

# 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

### **Participation in Erasmus+**

*Describe how you plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future.*

*Explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution.*

*Note: The following types of Erasmus+ activities are open to HEIs:*

- Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals:
  - Mobility project for higher education students and staff
    - Student mobility for studies
    - Student mobility for traineeships
    - Staff mobility for teaching
    - Staff mobility for training
    - Blended intensive programmes
- Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:
  - Partnerships for Cooperation
  - Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities
  - Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
  - Partnerships for Innovation
  - Alliances for Innovation
- Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation.
- Jean Monnet Actions

### **Strategy, objectives and impact**

*What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme? Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue? Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.*

*What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution? Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Explain how it will contribute to making your institution more modern and more international. Explain how you expect the participation to contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.*

*Note: The objectives should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable.*

### **Indicators**

*For each objective, define appropriate indicators for measuring achievement (e.g. mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects, sustainability/long-term impact of projects, etc.). Link the targets to a timeline.*

*If you change your activities or objectives, please don't forget to update the EPS on your website and inform your Erasmus+ National Agency.*

Participation in Erasmus+

As far as Key Action 1 is concerned, IUSDA aims to create bonds with Partner countries and institutions and, at the same time, widen its network of partners to activate inbound-outbound student and staff mobility. Inbound student mobility will be enhanced by updating and translating our website's section dedicated to courses and plans of study to help inbound European students to organize their travel, stay and integration into the local community. Our students will be further involved by making them ambassadors for our University. Before departing, they will be taught about the importance of spreading the message concerning the purpose of their education, the peculiarities of the area they study and work in, and the special values our institution holds dear.

At the same time, we will be engaging in actions aimed at increasing academic staff mobility, such as implementing a higher level of flexibility for teaching agreements as far as their duration and teaching language are concerned. Our professors will be our ambassadors in this task.

IUSDA has the objective of joining the Erasmus+ CRS Laghi Consortium.

IUSDA will use the Erasmus+ Consortium's shared contact network, to sign new interinstitutional agreements, in order to take advantage of the meeting opportunities, both at national and European level, by also considering potential Partner countries not having their native language taught at IUSDA: it will suffice that the languages used in teaching activities are vehicular, English or Spanish, for example.

Student and staff individual mobility for internship and study will be set up, along with the activities in partnership with CRS Laghi. IUSDA also commits to broadening and enhancing the Consortium by improving its business and European institutional network in order to increase inbound and outbound mobility.

A fundamental point of our Institution's Policy is to give access to international mobility (regular, blended or virtual) to as many students as possible because we believe that mobility is a fundamental, integrated and concrete experience that not only allows but also dramatically improves education in terms of content and quality. Teacher mobility is also at the core of IUSDA's modernization and internationalization strategy as it fosters opportunities to discuss teaching and learning processes, to share efficient practices and to reflect on how to improve curricula design and quality research activities.

IUSDA has already started transnational education activities and outbound international teacher mobility aimed at improving curricula design and teaching methods implementation. The digitalization of all processes involved in the various actions of the programme and the completion of the process necessary to issue European Student Card are the main goals of IUSDA over the period of the next seven years, as well as implementing more KA2 cooperation projects.

#### Strategy, objectives and impact

By being awarded the ECHE 2021-2027 Istituto ad ordinamento universitario "Scuola Europea Salvo D'Acquisto" (IUSDA) will take advantage of the opportunities offered by the many actions of the programme to carry on and enhance its internationalization and modernization process. For this reason, our institution will be encouraging individual mobility for study, internship, teacher and staff mobility in those countries taking part in the programme: we believe that these experiences represent a great opportunity for improving linguistic, relational, professional and intercultural skills by, at the same time, enhancing the participants' employability in national and international job markets.

