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# Internationalization of Higher Education in Morocco: Progress and Challenges

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# Outline

- 1) A Snapshot of the HE system in Morocco
- 2) Internationalization of HE in Morocco: vision at national level
- 3) The outbound and Inbound Mobility in Morocco
- 4) The interationalization of curriculum
- 5) The presence of foreign providers
- 6) International partnerships
- 7) Challenges on the issue of Internationalization of HE in Morocco

- Morocco is compared to a tree with its roots in Africa and its branches in Europe (King Hassan II)
- Its geographical location facilitates the internationalization of its HES.

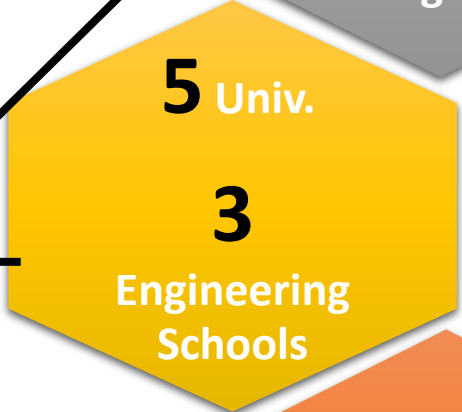
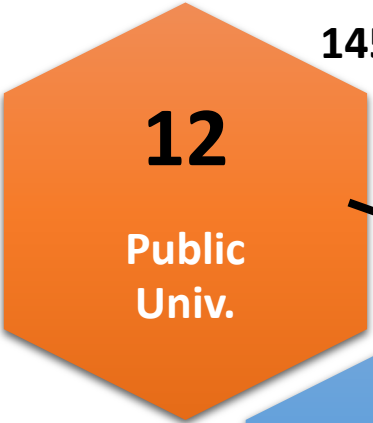


- So, what are the progress and challenges on the issue of Internationalization of HE in Morocco?

# 1) A Snapshot of the HE system in Morocco

Different types of institutions

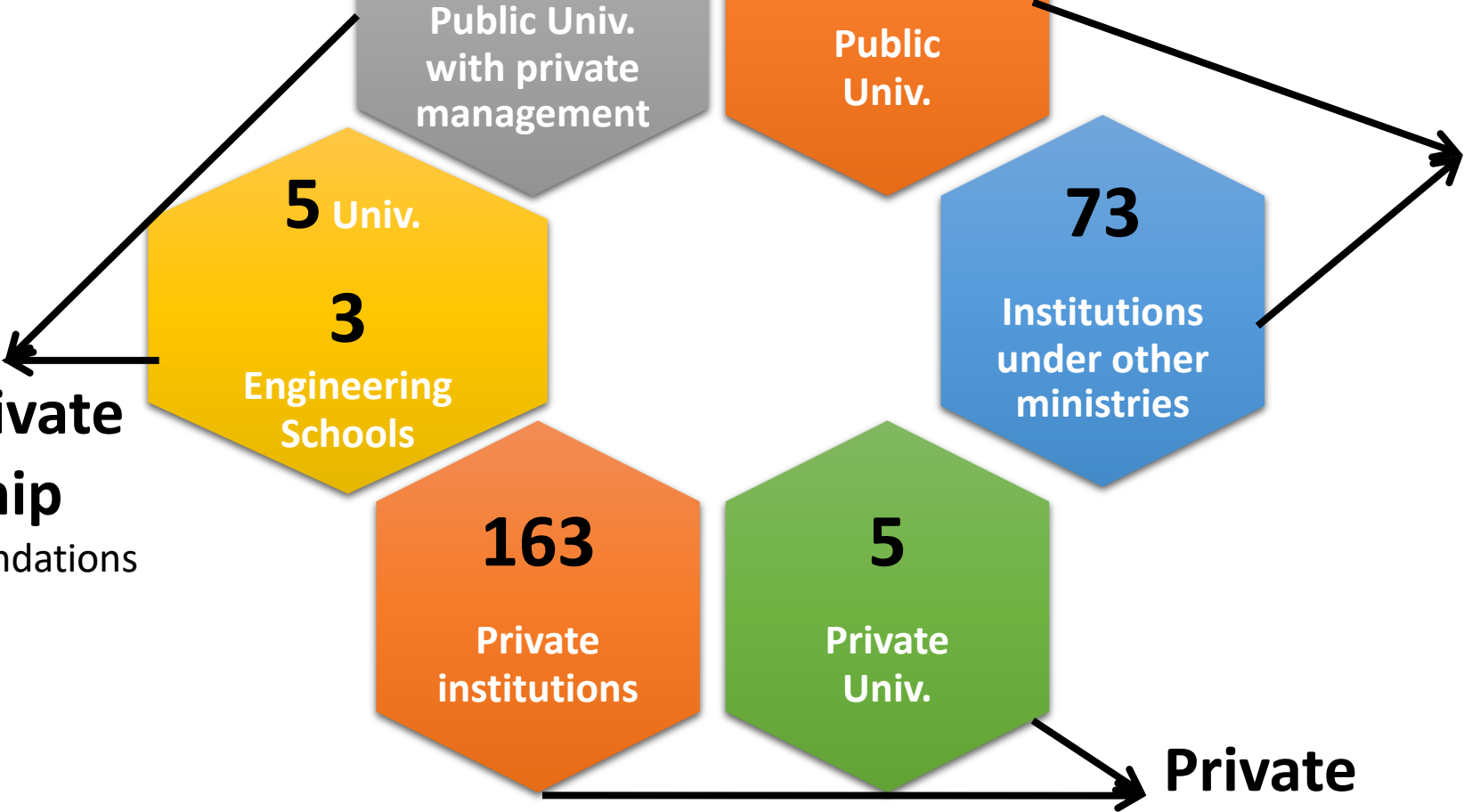
145 institutions = 61 open-access + 84 limited access  
34 New Institutions in 2020



