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## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

TUC is running academic exchange programs for a number of years. Therefore we have several partners and a more than ten years history of successful cooperation. New proposals are coming continuously, mainly through other research cooperations of our Faculty members. Interested Institutions are encouraged to express their interest for a possible cooperation, even if no previous contacts exist.

New partners are selected according to the following criteria and procedures:

- Academic quality and excellence of the prospective partners.
- TUC monitors the exchange activities and asks the opinion of participating members (both ingoing and outgoing ones), within the procedures of ongoing internal evaluation procedures adopted by our Departments.
- Partners must fit the research and teaching directions of our Faculty members and students. For this reason, currently most partner institutions have active groups in Production and Management Engineering, Mineral Resources, Environmental Engineering, Electronics and Computer Engineering and Architecture.

The list is enlarged with proposals of newly-hired staff and personnel members. Interested future partners are invited to visit the home page of the relevant Departments and express their interest for cooperation, provided that common areas of research and teaching exist.

Priority is given to Institutions that are active in geographic areas of interest to our Country and our graduates (Balkan and Mediterranean Countries, Middle East and Europe), without excluding other parts of the world (in fact, South America and Asia are already represented). The priorities arising from the choices of outgoing students are in accordance with the ones mentioned above. TUC will attempt to intensify the links with Institutions in the eastern Mediterranean area.

Most important objectives of our participation are (a) acquisition of new knowledge (mainly for students, staff) (b) cooperation in teaching and research activities, including preparation for proposals to other research and training projects, and (c) establishing new contacts. Students of the first two cycles are usually interested to visit Countries where they plan to continue their studies (mainly Western Europe). Doctoral students are usually interested to visit cooperating research groups or more developed Countries. Faculty members and staff are either interested to support the above-mentioned activities or to establish new contacts.

Areas of intense activity until now are: management and finance, engineering design, environmental sciences, energy production and management as well as basic sciences.

A major restructuring of the graduate studies at TUC will be accomplished within the next years. Double or multiple degrees at this level and graduate courses offered in the English language will be of high priority. A limited experience in this direction has been gained by a joint doctorate studies program in the area of decision support systems, successfully finished with a French University (three joint PhD diplomas) and a second joint degree in the area of highway control engineering, under preparation with an Italian University, both initiated by the Department of Production Engineering and Management.

TUC has also participated in Marie Currie Training Networks where joint PhD will be awarded with other Institutions. The students are expected to spend most of their time at the primary Institution, where the degree will be awarded and the remaining in a secondary Institution, where a significant portion of the research will also be conducted.

Finally, we have limited experience with the European PhD, where students spend time and conduct research for at least six months at another Institution.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

TUC supports the organization of joint degrees, mainly at the graduate (Master and Doctorate) level. This way the strengths of more than one Institution will be joined for the production of high-level degrees. Last bureaucratic obstacles are expected to be resolved during the current academic year. Members of TUC and Colleagues of other Institutions abroad are already discussing several proposals in this direction.

In parallel, TUC proceeds with the preparation of degrees of interest to the local and European industry, using resources of cooperating Universities. Feedback from various industrial partners in existing and finished research projects indicates that such an action will be welcomed. Local industry is interested to participate in the organization and financial support of these schemes. A number of questions must be answered before implementation, so that recognition and accreditation of these programs will be ensured.

A less ambitious but equally important task will be the organization of joint intensive courses and summer schools on selected topics of common interest. This activity will intensify the research links of TUC with external partners and at the same time will be of great interest for both local and incoming graduate students.

Furthermore, participation of selected staff and laboratory members to visits in relevant working areas of more developed Universities will be supported, having in mind the transfer of knowledge and experience task.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The Technical University of Crete, one of Greece's Higher Education Institutions, which places emphasis both on education and research, was established in 1977 in Chania and admitted its first students in 1984. Today, TUC comprises of 5 academic engineering departments, the Department of Production Eng. & Management, the Department of Mineral Resources Eng., the Department of Electronics & Computer Eng., the Department of Environmental Eng. and the Department of Architectural Eng., all of which have set very high objectives. The mission of TUC is to develop modern engineering specialties, to place emphasis on research in fields of advanced technology as well as to establish close cooperation with the industry and other production organizations in Greece and abroad. By participating in the LLP (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig Programmes) and Erasmus Mundus Programme, TUC has already gained a valuable experience in the international education field, the results of which will be a guide for developing the Institution's new objectives related to the Erasmus for All Programme. Participation in the Erasmus for All Programme is expected to have the following impacts on the modernization and internationalization of TUC:

TUC will gain further experience on the adoption of ECTS scheme & Diploma Supplement in all its Faculties in order to facilitate academic and professional recognition.

TUC will further practice the policy of equal opportunities and equal academic treatment for all student body and staff, providing if required special support for groups in need.

Main goal of TUC is to assure that students and alumni are competitive in the international employment market. Graduate employability is monitored through relevant research and questionnaires distributed among graduates, creating in this way a feedback mechanism for the modernization curricula and adaptation to labor market needs.

International cooperation will allow TUC to adopt best practices from cooperating Universities. TUC is committed to adopt a flexible and self-improving mechanism for the creation of new curricula and structures, according to the needs of the society. Double/multiple/ joint postgraduate programmes, already mentioned, is one possible group of measures that will be utilized. By activating both classical (academic) exchange schemes as well as links with industry TUC will further support activities addressing the knowledge triangle of education-research-innovation. Collaborations through 'knowledge alliances' between TUC and partners from academia and industry will be supported to reinforce the links between education and employment issues. Students are encouraged and supported to work in innovative, cutting-edge research projects and proceed with entrepreneurial projects. TUC will also be interested to supplement mobility of the Erasmus for All Programme with an e-mobility remote program where students from both Institutions can take classes through e-learning.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)