

École nationale supérieure de génie industriel

International experience at home for engineering students (to foster intercultural skills)

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43rd AIM Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia, 16-19 sept 2021
Facing Uncertainty in Higher Education in IE&M due to Pandemic Crisis: Towards a New
Education Paradigm

Why do engineers need intercultural skills ?

Be aware of cultural diversity and the way in which cultural differences impact the working methods and professional activity of the engineer. (CTI R&O 2020)

Engineers should
be able to

Express him/herself in English (or in a language other than his/her first language)

Communicate and promote his/her own approaches and point of view

Understand and respect those of his/her collaborators, customers, partners.

Dealing with new and unexpected situations

Integrate into diverse work contexts

Work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team

Master remote communication tools and technologies

- Conviction of our school. Development of bi-lateral agreements and international networking for decades now.
- Required by the CTI (French accreditation commission of Engineering Titles)
 - Last accreditation : at least 3 months
 - New recommandation : At least 1 semester for regular programs and at least 3 months in apprenticeship.
- And Integrated in the internal rules of the Institute and the School of I&EM
 - Mobility is compulsory and students are strongly encouraged to achieve mobility of at least one semester (three months for apprenticeship) for of cumulative duration. (Grenoble INP)

Total Nightmare !

- March-June 2020 : to repatriate students or to follow-up those who cannot come back to France. Follow up well-being of hosted exchange students during the lock down, etc.
- Major impact on physical mobility (2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years) :
 - Difficulties in managing in Inbound/outbouns exchange students flow due to uncertanities
 - Cancellation of mobilities
 - Administratif hurdles
- Mobility obligation is relaxed for 2020, 2021 and 2022 graduates : Difficulties in validation of intercultural skills

Some numbers :

- 2019 graduations : 100% of our students has at least 6 weeks physical mobility, 81% at least 3 months
- 2020 graduations : 2 students without mobility
- 2021 graduations : 28% without mobility
- 20% of the expected mobility is cancelled this semester

International mobility during Covid 19 pandemics

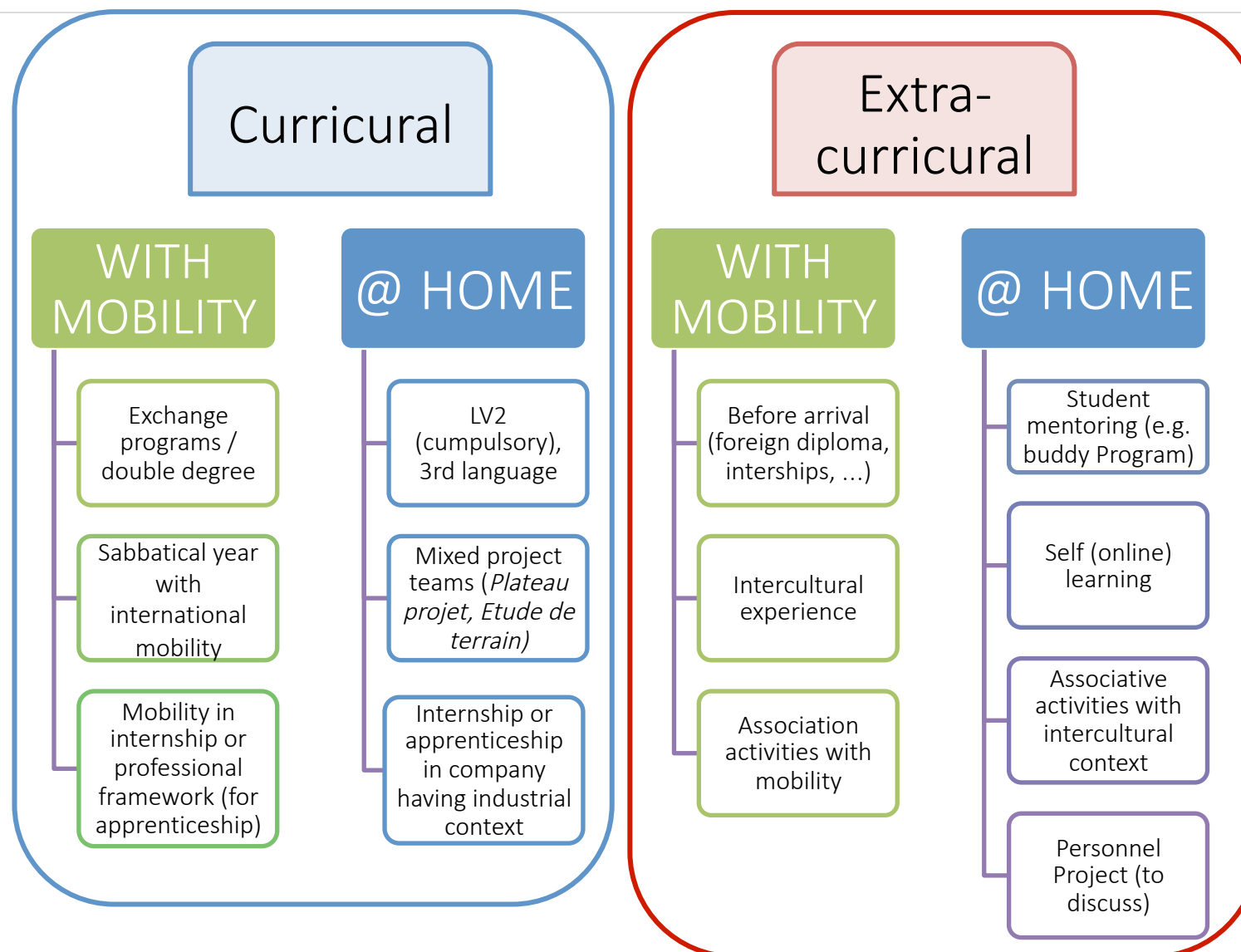
Nightmare or opportunity?