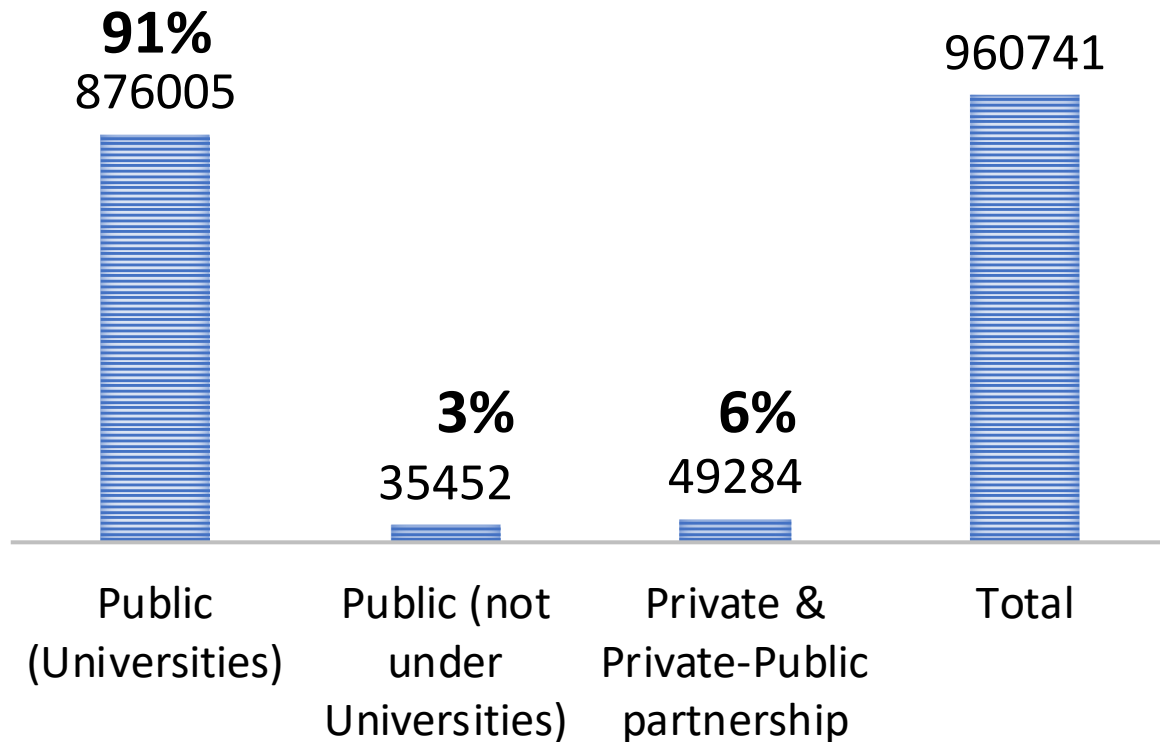
**Public**  
Under the tutelage of  
- ministry of HE  
- other ministries

