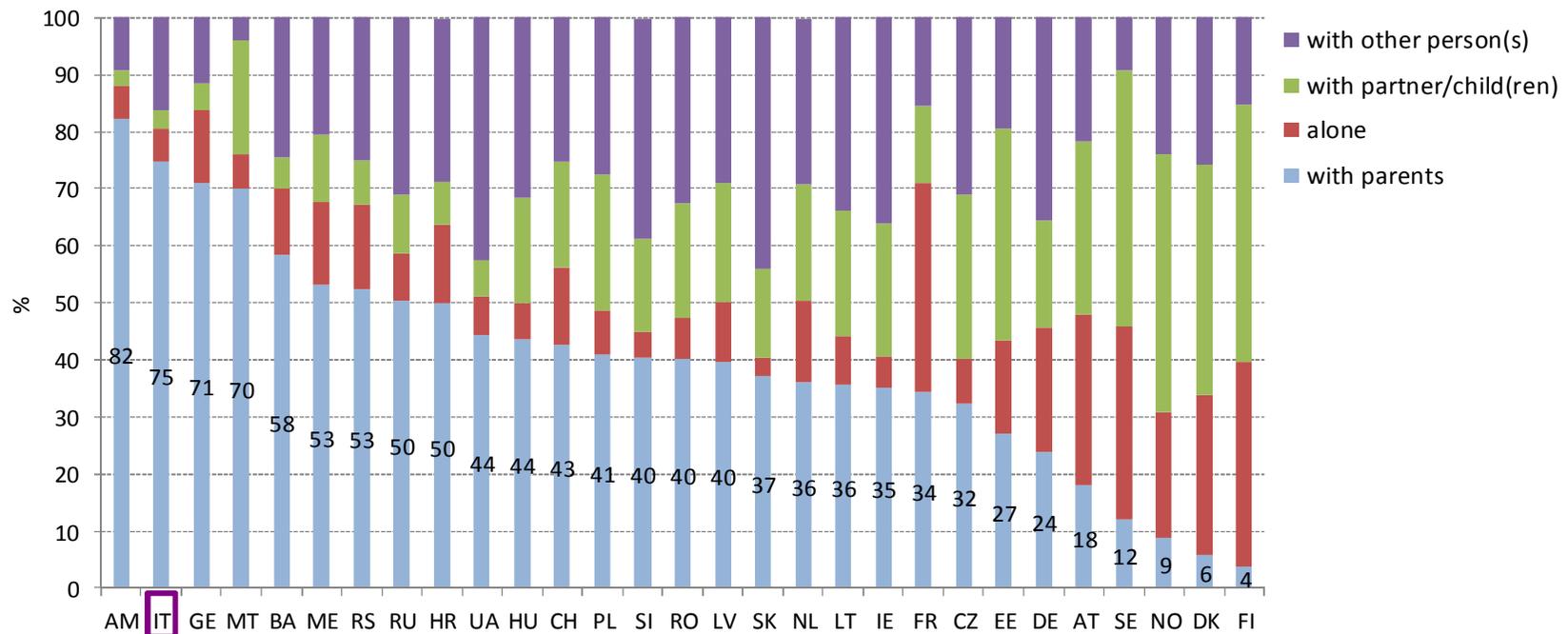


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In Italy, 75% of students lives with parents

Fig. 1 - Students' housing situation



Source: EUROSTUDENT V 2012-2015

It is one of the countries with the highest share of students that chooses this form of housing.

Is this a **free choice** (influenced by the Italian family culture) or rather a **constrained choice**?

We will try to dissolve this “dilemma”

- Student support in Italy: how does it work?
- Critical points
- Impact of the grant on students' performance
- How many students go abroad with Erasmus+ programme?
- Source of funding for a period abroad
- What types of funding are available in Italy and in Piedmont?

Student support in Italy: how does it work?/1

Students in **disadvantaged economic conditions** who satisfy specific **criteria of merit** may be eligible for a **GRANT**.

The ***economical condition*** is assessed through an indicator called ISEE (Equivalent Economic Status Index) which is calculated considering the student's family income and savings, plus 20% of their real estate.

The ***students' merit*** is assessed by the number of credits obtained in relation to the year of enrolment: i.e. newly-enrolled students must have 25 credits to receive the grant in the second academic year and 80 credits for the third year.

Eligible **off-campus** students can ask for a room in a hall of residence.

