

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)**

The University of Patras (UP), located in a mostly important junction point for Western Greece, enjoys recognition as an academic Institution with a worldwide impact and engages actively in the cutting-edge science, innovation, and excellence. UP's European Policy statement, originally approved by its Senate in 1996, is reviewed and updated towards its international orientation based on contemporary demands and on the requirements and standards of Bologna Process. UP has applied an efficient Internal Quality Assurance System in all of our academic and administrative activities and has been accredited to be in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. Considering the rapidly changing international trends in education and research, we assess our mechanisms and practices, we define our strengths and weaknesses and we acknowledge the opportunities and threats to re-determine our stand in the international presence. UP collaborates with Universities and Research Institutions worldwide developing joint activities related to research, teaching, intensive programmes and common curricula. Our international orientation focuses mainly on co-operations of our academic staff with Universities and Research Institutes worldwide, on the establishment of Inter-Institutional agreements, Memorandums of Understanding and on our participation in Higher Education Networks and University Associations (EUA, EUCEN, BSUN, UNECC, CMU, UNIADRION, AESOP, etc) ensuring that UP remains at the forefront of global developments. Our internationally recognized faculty and high-quality staff with the determined leadership are committed to strengthen the "knowledge triangle" by linking education–research–innovation within the knowledge economy improving employability and industry co-operations. To this end, our participation in Erasmus forms core part of our Institution's internationalisation strategy and focuses on the following **objectives**:

- become key partners in Erasmus exchange actions (KA1)
- enhance digitalization processes in managing Erasmus mobilities (KA1)
- deliver high-quality teaching and research in line with all Bologna tools (ECTS, DS) focusing on our learners' learning outcomes (KA1)
- encourage the participation of individuals regardless of socio-economic background in Erasmus study periods abroad (internationalisation abroad) (KA1)

- develop international and intercultural understanding to all students and staff focusing not only on the mobile ones (internationalisation at home) (KA1)
- incorporate the international dimension in all our curricula, in our teaching and assessment techniques and in our administrative services (KA1)
- focus on our graduates' "generic skills", provide them with the necessary to become active and responsible citizens able to act within a constantly changing labor market (KA1)
- offer high-level education and lifelong learning with increased opportunities for all, including those at disadvantage (KA2)
- development and enhancement of research excellence (KA2)
- social contribution, achieved by addressing the country's social, development and cultural needs and shaping responsible democratic citizens with scientific, social, cultural and political consciousness (KA3).

Considering that internationalisation represents not only a phenomenon but also a whole process, our participation in Erasmus makes-up only one but core dimension of our internationalisation strategy. It will contribute to our Institution ***modernising***:

- our teaching and assessment methods with our faculty staff participation in exchange mobilities. UP considers exchanges not just an opportunity but a strong suggestion to all in order to adopt good practices to our conditions overcoming any barriers due to potential indigenous factors
- academic processes. It is through our faculty staff interaction with colleagues from partner institutions that the Europeanly-joint making priorities become alive in our Institution's classrooms and laboratories
- our curricula, making them more attractive not just to international students but internationally scented to the non-mobile students who are to finally graduate with a strong sense of European identity
- our administrative and support services. The administrative staff participation in Erasmus exchange remains our focus as they are given the incentive to enhance their international awareness and incorporate new practices in their daily administrative activities

- our digitalisation Erasmus management services. What is Europeanly the top priority of Erasmus becomes our top goal: to improve our practices so that participants are facilitated as far as bureaucracy is concerned.

All in all, our participation in Erasmus reflects our efforts made to build the European Education Area. What the Commission develops as an initiative could not leave us untouched. We are determined to make Erasmus study periods abroad for all study-cycles not just an opportunity for our students but the norm for all, regardless of their socio-economic background. Last but not least, UP is determined to make use of European funds to improve the teaching and learning of foreign languages and the development of all our students' digital skills.