**Public-Private  
Partnership**  
Non-profit foundations

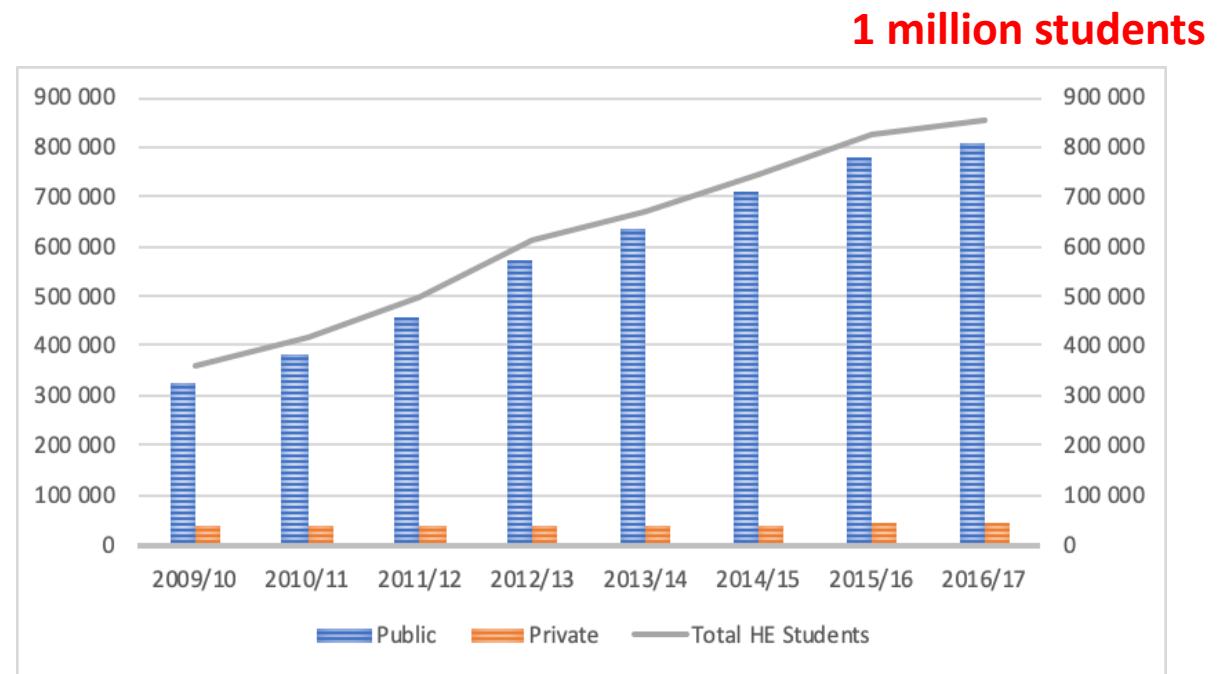
**Private**  
Profit private initiative



## Number of students



- The period of massification, therefore several challenges



## 2) Internationalization of HE in Morocco: vision at national level

### The Strategic Vision (2015-2030)

#### Several objectives:

- Facilitate the mobility of student at international level;
- Ensure the mobility of Moroccan researchers to internationally;
- Call for familiarization with good practices, successful international experiences and international standards;
- Develop partnerships and international cooperation;
- Strengthen Morocco's positioning in the international system;
- Seek the adhesion of Morocco to the internationalization of knowledge; technology and innovation.

