



ECHE 2021-27 Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

The Maria Curie-Skłodowska University's new 2019-2025 organisational development and modernisation strategy refers to the European international cooperation programmes in reaching its internationalisation development objectives. The strategy makes a straightforward reference to the participation in the Erasmus Programme as one of the major platforms for the University's internationalisation strategy implementation effort.

According to the strategy the University will focus on maintaining the high internationalisation coefficient (10%) by developing high quality research activities, maintaining the high quality education for local and international students with diversified study programmes in Polish and English on all three study tiers developed at each of its faculties. International staff mobilities will continue to play an important part in the University's staff competence enhancement mechanism. Therefore the University is going to promote and support student and staff international mobility including special support for individuals with fewer opportunities or special needs.

Emphasis is also put on encouraging both University staff and students, including international students to take active part in social events, sports and other activities focused on social inclusion, integration, dialogue, and protection of natural environment. The staff and students will also be supported in their activities aimed at promoting the University to social and business partners at home and abroad.

The University plans to continue its efforts to build up active collaboration with the social and business environment, support the professional development of its academic and administrative staff, modernise the campus infrastructure, its research and teaching facilities, including distance and blended learning and the needs of disabled students. The strategy also indicates that the University should work in various national and international educational networks to actively support the policy development. The University will pursue to play an important role in discussions and opinions on higher education and European integration in the local and national bodies.

The University plans to seek experienced international partners to establish integrated teaching activities like joint modules, double or even multiple joint degrees and participate in Erasmus partnerships for excellence and innovation in education.

As an experienced Erasmus Programme beneficiary the University plans to contribute towards the goal of building a European Education Area and continue to offer its educational facilities as well as organisational and educational expertise to new Erasmus partner HEIs, especially to those from the Programme partner countries. In view of its growing international experience the University can take the role of coordinator in many learning and teaching mobility and other collaborative higher education development projects.

The University has significantly benefited from the Programme funding so far in such crucial areas as technical modernisation, computer and office infrastructure, human resource development, innovation in education, publicity and promotion. The University intends to continue using the

Erasmus Programme development and funding opportunities to secure support for its strategic objectives and reaching the goals designed for years 2020-2025.

The University plans to continue to participate in Erasmus Key Action 1 "Learning Mobility": the mobility of higher education students and staff.

The mobility schemes will be implemented within the framework of prior interinstitutional agreements in which the partners will establish the respective roles and responsibilities as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception and integration of their mobile participants. The University will endeavour to gradually manage the Programme documentation digitally at all levels of the mobility schemes implementation.

The inter-institutional agreements for study, traineeships and teaching mobility will be negotiated with partners by the faculty/departmental coordinators with administrative support (forms, codes, Programme principles) of the University's Erasmus Office. The University will try to develop the blended mobility opportunities for both incoming and outgoing student participants for studying purposes. The agreements will be approved by deans of the respective faculties before the documents are signed by the legal representative.

The Erasmus international mobility schemes are expected to help maintain the University's high internationalisation effect manifested in the growing number of its students and staff participating in international education and the growing number of in-coming international students and staff.

The University would also like to take part in Erasmus Key Action 2 "Cooperation among organisations and institutions", in particular in Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices, Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities, Partnerships for Excellence – Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees, and Partnerships for Innovation.

With certain experience in partnerships for cooperation the University will try to take part in curriculum development projects to help adapt its study offer to the current demand on the changing job markets. The Joint Masters Degrees projects especially will help the University answer the numerous invitations from international HEIs to establish integrated teaching activities like double joint degrees. This will create an additional opportunity to extend the University's offer of English taught programmes of study available for international students who are identified in the strategy as significant actors for the University's internationalisation and sustainability goals. With the objective to become a truly Interdisciplinary University attempts will be made to continue the successful collaboration with European partners in implementing the design thinking approach for innovation development at the University. The University has already entered into partnerships for excellence and innovation in education (in the European University string) to enhance diversity in universities, integrate innovation into education, support entrepreneurial initiatives and civic engagement, and expects to continue to boost sustainable participation in other KA2 projects in years 2021-27.

The University would like to take part in Key Action 3 "Support to policy development and cooperation": networks and policy support measures by entering into university networks or partnerships with educational authorities working on the local, national and European planes. The University is ready to share and offer its professional expertise and experience to become an active impact making institution in policy development.



The envisaged impact of the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will be very broad and involve the University's community (students and staff), municipal and national social and business environments. Various forms of international study visits, peer learning and trainings will be used to help administrative officers update their experience and knowledge of international project management, internationalisation processes, student and staff support activities, problem issue management, etc. The University's international cooperation will also be employed to help develop competence and practical skills of its human resources and internationalise its talent management activities. A significant number of the University's staff (over 700) will have gained specialist foreign language competence ready to be used in international student and staff study support, integration and social inclusion activities. The targeted figure at the annual average in this respect is at least 100 University staff members by 2027. The University will make every effort to reach a similar count for incoming staff mobilities.

The Programme will help implement new staff competence development mechanisms focused on adequate motivation, engagement and promotion. Also the Programme will help develop the University governance processes by enhancing the implementation of digital documentation management and circuit to be completed in defined stages between 2021-27.

In qualitative dimension all these measures will result in a better image and higher ranking of the University as a modern higher education institution and a relevant partner with high profile professional staff for the local social, administrative and business organisations. The target here is to earn the position of a scientific research University with modern, attractive and the market oriented study programmes for local and overseas students.

The University's strong position as European HEI is expected to draw on more partners in education, training and business environment from the Programme and the Partner countries, which will result in increased involvement in international cooperation projects including new transnational student and staff mobility projects and a significant rise in the number of hosted international students. The quantitative target to be attained here is at least 1000 by 2027 and 150 international students hosted at the University on average per year.

With home students the target is 225 home Erasmus student participating in international mobility on average per year. The University plans to send abroad on Erasmus mobilities for studies at least 150 students per year including home international students on degree programmes in English. With traineeship mobilities becoming more and more popular among students the targeted figure in outgoing traineeship mobilities is at 75 students and recent graduates per year. Altogether the mobility target figure for home students is over 1500 by 2027. Together with a growing proportion of international students on diploma programmes in Polish and English the University will be able to maintain its high position in national rankings as a top Polish university with regard to internationalisation.

The annual progress in reaching these targets will also be measured by the number of new English taught study programmes and courses including the distance learning based courses, the number of international students enrolled in the study programmes (at least 10%), the proportion of international students to overall number of students (at least 11%), the number of staff members upgrading their professional skills by way of international mobility.

The University intends to participate in activities supported by the Programme to implement its long term international cooperation plans, win extra funding to support attaining its internationalisation targets and in this way build up its technical and operational sustainability, and scientific and educational credibility worldwide.

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