Students receiving the grant do not pay any tuition fees.

Student support in Italy: how does it work?/2

In theory, this system seems to work, because it offers **grants**, **free tuition fees** and **accommodation** to students with low income and good academic performance.

So, what's the problem?

Critical points

- Only few students are eligible for the grant
- To be eligible for the grant doesn't automatically mean to be grant-holder
- Students know if they are grant-holders after the beginning of the university courses, usually in November
- Grant-holders normally receive the first instalment of the grant (50% of the total amount) in January and the second one, at the end of June or in September: It rather seems like an expense reimbursement
- Few rooms available compared to the number of off-campus students

Only few students are eligible for the grant

	ITALY 2016/17
No. of university students	1,694,880
No. of eligible students	175,170
No. of eligible students/No. of students %	<i>10.3</i>

Note: the number of students includes enrolled to AFAM (Artistic and Musical Institutes)

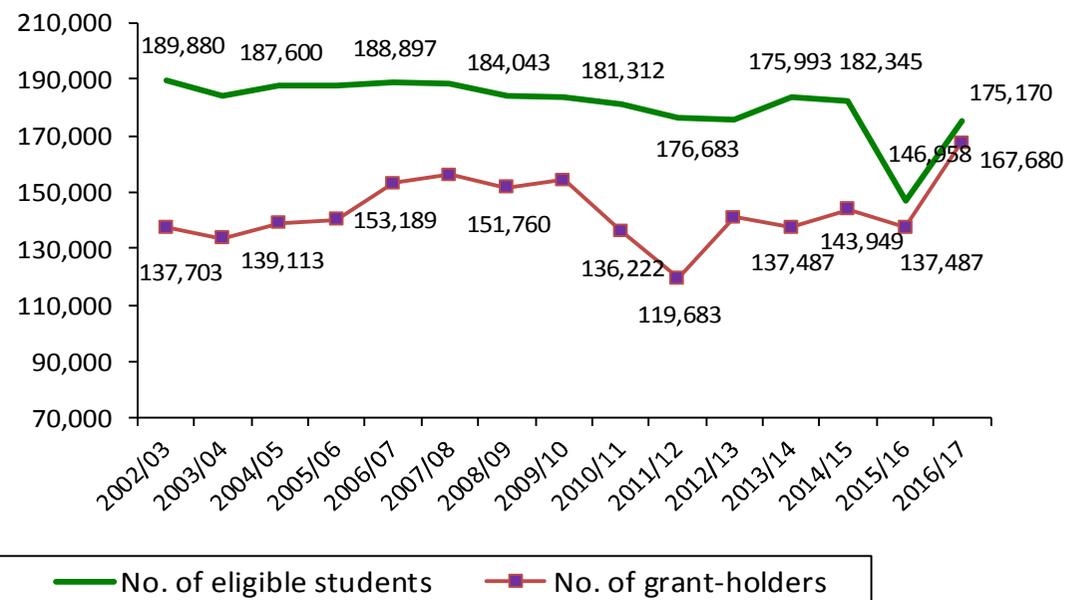
Roughly **10%** of those enrolled in Italy are entitled to a grant. This percentage has not changed in the last twelve years!