✓ Equity  
✓ Quality  
✓ Individual and Societal promotion

# The Ministry Plan (2018-2022)

## Axis 6: Development of the international cooperation strategy

- Project 1: Focusing and strengthening current cooperation programs with foreign countries
- Project 2: Create of new partnerships in the fields of higher education and scientific research
- Project 3: Consolidation of the cooperation with the regional environment in the framework of south-south cooperation
- Project 4: Strengthening the mobility of Moroccan students and professors

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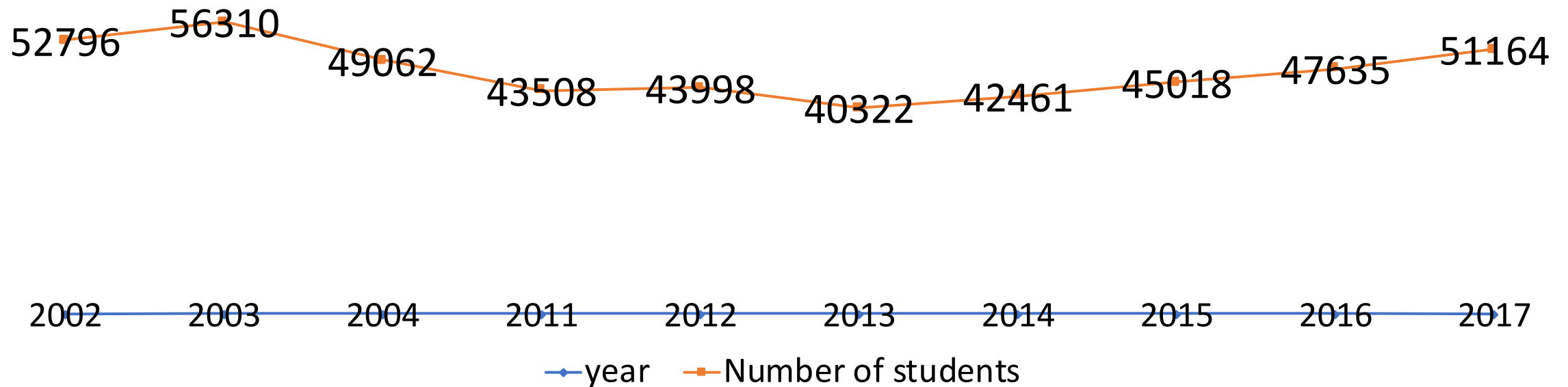
**There is a focus toward internationalization, but without establishing a specific and integrated vision for it.**



# 3) The outbound and Inbound Mobility in Morocco

## Outbound Mobility

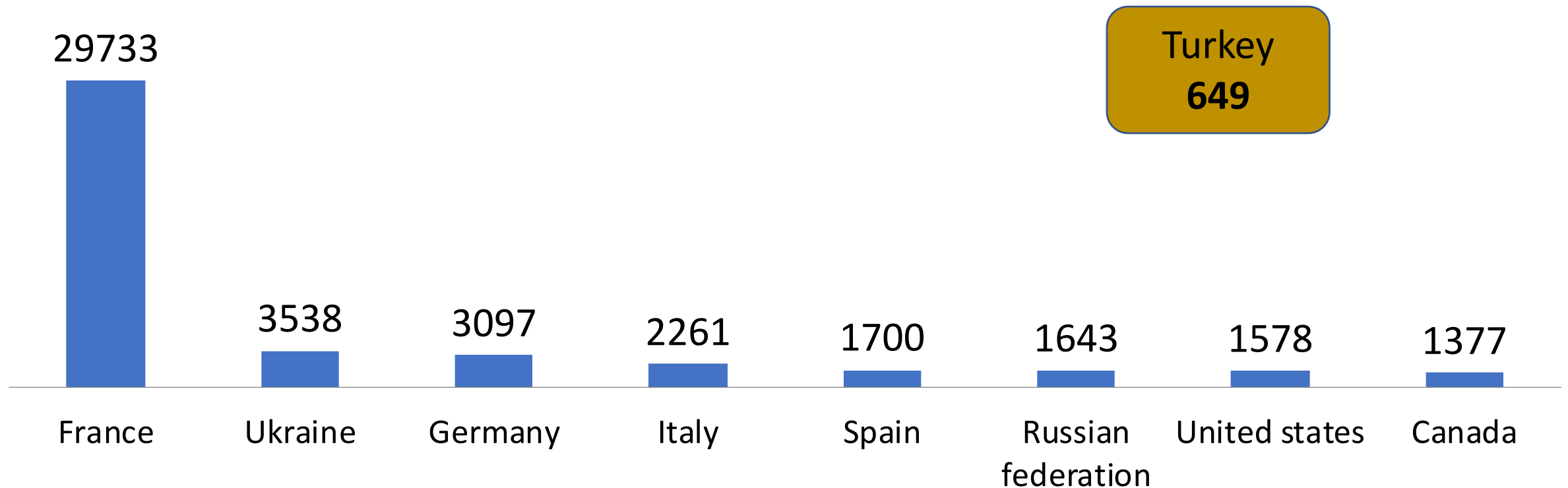
- Evolution of the number of mobile students abroad (2002-2017)



