

PAN-EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

Proposal Acronym: PEU_ECHE_2020

Proposal Number: SEP-210666147

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) 2021-2027

Erasmus activities included in the EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): Strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

From its first ever participation in the activities of the Erasmus programme, the Pan-European University (PEU) has recognised this move as a step towards opening up to the outside world. Over the years, participating in EU mobility actions has led the university to become a stable and respected partner in the international academic environment. Clearly, the mutual inspirations have caused spin-off effects also in regard of the own institutional capacity and its outreach to the processes of internationalisation. Out of a national perspective and the position within the Slovak higher education system the university has grown to become one of the most active Slovak universities in the processes of internationalisation, measured by the amount of active inter-institutional partnerships, its worldwide cooperation interconnections, the strong ability to participate in actions of multilateral academic cooperation (such as an achieved very active position in international networks, consortia or groups of universities) and in the simplest formulation, the total numbers of executed mobilities in the recent years.

Following this perspective, the aim of the PEU for the period of 2021-2027 remains to be the consideration of its international activity as one of the strategic tools to achieve a higher quality of its services and offering in higher education (reflected in the quality of its programmes, the modernity of its curricula and worldwide conduct and measured through the satisfaction of its students and the success of its graduates on the employment market). To this very respect it is being deemed to be essential to keep and further develop the high standard of the worldwide scope of its international conduct. The university considers its step towards an active participation in the mobility actions with the non-EU partner countries as utmost essential and thus, it plans to continue and further strengthen its close affiliations and joint activities in international cooperation with its partner university institutions, predominantly located in the regions of Central, East and South-East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and in the neighbourhood regions of the EU, including the countries of the former Soviet Union, Western Balkans and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. Besides this direction, a stabilised cooperation framework, achieved through long-standing inter-institutional relationships with partner universities all across Europe, will be continued.

Close cooperation with its partners abroad should serve a whole range of objectives. Out of an institutional perspective it should create the most essential tool to achieve a constantly high standard in education services, to be reached through direct inspirations, coordinative and supportive actions, exchange of teaching staff, sharing of good practices and participation in cooperative projects. A further modernisation of the own institution as part of the institution's internationalisation is fully in line with the goal of achieving the aim of creating the European Education Area, as a result of the strengthening of the values of European identity through education and culture. In this inter-institutional capacity the PEU is already on its way to develop new forms of teaching approaches, using the strong cooperation with a range of its more experienced partners in this regard. These include joint development of integrated, transnational teaching activities, both in the form of direct (in-person) teaching (in the form of joint courses, modules and summer schools with a strong inter-cultural impact), as well as through on-line activities (such as an active participation to the COIL initiative of the Compostela Group of Universities) or eventually a combination of both.

The already strong emphasis for support of mobilities of individual participants shall be continuously supported and further developed with the intention of reaching further personal

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

prospects, as part of the individual participants' own professional goals, the support for their further professional strive or constituting an integral part of their academic and/or scientific careers in case of staff mobilities. By doing so, an unconditional respect for the principles of non-discrimination and an active support for participants from disadvantaged background, individuals with disabilities, specific health conditions and/or learning difficulties and due attention for an equal access and equitable opportunities in regard to all international activities will be safeguarded.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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By entering the new programme action period the university plans to be actively involved in the activities of the Key action 1 and the Key action 2. It does not, however, aspire to participate in the "European universities" initiative yet, due to limited capacities for such high scale activity. The dominating activity shall continue to be the mobilities of higher education staff and students under the Key action 1. This activity shall further build up on the wide range of inter-institutional partnerships, created throughout the previous programme period and the achieved experiences will be gradually introduced into all services of the PEU. As emphasised, the close cooperation with partners from across the world enables to implement inspirations to contribute to a further innovation towards a modern higher education system in Slovakia, using the best practices in connection with the university partners of the PEU. A further step towards the inclusion of more non-university partners shall follow on a highlighted scale. This will be achieved partly through partnerships aiming for mobility traineeships (both outgoing and incoming and to a higher extent also in cooperation with stakeholders in partner countries), through inclusion of practical elements in education and a widest possible improvement of teaching techniques achieved by shared expertise with foreign partner institutions and leading international professionals in their respective fields and last but not least through strengthened online content in form of virtual classes, online teaching, support of the "internationalisation at home" tendencies in international academic cooperation, through a share of expertise, optimally accomplished as blended mobility activities, combining in-place mobility with periods of virtual mobility. This step has already proved as essential in reaction to the current Covid-19 global pandemic outbreak, as a reaction to which combined forms of education, also including the international element, have become a necessity, as in-place mobilities became significantly challenged, if not impossible at all.

