

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The basic principles of our institutional policy towards internationalization emerge from three key activities:

1. Reinforcement of educational mobility

Mobility of students and staff within and outside the EU, with the purpose of enhancing innovation, knowledge, professional development and educational excellence.

2. Development of collaboration planning

Collaborations with companies aiming at connecting the institution with the job market, educational collaborations towards the reinforcement of innovation and support of collaboration with neighbouring countries and third countries.

3. Support of educational policies

Discourse with selected international partners on issues of educational policy, with the purpose of a) exchanging views in fields of common interest and organizing research visits, seminars and surveys, b) enhancing the development and the support of reforms towards promoting studies in the EU in an international level.

A) Selection of Partners

We aim at promoting collaborations which enhance innovative education and connect the academic community with the job market. We evaluate the common targets and the expected results and we ensure their continuous and balanced distribution among collaborating partners. We take into account thematic and geographical priorities to ensure that a balance is struck between academic interests and other factors influencing institutional decisions (eg. geographical and subject area balance).

B) Geographical Distribution

The EU has a long tradition of collaboration with third countries based on a series of policies in which academic education plays a constantly increasing role. Within the framework of this policy we support the collaboration with neighbouring countries and we aim at developing a co-operation with third countries.

C) Objectives and Target Groups

A key issue in this internationalizing strategy is the participation of students and staff in European and international collaboration projects, in that professional skills and social and intercultural relations are enhanced. We aim at developing new collaborations /joint courses/modules/curricula/, double/multiple/joint degrees and other collaboration networks within and outside the EU.

We aim at refreshing and expanding our collaborations with academic institutions, research institutes and companies, with the purpose of enhancing knowledge as a basis for a more innovative and creative economy. At the same time, we promote European competitiveness, contributing to the development of a society in which knowledge is intensively used. To attain the targets of this international strategy, the

University of the Peloponnese has organized its internal function in such a manner, so as to:

- ensure transparency, coherence and meritocracy in its functional organization.
- provide constant updating by communicating the possibilities offered by collaboration programmes.
- support the participants during every phase of their transfer (timely signing of learning agreement, planning of studies and teaching, information about matters of insurance, visa etc.)
- respect and apply thoroughly article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, according to which no distinction should be made “based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation”.
- support the participation of people coming from socially vulnerable groups and people with special needs.
- take action towards ensuring the success of the programme by focusing attention on a) language proficiency of the participants, b) their smooth adjustment into the new academic and social life, c) the continuous communication with and monitoring of the participants.
- certify and exploit the outcome of the participation in student mobility through the application of ECTS (while Diploma Supplement is expected to be applied)
- certify and exploit the outcome of staff mobility aiming at professional development and educational excellence.
- charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory, library and other facilities offered to local students.

Our actions contribute towards providing the conditions which will lead to the full exploitation of European intellectual capital, with the purpose of promoting longtime competitiveness and development.

Our strategy for the internationalization has been planned on the basis of the 5 priorities of the Modernization Agenda and considering the three aforementioned key-actions:

1. Reinforcement of educational mobility

Development of student and staff mobility within and outside the EE and of joint master's degree.

2. Development of collaboration planning

Strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances taking into consideration the fact that higher education plays an everincreasing role in the long tradition of cooperations between EE state members and third countries.

3. Support of educational policies

Development of networks and promoting dialogue on issues of educational policy. Especially in teaching and training our institution aims at:

- developing wider collaborations -both within and outside the EE- with education and research Institutions, enterprises and other organizations with a view to: a) innovation development b) enhancing of the knowledge triangle c) forging links with the labour market.
- developing transnational teaching activities aiming at the modernization of teaching methods and the improvement of infrastructures
- selecting partners on the basis of a) subject-area and geographical priorities in order to ensure that a balance is struck between academic interests and other factors influencing institutional decisions b) the balanced and continuous distribution of outcomes among partners.
- ensuring high quality mobility through transparent, meritocratic and coherent evaluation procedures which also accord with article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- the full support of students and staff, giving priority to under-represented groups
- the dissemination of outcomes, so that a) mobility benefits are not restricted to those immediately interested b) the internal function of the institution is improved c) the institution's international presence is enhanced and d) participation in the actions is encouraged.

The contribution of our Institution in relation to the strategies we have developed for each of the 5 aforementioned priorities can be summarized as follows:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

Through the participation in European and international partnership schemes, our Institution is continuously improving the level of knowledge, research and high specialization it offers. It thus produces informed researchers who often possess experience also beyond academia, and it contributes to the promotion of innovation and competitiveness and the pursuit and gain of new work places, economic development and social growth and cohesion.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

The development of partnerships and the participation in mobility schemes, the acquaintance with new practices and the differences and similarities observed between institutions provide many opportunities for education quality improvement. The inter-institutional subject networks in which we participate function as springs for reflection on the future and the development of education, research and innovation.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

In the face of today's challenges (international competition, population trends) the European and international partnerships and collaborations developed by our Institution and its encouragement of mobility result in its development into a more open, accessible and productive University.

4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

In addition to the two traditional tasks of Universities, teaching and research, our Institution undertakes a third task which is the forging of links with the business and labour sector nationally and on the level of the country's peripheries. This action is indicative of the social commitment of our University. We aim at excellence and peripheral development, we are building bridges with the local society, the local organizations and enterprises and we are becoming a nodal site of the wider Peloponnesian periphery.

5. Improving governance and funding

The development of collaboration networks among our Institution, and research agents and enterprises strengthens the knowledge triangle and results in growth, the creation of new work places and the improvement of governance and funding mechanisms. Thus the range of funding sources and the effectiveness of collaborations are improved.