- 51,164 Moroccans study abroad in 2017.
- Decrease between 2003 and 2011, Stability between 2011 and 2014, Increase after 2014.
- The second country in Africa after Nigeria (85,251)

# Countries of destination

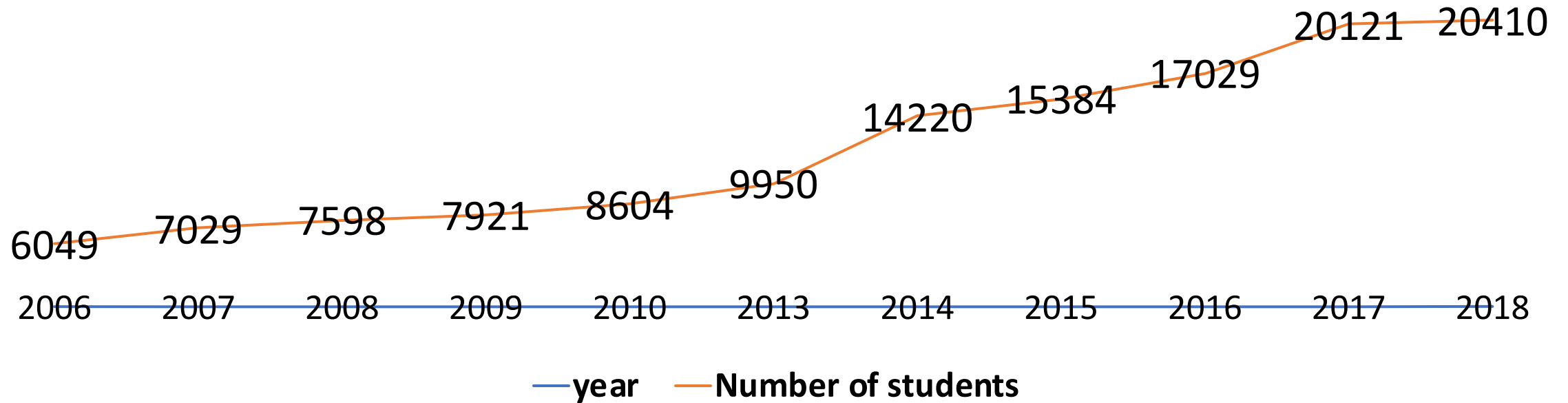
- The first destination of the Moroccan students is France (29,733 students)



