

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 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)

The Technical University of Crete is a dynamic institution that continues to deploy its potential both on academic as well as research level. Internationalization plays an essential part in the university's strategic planning. TUC has long identified the benefits that result from participating in the Erasmus programme and has since viewed the latter as the vehicle that would assist ongoing university efforts for internationalisation and modernisation. TUC's internationalization and modernization strategy is regularly reviewed and updated in order to take into consideration the progress recorded in education and research on national and international level.

The new national legislative framework favours the institution of foreign language taught programmes and provides for the assessment of higher education institutions by indicators, which include the number of incoming and outgoing mobile participants and the number of inter-institutional agreements. Hence, university assessment and consequently, public funding are directly connected with its internationalization performance. This framework assigns a key role to internationalization and therefore, the latter becomes a priority for university administration, regardless of any other motivation.

In this context, we plan to implement a wider, more comprehensive, more focused, outward-looking promotion strategy of the Erasmus+ programme and consequently, increase participation of students and staff as well as increase the number of our European and international partners. This will contribute to better visibility of the university academic and research profile within Europe and on an international level, enhance the attractiveness of the university's study programmes and assist in the modernization of teaching methods and research performance through academic and scientific interaction and knowledge transfer.

Surveys conducted on national and European level have identified the benefits connected with students who have been mobile during their academic years, showing better employment prospects (especially after participation in Erasmus+ traineeships), increased social skills, heightened sense of European identity and better grasp of cultural differences throughout Europe and the world. University policy intends to build on students and staff mobile experience and support them by exploiting as many programme participation opportunities as possible.

Furthermore, gradually reaching the milestones set by the Erasmus+ Without Paper initiative and the European Student Card project will assist the university's own modernization efforts by making reality a less bureaucratic, open, more accessible scheme, limiting administrative burden related to the management of the Erasmus+ programme and providing new, exciting possibilities, such as the virtual mobility or the blended mobility. This is also crucial to promoting student participation in educational and cultural activities in line with the vision to create a European Education Area by 2025 and more importantly, it will allow students to experience a high-quality mobility experience abroad. TUC internationalisation strategy is expected to lead to increased participation in mobility activities, create a more international campus and hence attract international students to foreign language taught degree programmes.

The Technical University of Crete places emphasis not only on education but also on research, an area in which it is very active and considers an area of expertise. TUC's academic and research strategic orientation focuses among other things on the environment,

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

energy, built environment and sustainability. TUC already participates in several EU and international programmes, including H2020, Interreg and Med Programmes, and has cooperation agreements with major universities in USA, China, India, and Argentina. The aforementioned significant performance in European and international cooperation projects, as well as internationally-minded teaching staff working at TUC constitute the cornerstones of future policy and assist university efforts for maximizing its further involvement in Erasmus+ international cooperation schemes (KA2 action). The latter has recently resulted in a proposal submitted within the framework of the European Universities action in the thematic field of sustainable consumption and production that –if approved–will develop during the new programme period of the Erasmus+ programme.

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.

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The Technical University of Crete aims to continue its participation in: KA1 Action for Learning Mobility (mobility of higher education students and staff), KA2 Action (Cooperation among organisations and institutions), and more particularly, Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices as well as Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities in the next programme period from 2021 to 2027.

Our renewed institutional strategy is taking into consideration the university's participation in the Erasmus+ programme and is putting in place a plan regarding the implementation of approved actions. Enhanced participation will contribute to building transnational partnerships, and help us to create a new generation of globally mobile, culturally agile people who can succeed in an increasingly global marketplace, hence paying tribute to the solid education and high quality research offered by our university.

KA1 mobility will be further reinforced by more targeted promotion to ensure wider participation that is also more diverse and inclusive. Full recognition of mobility results is key in this process of course, not only in the case of study mobility but also in the case of student traineeships. For students, mobility is a chance to develop new skills, gain international experience and boost their employability as TUC alumni. Staff participants gain new ideas, build professional networks and strengthen their professional practice. This action gives scholars, scientists, and researchers opportunities to engage in intellectual dialogue and advance their research, with a focus on interdisciplinary work and the quest for solutions to global challenges. At the same time, we are moving towards careful selection of new partners and re-assessment of previous ones that will guarantee the quality mobility we would like to secure for both students and staff. Partners with complementary and/or supplementary study programmes and research fields/interests will offer the kind of interaction we need and seek in our institutional strategy for internationalization. Mobility of young researchers will add to their scientific experience and motivation and offer them a chance to forge research collaborations and to work on sustainable plans despite the end of projects. Continued involvement of TUC in K1 action will be instrumental in consolidating the educational benefits it has so far gained and will bring forward the university's need to adapt to the growing use of digital learning. Furthermore, it will support the creation of flexible learning pathways in line with learners' needs and objectives.