Eligible ≠ grant-holder

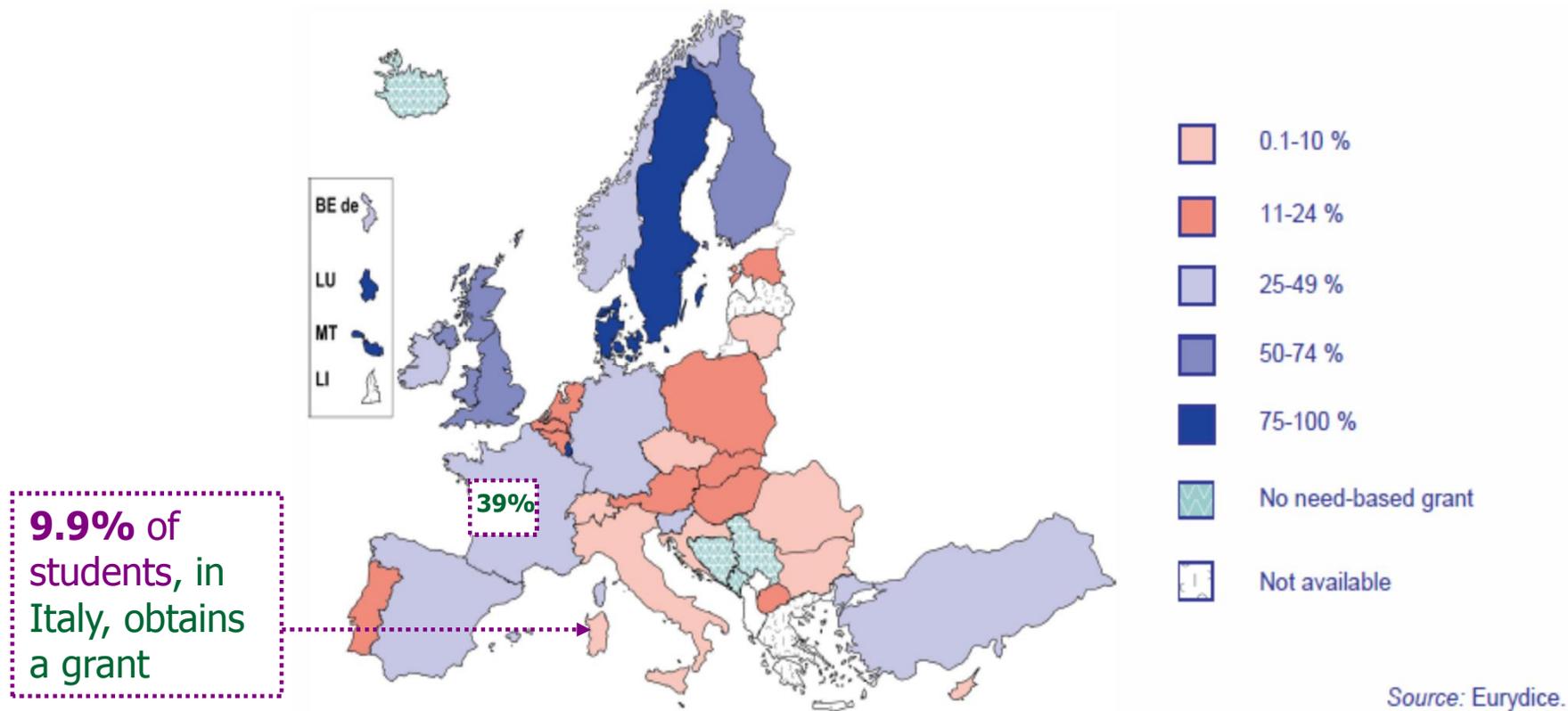
...As a result, the number of students receiving the grant is even lower: **167,680** in 2016/17

Fig. 1 – Number of eligible and grant-holders students (2002/03 – 2016/17)



In 2016/17, around **7,500** eligible students didn't obtain the grant, due to a lack of financial resources

Percentage of full-time students who received a grant in European countries, 2016/17



Source: National Student Fee and Support System in European Higher Education 2017/2018.



Few rooms available

44,200 places in halls of residence for 1.7 million students

To be more precise



39,200 students live in public residence halls, around 5,000 in the so-called “Collegi”, private bodies recognized by the State



In Italy, 420,000 students are off-campus, therefore 10.5% of them receives a room in student accommodation, a percentage that varies considerably from region to region

However



Impact of the grant on students' performance

Some studies show that grant-holders have a better academic performance compared to their peers without a grant. In particular, using a *regression model*, we estimated that:

- the probability to drop out, in the first year, is 15.0% less for grant-holders than students without a grant;
- they obtain, on average, a higher number of credits a year (ten more than non-scholarship holders);
- they graduate in a shorter time: the probability to obtain the degree in 4 years is twice for the grant-holders



