

## Fact Sheet

### MobiliseSME – Piloting an “Erasmus for SMEs and their employees”

The project **MobiliseSME** (Mobilities for professionals and qualified employees of MSMEs) – devised and lead by **European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME** and funded by the EU-programme Employment and Social Innovation, PROGRESS, 2016-2017 – set out to analyse the opportunities and benefits for the cross-border mobility of employees of Micro, Small, and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in the EU. The aim of the project was to assess the feasibility of the idea to potentially open the way for a European mobility scheme for MSME employees like the Erasmus Programme for university students.

MobiliseSME wanted to create ‘**win-win-win**’ situations, in which sending companies, visiting employees and hosting SMEs all benefit from the project.

The project was conducted in 2 phases:

- 1) An assessment of the **legal feasibility and the demand for the idea**, by consulting MSMEs from 20 countries and territories with the means of a survey, as well as focus groups to learn about their proposals, needs and possible benefits connected with such a scheme.
- 2) Execution of a **pilot mobility scheme** to implement an intra-EU and inter-company mobility programme for professionals and qualified SME personnel.

### MobiliseSME in the Words of the Participants

*It really is what the slogan says: “Mobile Enterprises. Mobile Europe”* – Jim Deves, Hosting and Sending Entrepreneur, Greece.

*SMEs require this programme in order to network and build working relationships with colleagues in other European countries* - Olusola McKenzie, Hosting and Visiting Entrepreneur, United Kingdom.

*MobiliseSME is the chance for SMEs to learn how to face globalisation* – Carsten Vossel, Hosting and Sending Entrepreneur, Germany.

*It was great and I would like to go again! Thank you for this possibility!* - Orsolya Erdős, Visiting Employee, Hungary.

### The Future of MobiliseSME

The facts and figures prove there is a real appetite in Europe for a mobility scheme for SMEs and their employees. The pilot scheme of MobiliseSME requires now investigation into how this programme could be established permanently in the framework of the European Union’s tools and legislation, like EEN, EYE and ERASMUS+, but also skills agenda and labour mobility. A follow-up pilot scheme might allow it to do so, provided it prioritises the following key points:

- ❖ Key resources for match-making and information are needed particularly at local level. Local networks should be used to reach out to as many companies as possible. Ideally there should be at least one partner in each of the 28 EU Member States, with a strong network of member companies.
- ❖ A well-functioning and already known matchmaking platform (<http://matchmaking.mobilisesme.eu/>) remains key to easily manage the whole process, but needs to deliver better, through more intelligent algorithms and more users.
- ❖ Longer exchange periods from 2 to 6 months should be tested as well.
- ❖ The legal documents and criteria for exchanges used in the MobiliseSME pilot scheme should be kept, as these were both extensive enough to give adequate legal guarantees and allow monitoring, as well as contemporarily approachable enough to not constitute a too high hurdle for participation.

# MobiliseSME in numbers

By the end of the project nearly **400 companies** are registered and active on the MobiliseSME Matchmaking Platform, which allowed to find partners so that companies from **23 different sectors** participated in totally **54 exchanges**.

91%

91% of sending companies

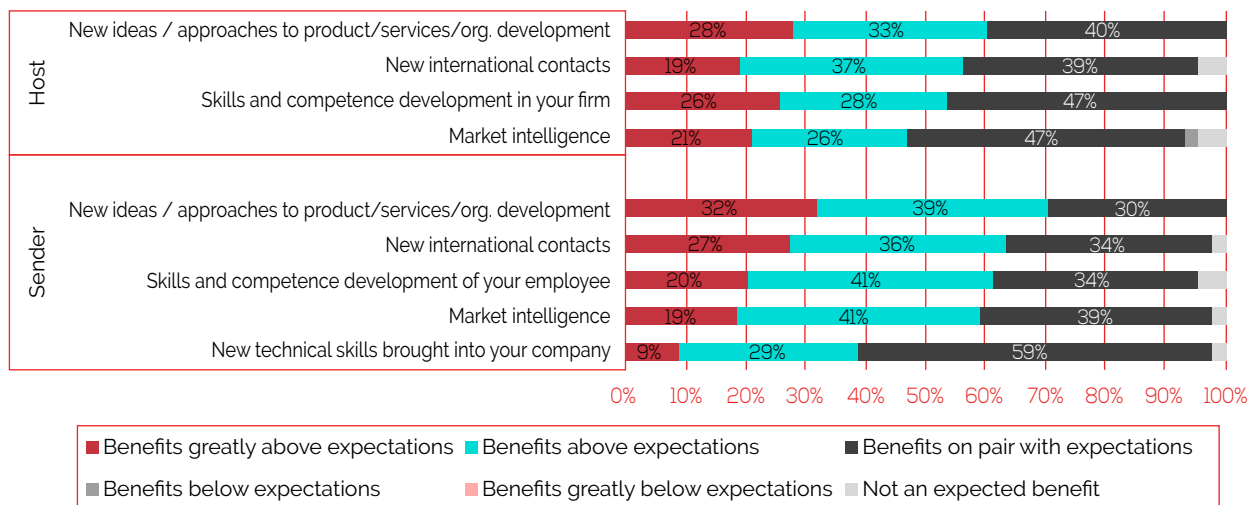
→ stated satisfaction with the matched needs and competences. ←

95% of the hosting companies

95%

As shown by the graph below, the benefits of the exchange matched or surpassed the expectations of both hosting and sending companies:

Learning and knowledge generated by the exchange – hosts and senders



90%

90% of companies stated that **cross-border business** will develop better thanks to the exchange.

75%

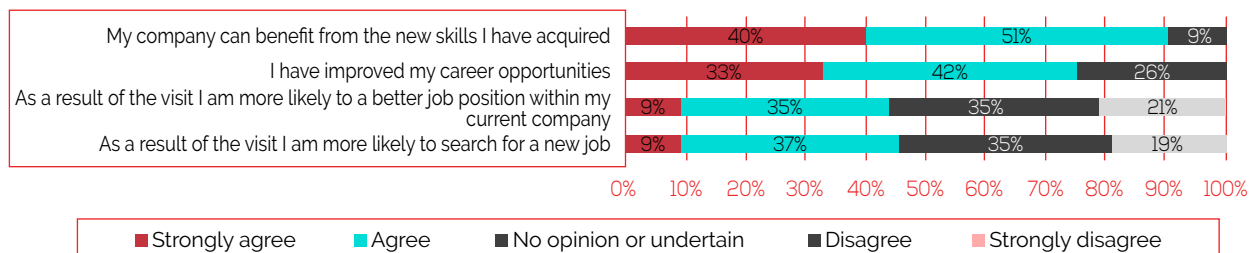
75% stated they will be able to **develop new products and services**.

81%

81% of participating employees felt the exchange **added value to their professional development**.

Employees also felt they benefitted greatly and variously from the exchange:

Employees' views on what participation in the exchange may lead to



Info: visit <http://www.mobilisesme.eu> or write to [info@cea-pme.com](mailto:info@cea-pme.com)