This aligns with the new European Union Agenda for Higher Education that underlines how education plays a crucial role in building more inclusive societies, promoting shared European values and fostering a sense of belonging to a broader community that all help with warding off forms of violent radicalization. The aim of IUSDA is to teach students strong linguistic skills, coupled with knowledge in the fields of political institutions, economics and both domestic and European law. Mobility is a great way to strengthen students linguistic skills and give them the opportunity to develop a deeper and more heartfelt European identity, by recognizing Europe's cultural heritage and diversity. IUSDA aims at signing numerous agreements with academically compatible European institutions and Partner countries in order to achieve greater inbound and outbound mobility and thus create more opportunities to exchange best practices and learn from one another, and to work together on shared projects aimed at developing better teaching and learning practices, starting new research projects and promoting innovation.

IUSDA is active in research and innovation, which is also one of the main priorities on the European Union Agenda for Higher Education. This is testified by our constant commitment to creating and keeping a strong bond with local business and its surrounding industrially lively territory. An example of this effort in the creation of a connection between academic and business culture, is exemplified by the creation of spin-off projects and by IUSDA's commitment to the achievement of a better understanding of the dynamics at play in the interconnections between education and the job markets. For this reason, IUSDA also desires to become a partner of the Erasmus+ Consortium CRS Laghi.

By offering internship programmes for students and education for the staff of European institutions and business, the Consortium gives structured and integrated occasions to all participants to strengthen their linguistic, professional and intercultural skills, in addition to enhancing their flexibility in their relationship with others. Both the Consortium's growth and cooperation with European institutions in the Key 2 Action frameworks are at the core of IUSDA's internationalization and modernization strategy.

In line with IUSDA's strong digital vocation, a fundamental feature of this strategy, is the full digitalization of Erasmus+ programme procedures. On the one hand, IUSDA is completely committed to teaching digital skills to its students, and on the other we have further enhanced the implementation of and use of IT e-learning platforms to better face the peculiar situation created by the COVID-19 emergency. Another goal is to give the opportunity to engage in virtual mobility, as an alternative to physical mobility in times of emergency and restrictions but especially as a means of inclusion aimed at special needs (ie: disabled) students and staff. Preventing inequality in the development of skills and excellence is one of the Agenda's priorities, as is IUSDA's: inclusion will always be at the heart of our approach to the Programme. For this reason, we are committed to improving our support strategies dedicated to disadvantaged individuals. We will also increase economic support to mobility students by stimulating a stronger involvement of local institutions and associations.

The students will be selected based on criteria of accessibility, coherence and transparency and will be supported before, during and after their mobility period. They will be guaranteed clear and uniform transformation of their grades and full ECTS recognition for their exams, taken during mobility. Our aim is to strengthen European cooperation by creating common modules and courses and by reflecting with our Partners on curricula modernization with the final goal of creating double/multiple degrees. With all means available we commit to achieving some of the critical objectives underlined by the European Union Agenda for Higher Education, such as: creating an effective, inclusive and closely-knit higher education institution system by achieving, among other things, mutual and automatic degree recognition. Having its core in ECHE, the modernization and internationalization strategy of IUSDA also offers initiatives for staff mobility recognition and promotion, as well as activities aimed at increasing the civic commitment of returning mobility students. The achievement of ECHE 2021-2027 and the participation in the Programme's action, being a crucial part of IUSDA's modernization and internationalization strategy, are expected to have a significantly positive impact.

Qualitatively speaking, we expect student mobility to have beneficial effects on participants such as enriching knowledge and skills relevant to the students' academic curriculum: linguistic skills, more confidence in translation, improved intercultural skills and a more tolerant and open approach to other cultures. We also expect student mobility to improve their professional skills and ability to relate to others, which in turn will give students a competitive edge in the job market. The mobility experience is also expected to improve the self-confidence of students, when facing new challenges and to further develop their cooperative spirit and European identity. Another outcome to be expected is to have students develop a particular interest in the European dimension of education manifested by choosing European Professors as thesis advisors or by the students carrying on their education in those very institutions they came into contact with during their mobility period.

Teacher mobility is expected to have a positive impact on job satisfaction for professors thanks to the learning of new practices for teaching and the improvement of their professional network. IUSDA also commits to spreading information in its local area on the Erasmus + Programme, in order to gain a higher economic support capability for students engaging in mobility.

At a regional level, IUSDA has already committed itself to projects with other Universities and Research Centres in the Erasmus+ Consortium CRS Laghi and aims to continue doing so.

Indicators