

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME TO UNIVERSIDADE PORTUCALENSE - A CASE STUDY

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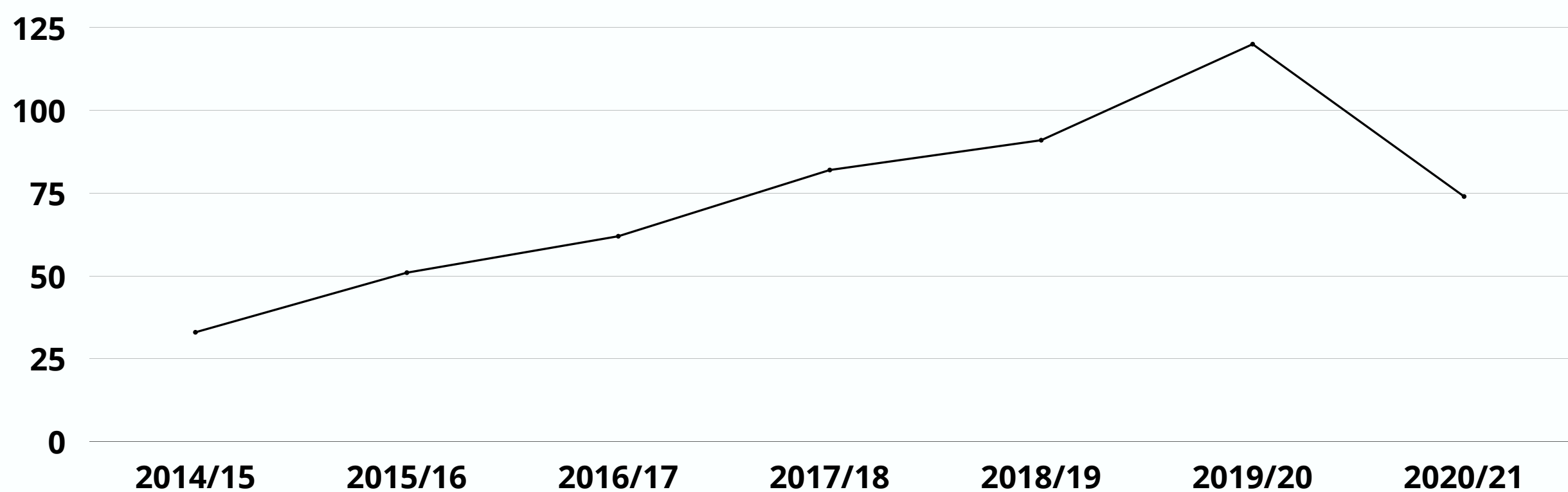
About the article:

This case study is related to the impact of the Erasmus+ Programme, in its phase between 2014 and 2021, and its student mobility strand, at the Universidade Portucalense Infante D. Henrique.

The methodology of this case study translates into a documentary and doctrinal analysis, focusing on European Union-related documentation.

The structure of this article reveals to the reader a brief overview of the history and evolution of the Erasmus+ Programme, clarifies the issue of European identity debated among several authors, as well as the impact of the program itself in the current academic context, and ends with a case study regarding the effects of student mobility in this private university based in Porto, Portugal.

The Number of Incoming Erasmus Students per Academic Year:



Note: This graphic was made based on internally collected data.

Conclusions:

Although the case study itself is more detailed on the subject, the continued growth in the number of incoming Erasmus students from 2014 to 2020 is visible - as justified by the development of the Erasmus+ Program over the years and its growing funding and popularity.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the most diverse economic and social sectors, and the academic context was no exception - as evidenced by the results of 2020/21, when air and land transport were limited, with periods of mandatory confinement and travel reduced to the bare minimum, among other measures applied in Portugal and throughout Europe, which translated into decreasing student participation in the program.

Given the continuous decrease in the number of infected cases and the success of the vaccination process in Portugal and Europe, as well as the consequent relief of restrictions, is expected a new growth in the number of students adhering to the Erasmus+ Programme and, consequently, a growth in the number of incoming students at the Universidade Portucalense.

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