

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)

Education and culture are essential to develop a more inclusive, cohesive and competitive Europe. Higher Education and its links with research and innovation play a crucial role in individual and societal development; in providing the highly skilled human capital and engaged citizens that Europe needs to create jobs, economic growth, and prosperity; as well as engagement within the communities, and the rejection of any form of discrimination, active promotion of equal opportunities, greener societies and sustainable development.

Sustained and substantive investment is required in order to turn education into a driver of cultural and sustainable economic development. While authorities in Member States remain responsible for the way Higher Education is organised and delivered in their countries, EU activities are designed to bring an additional international dimension to studying, teaching, researching or policy making in Higher Education.

From this point of view, the effectiveness and efficiency of Higher Education relate, in part, to the availability of funding and the promotion of a culture of quality. Higher Education requires adequate funding, and, as an investment in economic and cultural growth, public spending in this sector should be protected.

Learning mobility is an opportunity for students to develop valuable skills and to expand their horizons by going abroad to study or undertake training. The benefits of mobility are widely recognised. Going abroad to study or to train helps people to develop their professional, social and intercultural skills, as well as enhancing their employability.

In this regard, through its Erasmus+ Programme, the European Union supports international exchanges for students and academic staff, as well as structured cooperation between HEIs and public authorities in different countries.

The University of Salento considers continuous advancement of education and training to be of profound importance. Widespread access to quality education and training is a driver of economic growth, social cohesion, research and innovation - and dramatically increases citizens' prospects for personal development.

The objective of participation in Erasmus+ is to create new opportunities for people in Higher Education to learn from one another across national borders and to work together on joint projects in order to develop better learning and teaching, undertake excellent cooperation and promote innovation. In this context the Erasmus+ Programme provides direct support to people wishing to study or train abroad and to projects fostering cross-border cooperation between HEIs.

The commitment of the University to internationalisation is further demonstrated by the third article of the University of Salento's Statute which declares that: "The University [of Salento] considers the internationalization of its research and teaching as a strategic goal in its development and an enhancement model in its role within the relations with other countries". Internationalization has been selected as a strategic goal in the Three Year Forward Plan (2019-2021) which will promote the increase of the number of development of integrated, transnational teaching activities (double/multiple/joint degrees) and the international mobility of PhDs students.

In signing this Charter, the University of Salento confirms that its participation in the Erasmus+ Programme, as stated above, is an integral part of its own strategy for modernisation and internationalisation. Because the Erasmus+ Programme is regarded as one of the strategic cornerstones of the EU's renewed agenda for higher education, this strategy acknowledges the key contributions made by mobile staff and students, and by participation in European and international cooperation projects, to the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience.

By signing this Charter, the University of Salento undertakes to further modernise its institution and contribute to the goals of a European Education Area. The participation in the new Erasmus+ Programme will contribute to the modernisation of the University of Salento, as well as to the goal of building a European Education Area, strengthening educational outcomes and learning mobility, promoting common values and facilitating the mutual recognition of diplomas across borders.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will

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

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)

By signing this Charter, the University of Salento will work towards achieving its objectives by participating in the following activities:

- Key Action 1 "Learning Mobility": The mobility of higher education students and staff.
- Key Action 2 "Cooperation among organisations and institutions": Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices; Partnerships for Excellence - European Universities; Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees; Partnerships for Innovation.
- Key Action 3 "Support to policy development and cooperation": networks and policy support measures.

Participation in activities under Key Action 1 and Key Action 2 should be underpinned by high quality mobility of staff and students to, and cooperation with, HEIs and other strategic partners such as enterprises, regional authorities, etc. In this context, the University of Salento considers mobility and cooperation one of the central elements of its institutional policy and, to this end:

- develops cooperation with partners in other countries in the framework of a clear strategy for internationalisation;
- promotes and supports student and staff mobility, especially for individuals with limited opportunities, and is further developing non-discrimination policies;
- encourages the acquisition of transferable skills, especially concerning citizenship competences and social and cultural involvements in local communities;
- pursues a clear policy towards the development of integrated, transnational teaching activities (joint courses/modules/curricula, double/multiple/joint degrees);
- recognises the importance of, and provides visibility to, the results achieved by their staff members engaged in individual mobility or in collaborative projects with strategic partners;
- takes into account the results of internal monitoring of European and international mobility and collaborative activities to date, thus further improving its international performance

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.

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Thanks to the participation in the Erasmus+ 2014-2020 Programme, the University of Salento has been able already to undergo a profound transformation as a whole. This process has been involving many actors - both internal and external to the University - and has had a strong impact at all levels (institutional, local, national and international).

The participation in the new Erasmus+ Programme is perceived by the University of Salento as a unique and strategic opportunity for realizing a very important follow-up of what has been achieved so far and we expect a significant and steady increase in the growth of our international dimension, in the mobility of our students and staff as well as in a greater involvement in cooperation projects.

At the end of the new period the University of Salento, along with all the stakeholders involved, will have reached a better level of awareness and competence in all its different components: governance (governing bodies, policy makers and decision makers), staff (academic and administrative members), students, partners and stakeholders.

A number of specific qualitative and quantitative indicators will be used for the measurement and the monitoring of the above impact and embedded as a subset within the institutional performance monitoring system, already mandatorily, adopted as fulfilment of national governance regulations for Italian public institutions. Examples of indicators are: (a) submitted/financed mobility/cooperation projects; (b) submitted/financed policy reform projects; (c) outgoing/incoming students; (d) total volume of credits earned abroad; (e) total volume of credits earned by incoming students; (f) outgoing/incoming academic/administrative staff members; (g) total funding/co-funding amounts received

by the EU; (h) level of satisfaction of involved actors.

In order to ensure a sustainable management of all activities, dynamically targets will be tuned and indicators defined on the basis of the actual operational capacity of our organizational structure (general management, including internal management structure, human resources).

Indicators will be measured at least twice per academic year in order to be able to apply real-time modifications or proper feedback arrangements.

The institution commits itself to quality management, with emphasis on human resources and sustainable structures of cooperation and communication taking into account possible paradigm shifts in response to global issues and emergencies beyond its control.