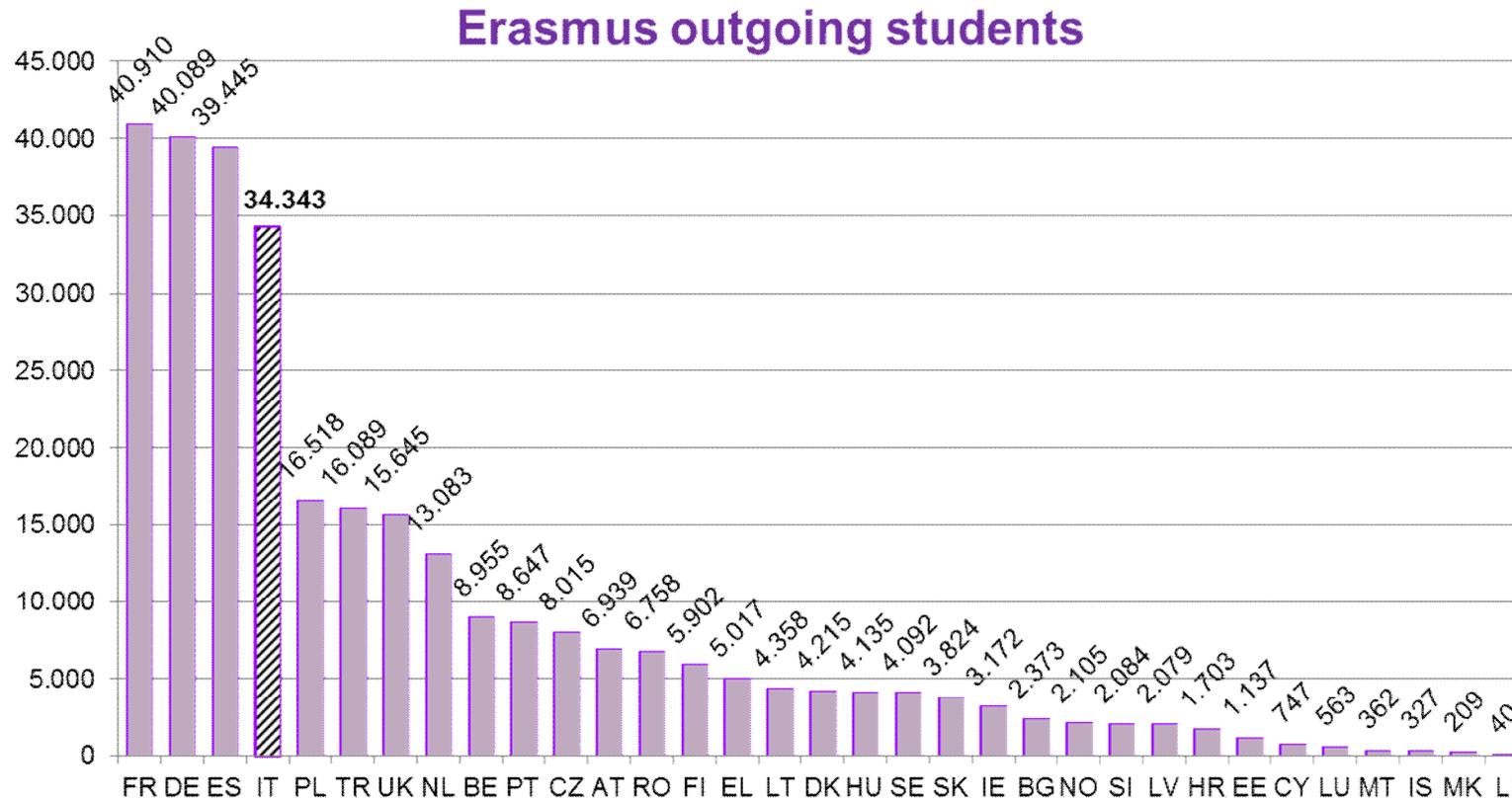
Probability to drop-out	%
<i>Female (vs Male)</i>	-3,9
<i>Age</i>	0,6
Foreign student (vs Italian student)	-5,9
Commuters (vs living with parents)	2,6
<i>Off-campus (vs living with parents)</i>	7,9
<i>Scientific school-leaving certificate (vs other institutes)</i>	-10,0
Classical school-leaving certificate (vs other institutes)	-2,3
<i>High school grade > = 70 (vs grade < 70)</i>	-0,3
Polytechnic (vs University of Turin)	2,0
University of Piemonte Orientale (vs University of Turin)	1,1
Grant-holder	-14,9

Note: In italics results statistically significant.

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How many students go abroad with Erasmus+ programme/1?

Italy is ranked 4th for number of outgoing students between European countries, after France, Germany and Spain.