## **Factors for students' choice to study in France:**

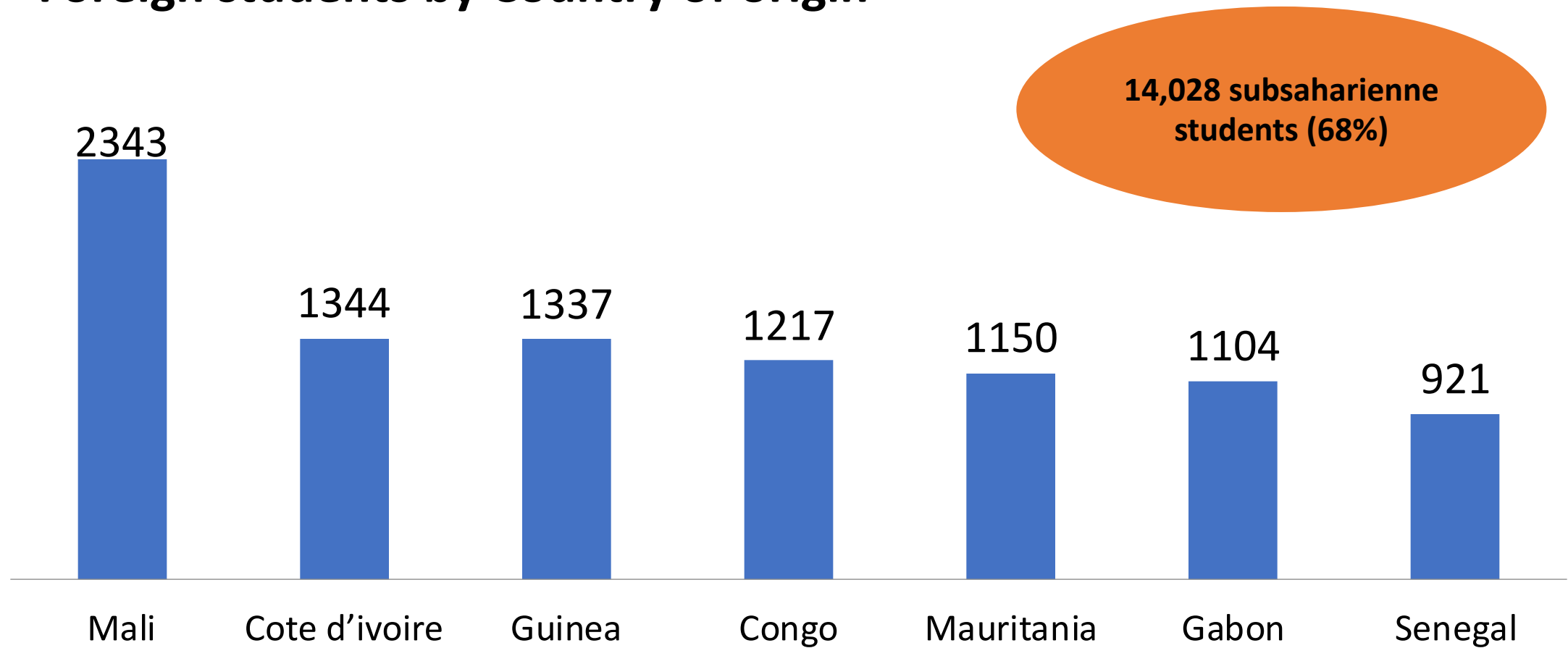
- The french language.
- The recognition of the diploma.
- The prestige to study in France.
- The quality of teaching in France.
- The possibility to have student jobs to help finance studies.
- The fact of having contacts (friends, family...).

# Inbound mobility



- Morocco has cater 20,410 students in 2018.
- There is a significant growth between 2006 and 2018.

- **Foreign students by Country of origin**



# Reasons for Morocco to become the most favored destination for African Students

- The availability of scholarship: The « *Agence Marocaine de Cooperation Internationale* » awards grants to students (95% of them received a scholarship).
- The presence of more international branch campuses of foreign universities and schools.
- The low tuition fees.
- The lower living costs than other countries.
- Less bureaucracy to obtain a visa than for European and American countries.
- Geographical location of Morocco.
- Accommodations offer (places in university residences & international student accommodation in Rabat).
- Presence of policies and framework to guide their integration in moroccan society (in accordance with constitution and international commitments).

