

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 University of Economics in Bratislava (hereinafter referred to as EUBA) has long been one of the most prestigious educational and scientific research institutions in Slovakia with extensive international cooperation with leading universities not only in Europe but also in the world. Within the Erasmus + programme, EUBA has been ranked among the most successful universities in Slovakia in the number of sent and received participants. The Erasmus + programme has been one of the most successful projects at EUBA since 1999, with an aim to deepen international cooperation. According to the latest available statistics from the European Commission, EUBA was ranked among the TOP 500 sending universities in Europe under the Erasmus + programme in the academic year 2013/2014 (actual statistics are not available) (ranked 156th), while given the total number of students, it ranked first among higher education institutions in Slovakia. The largest share of foreign students at EUBA is made up of students participating in the Erasmus + programme.

EUBA was also included in a brochure titled Erasmus Success Stories published by the European Commission and received the award of the Slovak Academic Association for

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

International Cooperation (hereinafter SAAIC) "Erasmus Mobility Quality 2012". Projects with high scores are good proofs of successful implementation of the Erasmus + programme at EUBA, whereby some of them have also been perceived as examples of good practice based on the evaluation of SAAIC.

The internationalisation strategy of EUBA is based on the document entitled Long-term Development Plan of the University of Economics in Bratislava for the Period 2019-2027, which includes the main vision of the university. The aim of EUBA is to be perceived as a well-renowned, world-class, modern and research-based university with an international outlook, which reflects social responsibility and prepares graduates to be able to respond to the challenges of digitisation and automation.

The driving activities of internationalisation at EUBA are as follows:

- to profile the university as an institution meeting national and international standards in all areas of its activity;
- to develop and deepen relations with internationally renowned universities with a view to creating strategic partnerships for the internationalisation of education and scientific research cooperation;
- to strengthen the internationalisation of the internal environment at the university in order to increase all forms of individual mobility as a tool for the personal growth of students and staff;
- to develop and strengthen international relations in the networks of international academic organisations and with internationally renowned universities;
- to streamline systemic preconditions for the internationalisation of education at all levels of study;
- to expand the educational offer of specialised subjects and study programmes in foreign languages;
- to intensify the academic mobility of students and teachers, which will contribute to the internationalisation of the university's internal environment and the international transfer of knowledge as an effective impetus for the

development of creativity and innovation and for the improvement of quality in education and research;

- to develop and strengthen international relations in the networks of international academic organisations and with internationally renowned universities;
- to prefer the inclusion of internationally accredited and leading universities in the network of partner universities and increase synergies with universities involved in the activities of relevant international organisations and cooperation networks.

Based on the above principles, EUBA aims to integrate the Erasmus + programme into its educational and scientific research areas so that it becomes a natural part of them and helps modernise the institution in these areas. As part of its internationalisation strategy, EUBA aims to respond to innovative practices reflecting current trends in education and research and thus adapt its systemic mechanisms, which will be part of the Erasmus + programme. It aims:

- to intensify all forms of individual student mobilities, i.e. embed international mobilities in study plans (the so-called Mobility window), intensify pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff mobilities, in order to increase the volume of mobilities of students and staff;
- to increase the number of foreign students admitted to bachelor, engineering and doctoral studies and strengthen the share of foreign academics involved in mobilities;
- to support the preparation and implementation of doctoral studies in English in accordance with the standards of comparable programmes in the EU;
- to ensure systemic conditions that allow for the automatic recognition of student and staff mobilities through the programme;
- to define strategic regions in the event of expanding the existing portfolio of partnerships;
- to focus exclusively, in the case of concluding new partnerships, on institutions that meet the demanding conditions of international standards;

- to expand the network of joint and double degree programmes, as well as the creation of joint study programmes and curricula with leading institutions in the EU and worldwide;
- to support and further develop international scientific research cooperation and to create the conditions for a new dimension of cooperation across universities within the EU and worldwide;
- to focus on creating conditions for the implementation of innovative practices in education through online forms of education, which are a full and integral part of the educational process.

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)

In fulfilling the above principles, EUBA aims to focus on the following goals:

- to increase the number of foreign students and teachers in the teaching process, science and research with an emphasis on the admission of students as part of an integrated study at all levels and strengthen the share of foreign academics involved in mobilities;
- to support international cooperation in the creation and implementation of joint study programmes and programmes leading to double degrees at all levels of study and with universities associated in HERMES and CIDD groupings, as well as with other foreign partner universities;
- to expand the offer of study programmes, especially in English, at all levels of study;
- to actively participate in meetings of associated international organisations (in particular AACSB, EFMD, EUA) and in major European and world summits on higher education, which strengthen the internationalisation of higher education.

