

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your 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:

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your 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

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive

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)

Being a small and the only institution offering short cycle programs in our region it is important to cooperate with other institutions to exchange experiences and values, to gain knowledge, to keep up-to-date and stay informed and to make contacts for future projects. It is also important to learn about other European nations, their culture and traditions and so broaden our minds. The most important objective is to encourage as many students as possible to take the opportunity to go abroad for work placement and to improve the quality of their work experience this way. Work placement mobility abroad is added value to their study and there is nothing comparable to it. Mobility also increases social and intercultural skills of students. Mobility is an important and very welcome opportunity for students from our region that is quite under-developed. They unemployment rate, especially among young people is high but mobility is a way that offers them to gain experiences and references that can help them to find a job. Beside that most students from our region cannot afford to study in bigger cities because it is too expensive for them so mobility offers them the opportunity to go abroad. Therefore students are the most important target group as for them it is even more important in these hard financial times after the pandemic to gain relevant work experiences in enterprises. Moreover, they get innovative ideas which can be helpful for businesses at home or even motivate them to start their own businesses, they make important contacts for the future when they will look for employment, they improve their language skills, they make contact with other young people, they learn about other nation's culture and traditions and they are ambassadors for their own country's culture and traditions.

Another important objective is staff mobility as it offers the opportunity to make contact at institutions abroad, which can later lead to further cooperation in international projects, especially KA2 projects. Teachers also have the opportunity of teaching, which is an important way of getting feedback of their work but they also keep up-to-date. They have the possibility to exchange teaching practises with other teachers, they learn different or new ways of teaching and they pass on information to students. Staff mobility is also important as they have the opportunity to exchange work experiences and improve their language skills. All of them, students, staff and teachers help to inform other EU countries and nations about our country and nation but EU and this way they spread the European spirit.

Apart from the above mentioned for us as a public institution it is important to connect with other schools if we want to keep up-to-date in the professional and educational field. Being informed helps modernising our ways of educating and preparing students for the everyday and professional life all

over the EU. Moreover, the internationalisation of our school makes it easier to find suitable partners for future projects. Although offering short-cycle programmes we have a lot of potential in the IT fields when it comes to students and staff. A way to use and show this potential are KA2 projects.

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.

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

We would like to take part in Erasmus KA1 actions because that is the most effective way for our students to gain work experience abroad. Not only do they work but they also learn about company's culture, work processes, relationships in a company as well as improve their social and intercultural skills. Moreover, this is the best way to improve their foreign language skills. Students get all the theoretical knowledge at school and have then the opportunity to check all this in a real life experience abroad. On the other hand, virtual mobility is also an important way of mobility, especially for students who would like to get more experience "abroad" but do not like leaving home. We have a lot of IT students who actually prefer to work from home and in the field of IT and computer science this really is not a problem. I see great potential there as they can still improve social and intercultural skills as well as improving foreign language.

We lecturers (and our school in general) will get the information on how well our students are prepared for everyday and business life, if they have the right skills for the job, if employers abroad are satisfied, what might need to be changed, if other skills are necessary and what kind of skills and similar. We will get the feedback from the students' work placements needed for adapting or modernising subject contents or teaching methods.

We would also like to take part in Erasmus KA2 actions, Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practises and Partnerships for Innovation, as we have some experiences of participation in such projects. We have been in three KA2 projects since 2014 and the outcomes of those, e-learning platforms, are used in the institutions of project partners as well as in other educational institutions. They can also be used individually as all platforms are interactive. Such projects contribute a lot when it comes to the modernisation and internationalisation of our institution. Such projects help to modernise because we meet people from different educational institutions to exchange experiences and knowledge and there is always something new. At the same time they help to internationalise our school as we meet project partners from different EU countries and spread the word about our work which is proven by our work in the projects.

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

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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.

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

Our institution functions in a less developed region which needs to encourage the development of human resources and to retrain the workforce as they need to be prepared for new challenges, especially now when facing the pandemic and occurring economic crisis. For this reason our institution is striving for an increasing attainment level of graduates by improving quality as well as developing new ways of delivering education. Quality is added by the mobility of students and staff. Staff also contribute to developing new ways of teaching through mobility activities. Our targets are at least two student mobilities for work placement and two staff mobilities per two-year period. With virtual mobility these numbers could be even higher, especially with students. Quality is very important of course but it must work both ways – employers of mobility students have to offer quality work experiences and a professional relationship. Students on the other hand have to provide quality work, show effort and have a professional relationship as well. The same is considered for staff mobility. Work has to be done effective, responsible and well in a professional working environment. Students and staff are supported by the Erasmus coordinator if they need help with finding a suitable company or institution, accommodation, flights, insurance and similar. Students in companies are usually supported by mentors in companies as well. Staff get the support at the company or institution if they need it. Due to staff mobility we have been participating in three KA2 projects since 2014 and we want to continue with taking part in such projects. Especially partnerships for cooperation and exchange of experiences are a very good way to share knowledge and information. The results of all three KA2 projects are online e-learning platforms which already show the sustainability and long-term impact of the projects. The platforms are free accessible to anyone and as they are interactive they can be used individually and in the classroom. The platforms created so far have been in use on all project partners' institutions as well as on others because during the piloting periods they were presented to the general public and students of different schools.