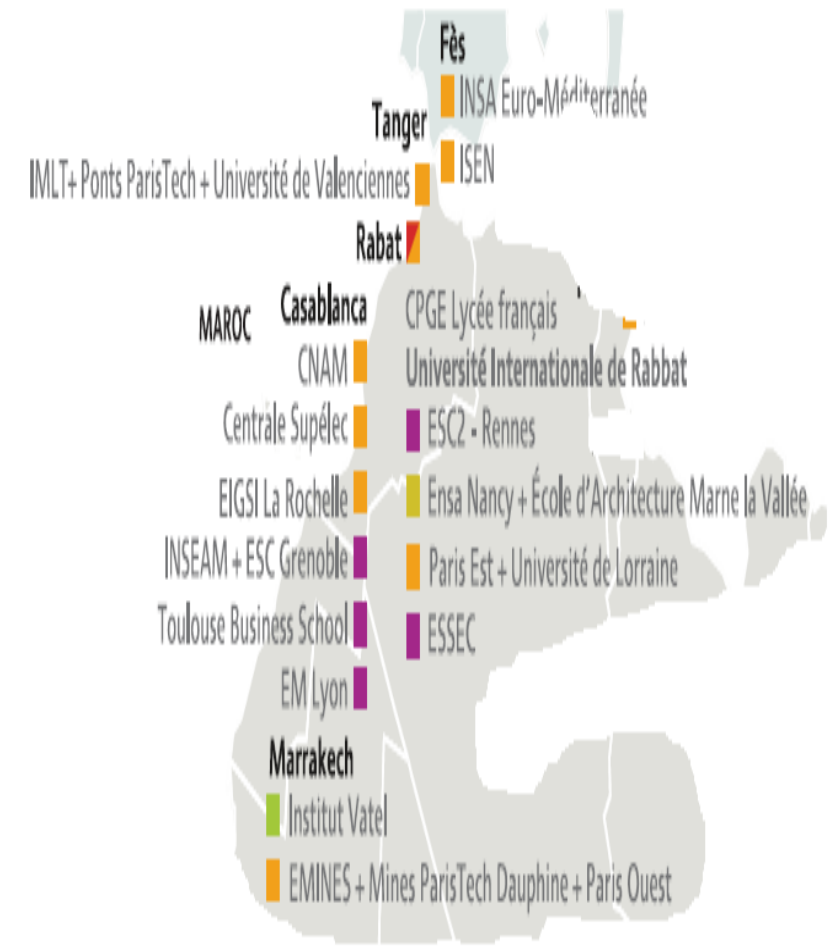
## 4) The internationalization of curriculum

- The adoption of LMD system (since 2003). This system will be gradually replaced by the Bachelor system (from september 2020).
- The process underway to integrate the ECTS system.
- Focus toward the 21st Century skills (the first year of the new system).
- Focus toward foreign languages.
- Introduction of e-learning and promotion of foreign MOOCs, those of French and American universities.
- The establishment of a quality assurance system which aligns with international standards.

# 5) The presence of foreign providers

## Implementation of a new type of institutions of higher education (universities and institutions with partnership):

- [International University of Rabat](#) ;
- [Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez](#) : the French School Group of Engineering Schools INSA, Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Porto University in Portugal and Polytechnic University of Turin (Italy)
- [Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Benguerir](#) : MIT in the United States and Mines ParisTech;
- [Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences - Casablanca](#);
- [Abulcasis International University of Health Sciences - Rabat](#);
- [INSA International](#);
- [The Ecole Centrale of Casablanca](#): Ecole Centrale of Paris. ;
- [International Institute of Technology](#): IUT – France, IUT International;
- [Mediterranean Institute of Logistics and Transport in Tetouan](#): Ecole des ponts ParisTech





## 6) International partnerships

- Cooperation with several countries and international organizations: European, American, African, Arab and Asian.
- Cooperation agreements: More than 700 agreements concluded between Moroccan universities and their foreign counterparts (65% with francophone universities).
- Active participation of Moroccan universities in calls for projects in training and research (Erasmus +, H2020 ...).

### Results

- Mobility of students, professors and staff.
- Development of double degrees and co-supervised thesis.
- 50% of indexed publications are produced with foreign researchers.
- Involvement in international research projects.
- Development of a national cooperation management platform (Projects, agreements and conventions, Foreign students and mobility, reporting, etc.)

# Results for ERASMUS+

## International Credit Mobility (ICM)

- 3960 mobility (1151 incoming, 2809 outgoing).
- The 2nd partner in the Southern Mediterranean region and the 8<sup>th</sup>/135 in the world.

## Capacity Building of Higher Education (CBHE)

- 37 projects.
- The 2nd partner in the South Mediterranean region.

## Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD)

- 5 projects.

## 7) Challenges on the issue of Internationalization of HE in Morocco

- Establish guidelines for developing and implementing a coherent and integrated internationalization strategy.
- Introduce internationalization dimension in the implementation of the actual strategic vision of HES.
- Seek the manner of integration of foreign languages for instruction in higher education.
- Seek the manner of integration of the 21st Century skills in higher education.
- Evaluate cooperation projects and disseminate the achievements of these projects while preserving their continuity in time.

# Thank you for your attention

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