



Mobility and e-mobility within master-PhD curricula: towards comparative hydrology, reflexive scientific posture, and collaborative competencies

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Travels, meetings and correspondence have always been important resources and processes in the scientific progress, since the Antiquity. This is even more the case for naturalistic and societal disciplines, where travels allow both meetings between colleagues and observation of the geographic diversity of the studied objects, systems and processes. Over the last decades, travels, meetings and correspondence have accelerated in the practice of Science, in coherence with wider societal changes: global demography of the scientific and academic community, general intensity of travelling, explosion of internet, industry of conferences. Mechanisms have been developed across the XXth century to fund, structure and capitalize the mobility of the scientific community. Additional mechanisms have been developed over the last decades for the PhD and master students at State and bilateral levels, international levels, and so at the University/research Institute level, with facilitation by International programmes, agencies and associations. Yet the actual demography of the Science field and the shrinking of financial means proportionally reduce the opportunities of mobility and this leads, in conjunction with the “publish or perish syndrome”, to some side effects such as strong competition, recruitment biases, brain drain, and ultimately difficulties in developing real added values of mobility.

Actual developments of digital resources, ICT tools, digital-didactical innovations allow to develop new processes for learning, corresponding, cooperating, capitalizing; and so to reframe travels, meetings and correspondence in new mobility/e-mobility schemes. In such schemes, hybridation can help in optimizing constrained processes, and even more in developing additional values such as comparative approaches (e.g. comparative hydrology), reflexive posture, and collaborative competencies in a digital age. These aspects will be discussed with examples from actual experiments and evolutions in France and France-Tunisia, at master and PhD levels.