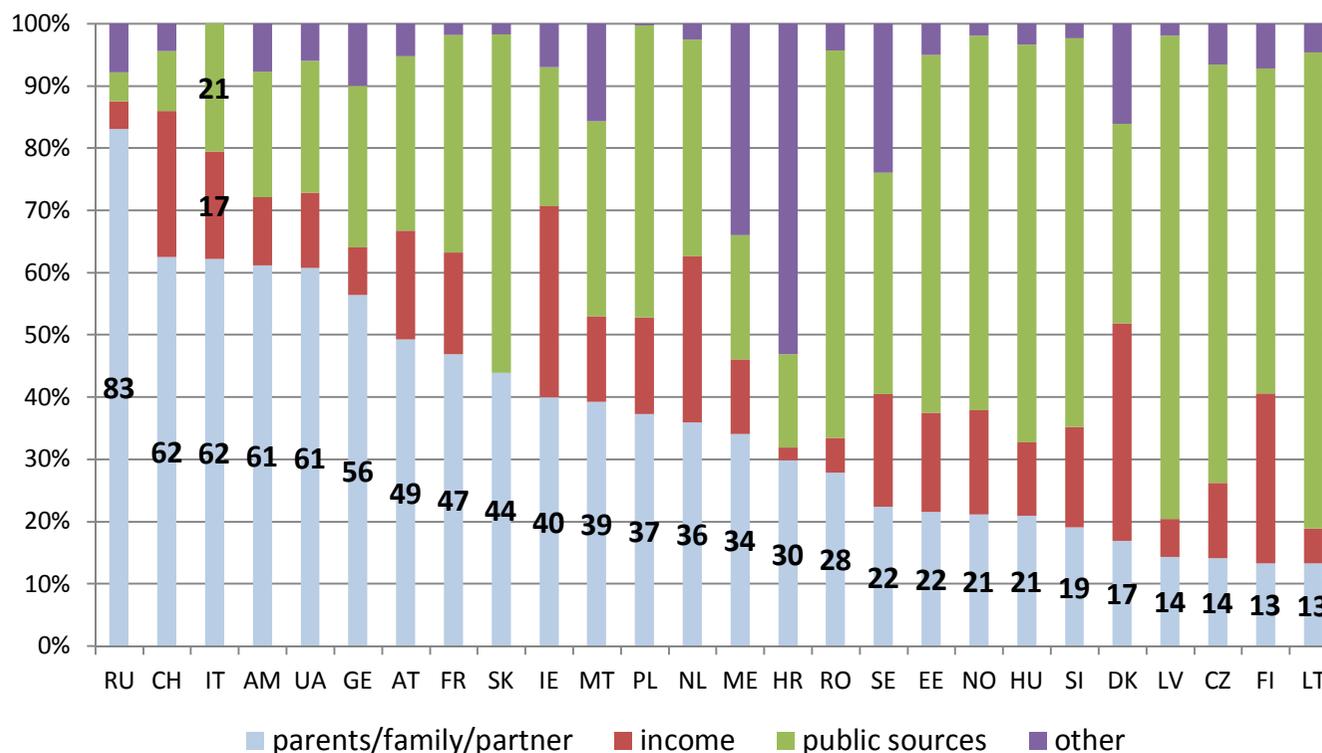
How many students go abroad with Erasmus+ programme/2?

According to these data,
Italian students seem less “mammoni”
than people usually think...

...indeed **they choose to change their housing situation** to go to study abroad

But also in this case:

