



# Virtual mobility, and the *context* of international *studies* and student *mobility*

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- Why (virtual) mobility, and why now?
- How our social realities might be described?
  - **Living in times of change**, epoch of liquidity, and permanent uncertainty
  - **Crises**, change, transformations; No peripheries (geographic, intellectual, academic)
  - **CEE experiences** – laboratory of social life
    - No time to slow down; extreme acceleration
    - ‘We are exposed to blows of fate’ (Bauman)
    - From homogeneity to heterogeneity – individualized encounters, competition, fragmentation
    - Contemporary life (globalization, internetization, global fashions) makes our cultures hybrid, nomadic, mixed
    - This is also our human nature – people are complex

- **How to deal with complexity? How to deal with uncertainties? How to manage diversity?**
  - The essence is **to get a sense of reality** – to learn to trust and understand
  - **The role of HEI** – educating intellectuals (elite) who is able to perform and make changes
    - Showing the whole complexity of life
    - From homogeneity to heterogeneity (diversity management styles, new approaches)
    - Positive side effects – using culture, literature, media and communications as means and tools of thinking of what we are and what Europe is
    - Flexibility as creativity (also as nonconformity to rules)
    - **Practicalities**
      - The gains and loses (student numbers, sense of geography)