In selecting potential partners, EUBA focuses on prestigious universities that meet strict international ranking criteria, with the aim of creating conditions for students, pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff to complete full mobilities in accordance with their professional focus. Territorial, regional, linguistic and intercultural diversity of higher education is also an important selection criterion.

Within the Erasmus + programme, EUBA pursues the following goals:

- to enable as many teachers, staff and students as possible to participate in mobilities abroad at one of the partner institutions or to complete a traineeship in foreign companies and institutions, while maintaining the quality of mobilities with emphasis on clearly defined selection criteria;
- to deepen the implementation of the Erasmus + programme at the institutional level in order to ensure the recognition of completed mobilities through recognising the completed subjects for students and the recognition of completed mobilities as career growth for teachers and staff;
- to create internal conditions at the university so that mobilities for the purpose of studies or internships become a mandatory part of the study plan of full-time students at all 3 levels of study in the form of the so-called mobility window.

The main strategic goals of EUBA within the implementation of European and non-European projects are as follows:

- to strengthen the position of the university in the international context, by increasing the efficiency and quality of relations with foreign universities;
- to focus, in the case of concluding new partnerships, on universities whose profiles meet demanding international accreditation standards;
- to focus, in the case of new partnerships with countries outside Europe, on the Eastern Partnership region, the Russian Federation, Asia and the industrialised countries;
- to further expand the existing network of partnerships based on joint and double degree programmes with leading universities in Europe and the world;

- to increase the quality of education and create systemic conditions for ensuring the quality of subjects taught in foreign languages;
- to strengthen cooperation with partner institutions in Central Europe in the form of joint educational and scientific research projects;
- to link higher education with the needs of economic and social practice and to create systemic conditions for cooperation with the private sector so that completing an internship abroad under the ERASMUS + programme will be of benefit to employers;
- to strengthen the structured cooperation of the university with the external environment and thus create space both for intensive interaction among the human potential of the university and domestic and foreign subjects of economic and social practice.

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 main benefit of the implementation of international mobilities by students, pedagogical and non-pedagogical employees of the university is the full implementation of modernisation activities, which involve education, research and knowledge transfer while respecting social responsibility in relation both to the domestic and host countries. The support of students and staff in the implementation of international mobilities by the university in terms of quality objectives will increase their ability to respond more quickly and adequately to domestic and international socio-economic needs and contribute to the country's international competitiveness. The situation will also contribute to a more active implementation of the European policy and a faster adaptation to current societal challenges. The effective implementation of the programme will create a new dimension of international cooperation with the aim of consolidating and developing academic excellence in all areas of activity, support the

development of innovation and the continuous implementation of changes necessary for the development of excellence. From a quantitative point of view, the programme will contribute to the intensification of the admission and secondment of students, pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff, based on the university's vision as well as the goals defined in the University's Long-Term Plan for 2019-2027. The university will thus strengthen the systemic preconditions for the support of international mobilities and internationalisation within the internal environment, but also within the regional, national and international level.

The successful implementation of the next programme will also contribute to a qualitative increase in project cooperation, including the follow-up of projects under KA2 and other European grant schemes, such as cooperation for the exchange of good practices, European Universities, Erasmus Mundus and cooperation for innovation, based on previous scientific cooperation with excellent institutions at European and international level as a source of creativity and critical thinking.

Within the new programming period, the university will strengthen the setting of systemic conditions for the implementation of the mobilities of students, pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff so as to ensure maximum support for participants to ensure planning, preparation, implementation, recognition of mobilities and the sustainability of mobility results of individual participants. EUBA has a long-term stable cooperation with ESN, within which continuous support of domestic and international students is ensured in order to strengthen the qualitative and quantitative goals of the programme.

In the field of higher education, the Erasmus + programme will lead to the continuous improvement of study programmes and subjects taught in foreign languages in order to prepare graduates for work experience that meets the demanding conditions of economic, social and political life in Slovakia and abroad. It will also contribute to the modernisation of forms of education in the form of expanding the offer of joint and double degree programmes, and in the form of joint study programmes and curriculum development, and in the development of online education.

The program will also contribute to the support of the European Research Area, and thus strengthen social and economic development in Slovakia and abroad. In the field of

knowledge transfer, it will expand other possibilities for cooperation with the social environment as one of the basic pillars of the strategy for the development of comprehensive relations with the public and private sectors in the EU and on a global scale. The successful implementation of the programme itself will support the university at the regional and national level in funding activities in education, science and research and thus help meet the strategic goals of further development of the university, which are closely related to the university's activities at the international level.