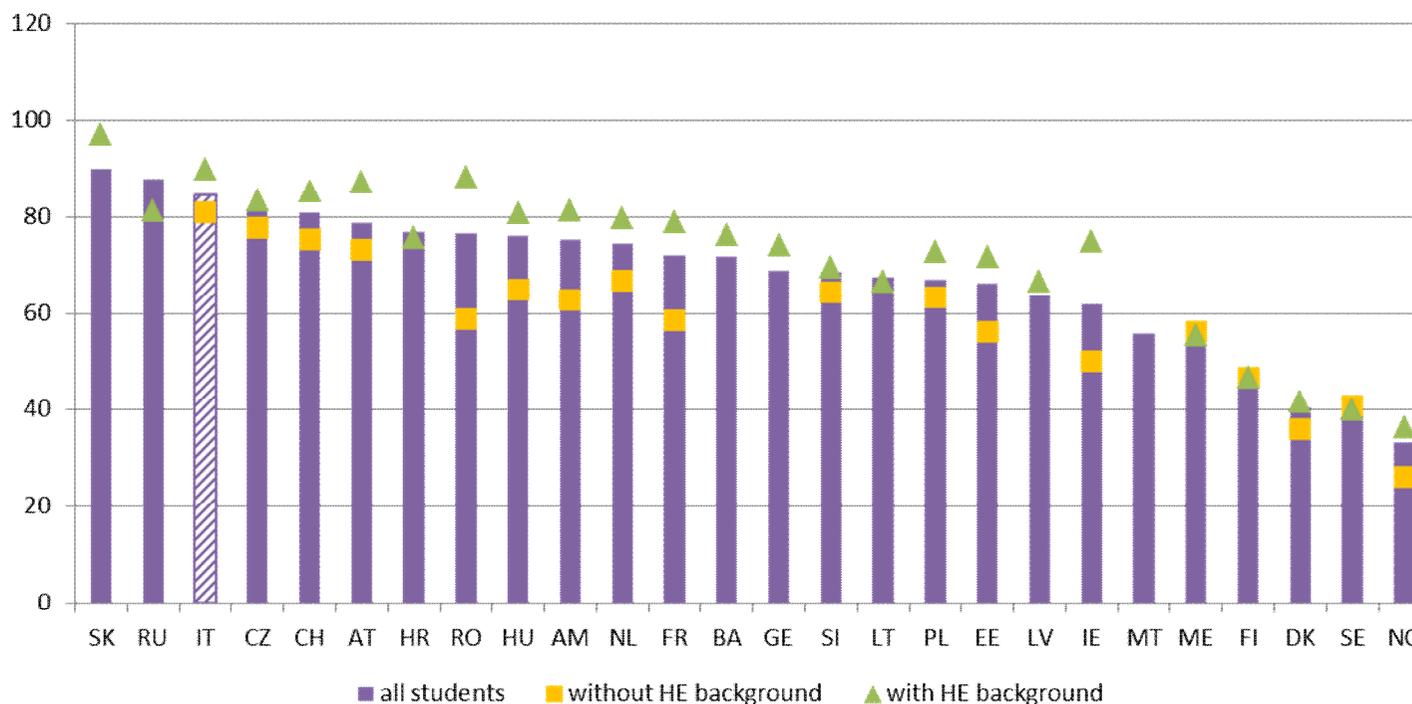
Source of funding for a period abroad/1



- The family is the main source of support for Italian students 
- Only 1 out of 5 students declared that his/her primary source of income was a EU and/or a national grant

Source of funding for a period abroad/2

This is true both among students with HE background and those without.



Eurostudent data show that the amount of financial support that families can make available drives the real possibility for the students to be mobile.



Source of funding for a period abroad/3

What types of funding are available to help Italian students to study abroad?

Funding/1: Grant rates from EU

- Students receive an European grant as a contribution to cover the expenses, during the period of study abroad:

EU grant (call 2018): 300€/month for Countries in Group 1, 250€/month for Group 2 and 3

Group 1: higher living costs	Denmark, Ireland, France, ITALY , Austria, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland
Group 2: medium living costs	Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Iceland, Turkey
Group 3: lower living costs	Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- **200€/month in addition** for students in low income brackets (low level of ISEE)

Funding/2: Funding by Ministry of Education in Italy

The Ministry gives specific funds to Universities, aimed at the promotion of international mobility (*Act 2003 n°170*)



Scholarships to Erasmus+ students

The requirements and the amounts of the grants differ among Universities.

BUT...

In December 2017, the Ministry of Education has approved a decree introducing some important changes