Participation in Strategic Partnerships for Education, Training and Youth will further enable our university to run more collaborative projects with international HEIs and businesses, NGOs and other organisations while building strong relationships. The focus is on innovation and cooperation, both of which represent priority objectives of our institutional strategy as a technical research-oriented university. Working together to solve shared problems, exchanging ideas, skills and knowledge, developing innovative new practices and improve courses, teaching methods and support structures, all make part of our strategy for the future.

The same applies to our participation to Capacity building projects that will undoubtedly push forward the modernisation of governance, management, the functioning of participating HEIs as well as curriculum development, while at the same time, it will enhance the role of our university as a strong, extrovert European university fostering its attractiveness and visibility internationally.

TUC's participation in the European Universities scheme, should its application be successful, will undoubtedly bring about fundamental changes on all levels (management, administration, education, internationalization etc.), affecting TUC educational strategy for many years to come. The selected area is that of Responsible and Sustainable Production and Consumption (main core in terms of teaching and research at TUC). It is expected to boost university efforts towards a more flexible study offering as well as a more diverse and international campus. Furthermore, this initiative is in harmony with and based on our university planning so far regarding sustainable development through a Green University oriented policy. Through cooperation with our partners in the European University, we shall strive for environmentally sustainable solutions and practices, both on campus and in the wider community, in order to ameliorate the environmental impact of economic, cultural and societal activities. Within the framework of the European Universities, TUC will promote, through joint academic programmes and research, a culture of sustainability, in order to contribute to a healthier, safer and environmentally compatible society. Our participation in the European University will offer us the opportunity to expand the cooperation with our partner universities in curriculum development, faculty and student exchange, joint research projects, joint summer schools, as well as joint cultural events and programs. This will internationalise even further the academic life and provide faculty and students new opportunities for cooperation and exchange programmes.

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

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)

The implementation of the Erasmus+ programme has had a very real and measurable impact to its beneficiaries as well as the HEI's over the years. The planning of TUC's participation in the Erasmus+ programme in the period 2021-2027 involves a great deal of inspiration that derives from the real positive results of the past. We have set targets regarding the mobility of students and staff and the wider involvement of our university in Erasmus+ actions and we envisage the impact of the aforementioned targets based on recorded impact of our previous so far according to project final reports, student surveys, tutor feedback and staff surveys. No impact survey has been carried out yet by our institution but we find that relative surveys carried out by the EU and the ESN reflect clearly the situation in the case of our institution's participation in the programme and so do the quantitative and qualitative indicators used in impact monitoring. Targets set by our institution for the next programme period could be considered ambitious but they may very well be realizable. The fact remains that a mobility period abroad improves your value in the labour market, fosters an entrepreneurial spirit and changes your life! The first type include increased participation of outgoing students for studies and traineeships, increased participation of outgoing staff for teaching, enhanced involvement in international credit mobility and in cooperation projects under the KA2 action. Prioritized qualitative targets include fast adaptation of university management tools and procedures to the digital Erasmus+ era, enhancing the learning experience, ensuring accredited qualification and improved satisfaction for learners; at university level,

encompassing new approaches and improving the structure of courses; for staff, ensuring increased satisfaction and motivation; finally, on a systemic level, TUC course design may be adopted by partner institutions at some level as a result of knowledge transfer / proven expertise and accredited by curriculum authorities.

The envisaged impact of our participation in the Erasmus+ programme will record a high percentage of mobile students reporting improved intercultural, foreign language and communication skills, better employment/entrepreneurial prospects for mobile students, a high percentage of staff mobility as an effective means of achieving major university strategic objectives, such as internationalizing the campus, promoting new pedagogical methods and enriching course offerings. No indicative timeline can be offered at this time given that the achievement of set targets related to Erasmus+ actions is dependent upon multiple criteria and conditions that are often unpredictable, such as the pandemic that hit the world recently. Our institution, however, is prepared to follow the timeline set by the programme itself, exhibiting its capacity to adapt to new challenges and conditions.