Also an opportunity!

- To rethink the acquisition of the intercultural skills for our students
- Physical mobility is a priority but can be complemented with activities at home

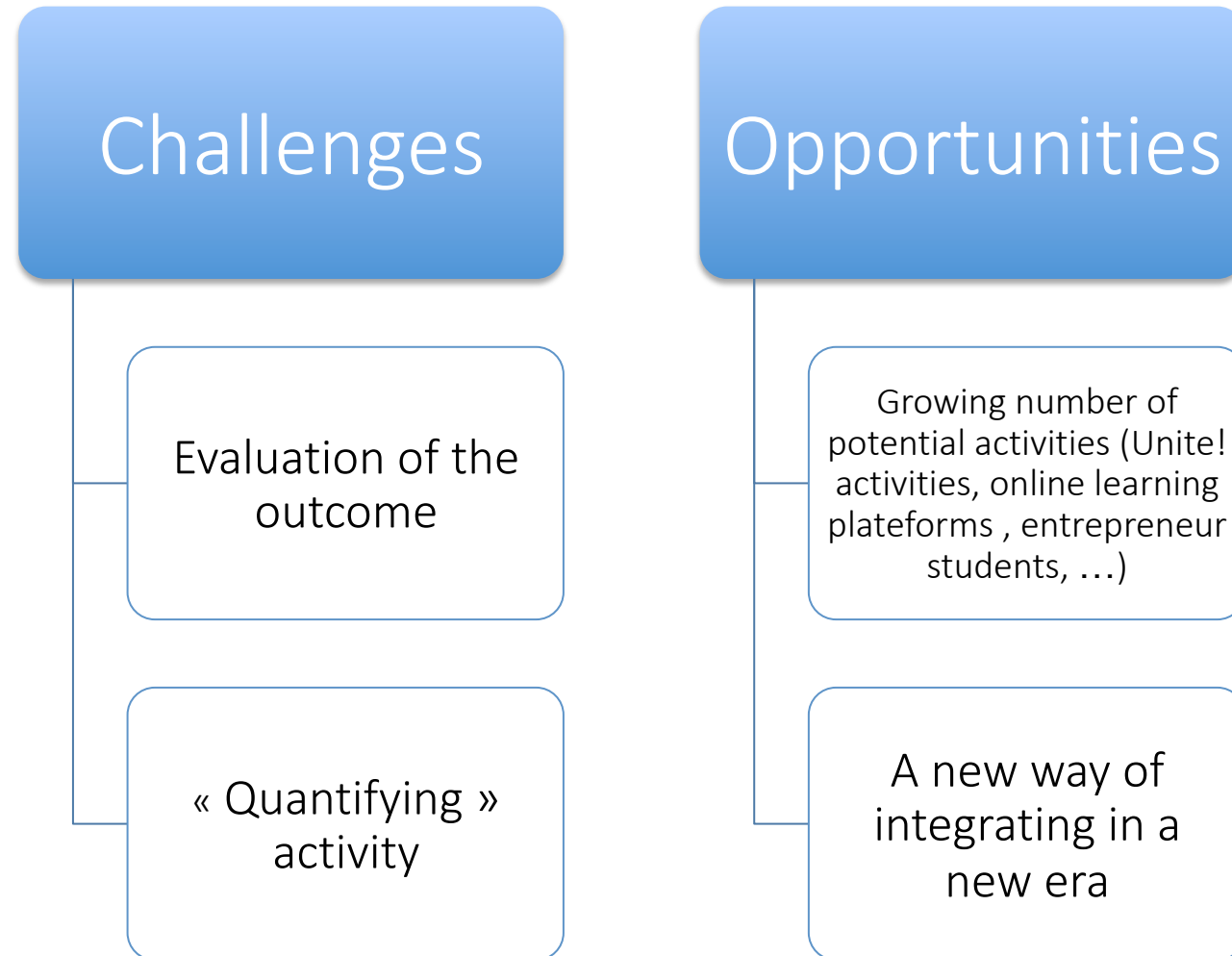
Physical mobility complemented with intercultural activities at home

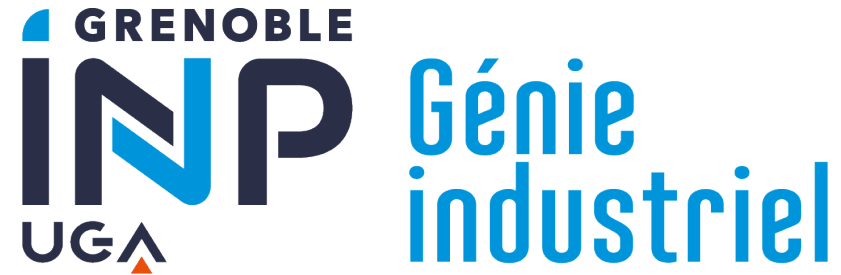
Priority to
Physical
Mobility



Activities
Validated
By the
school

REX to be done





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Thank you for your attention



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