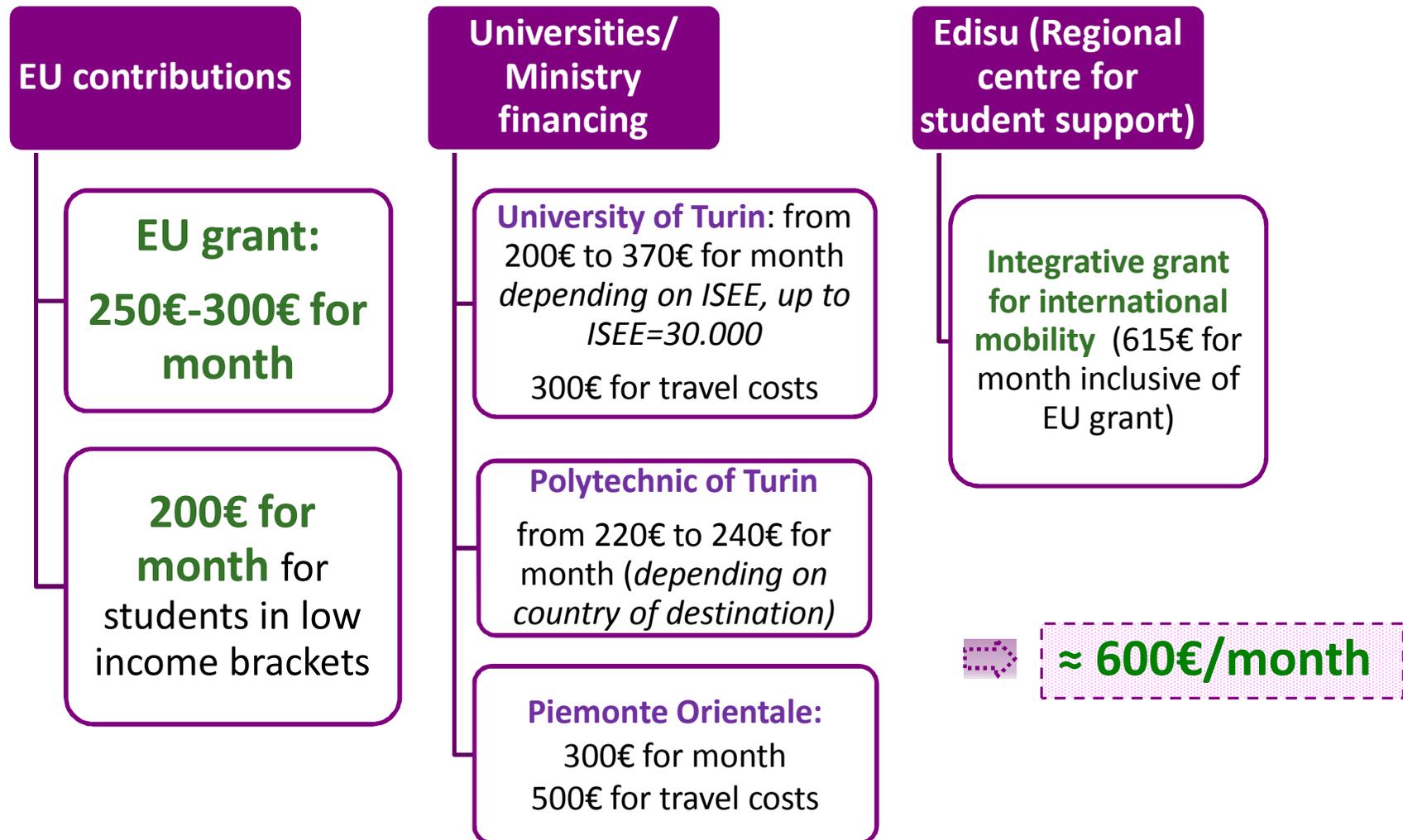
Mobility grants from the MIUR: What's new?

- **Resources for international mobility grants have been increased:**
59 mln€ for 2018, 47mln€ in the previous year
- **Mobility grants will be related to income (ISEE)**, so in-need students will receive an higher amount
- **Students will receive 50% of the amount of the scholarship in advance**, that is another way to help student from disadvantages background

These new rules will probably
be applied starting from 2018/9.

Funding/3: The case of Piedmont

At the moment, students in the Piedmont Universities receive:



Erasmus+ students: facts and figures

% Erasmus+ students / all students enrolled	2016/7
Piedmont	1.8%
Italy	2.0%
France	1.7%
Germany	1.4%
Spain	2.0%

Source: Eurostat 2015, MIUR-ANS, Universities in Piedmont

	% Erasmus+ students /students enrolled
ISEE ≤ 30,000	1.5%
ISEE > 30,000	2.1%

Less students in low income brackets go on Erasmus

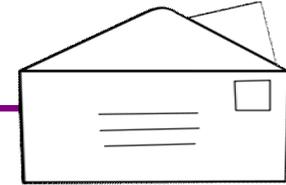
The percentage of Erasmus+ outgoing students in the Piedmont Region, in Italy and in the other EU countries is quite similar.



Are Italian students “mammoni”? Let’s challenge this stereotype!

Students must receive an adequate financial aid to have the possibility of studying away from home.

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