A special emphasis, which over the years has developed as an integral part of cooperation with countries, regions and partner institutions from outside the EU, will be addressed to furthermore involve the PEU's natural affinity to highlight the achievement of intercultural competences throughout the university studies. Participation in mobility activities and a highlighted element of the internationalisation at home principle with inclusion of foreign experts (through the incoming mobility scheme) into the standard curricula of the university will be developed as an eminent component of studies, as well as aiming towards a competitive professional profile of each graduate.

The participation to the actions of Key action 2 will serve a supportive and widening goal of the dominant emphasis for Key action 1 involvement. It has become integral to the wide network of international partnerships of the PEU that in selected disciplines of its activity (predominantly in the fields of legal and economic sciences, psychology, media studies and audio-visual production, ICTs and international relations and diplomacy) a strengthened bilateral or multilateral inter-institutional cooperation has led to initiatives of cooperative action proposals under the Key action 2. These will be particularly supported on the central university management and administration level to widen their scale towards exchanges of good practices and partnerships for innovations. It remains the goal of the PEU to use its existing experiences in a range of fields also as a tool for scholarly support of its partners in the EU neighbourhood

regions, contributing to an outreach effect of the European Education Area and specifically towards its strategic partners in other regions of the world (such as to the benefit of the PEU's principal partner countries, such as the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam or Kyrgyzstan).

As a long-term goal a partnership for excellence in the form of a joint Master Degree initiative is being envisaged as an institutional ambition of the PEU for the programme period of 2021-2027. All supportive measures, including own financial support, will be provided in this regard.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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On a highlighted scale the participation in international actions, to be supported through the activities of this Programme, shall not only be supported as one of the fields in its institutional structure, but considered unanimously, at both the central and the decentralised (faculties and institutes) level of university administration as the PEU's utmost institutional priority. This active consideration shall facilitate to reach for institutional goals in aiming to become the most up-to-date private higher education institution in its country and the respective region (Central and Eastern Europe), as well as in addressing its students with a set of competences, being different from those offered by traditional university institutions. Soft-skills, intercultural competences, practicality and a continuous cultivation towards the achievement of a modern, internationally skilled professional shall be a direct learning outcome and thus, not only a side effect. To this respect a strong international cooperation is being recognised as a strategic tool for such achievement.

Throughout the programme period of 2021-2027 the goal of the university is to organise a full range of mobility activities, including students (for studies and for traineeships) and staff (for both teaching and training), having the form of outgoing and incoming mobilities, both in the programme and the partner country cooperation instrument. From its very first involvement in the Erasmus programme (as part of the Lifelong Learning Programme initiative) the university has built up a sustainable, mutually meaningful cooperation framework with its partners. Building up on this partnership framework, it aims to offer to its students, staff and its partner institutions excellence in accomplishing cooperative mobility schemes, set out in each individual bilateral partnership, as formulated by an inter-institutional agreement. The qualitative outcome of such activity will be measurable and perceptible by the quality of the professional and the personal profiles of the addressees of the mobility actions and by the close inter-institutional partnerships in deep intercultural harmony, demonstrable on the institutional scale.

Following its wide inter-institutional cooperation scope the university will be supportive and actively encourage all its levels to a higher extent of cooperation under the KA2 framework. In the first phase of the programme period the institutional priority will address all such cooperation efforts, where pre-existing sectoral and scientific cooperation preconditions allow a high degree of efficiency, especially in respect of an exchange of expertise in relevant academic and scientific fields. Concurrently, with a projected effort for a higher efficacy in the second half of the programme period, ambitious institutional efforts will be aimed at specific projects of innovation partnerships, coordinated by the institution as a whole, allowing for a emphasised interdisciplinary approach. The areas to aim for KA2 cooperation prospects will follow the

structure of the university's main fields of expertise, with an underlying aspect of further institutional strengthening of the respective fields in their academic offer and a scientific excellence, achieved through international cooperation.

During the whole duration of the programme period a persistent activity will be committed towards the ability to coordinate the preparation towards the application for a Joint Master Degree partnership for excellence. Indicatively, this goal might be accomplishable towards the end (in the last third) of the programme period of 2021-2027, since a general preparatory framework in cooperation with selected partner universities needs to be created. Such activity anticipates an inclusion of partner universities from both programme and partner countries, to support the general goal of spreading the European academic excellence, ideas, values, knowledge and expertise out of a coordinated approach from within the European Education Area and sharing them with the outside world, to the respect of which the Erasmus partner country instrument seems to be the most suitable tool.