

## **Erasmus Policy Statement**

University of Economics in Katowice has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. The following Erasmus Policy Statement sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.

The vision of internationalisation of the UE Katowice indicates a desirable picture of the future of the University in terms of internationalisation of its activities. International cooperation is perceived at UE Katowice as a source of current knowledge and inspiration for intellectual scientific and didactic activity; it means initiating and participating in projects with renowned foreign partners; it builds an international teaching offer. International cooperation is manifested in certified fields of study conducted in English which determine high mobility of students and lecturers. The effect of international cooperation is to improve the position of the University in the international environment, including its perception as a desirable partner in international research and didactic projects.

**I.** The strategic objectives of the UE Katowice within the activities of the Erasmus+ programme focus on the following issues:

**1.** Internationalisation of education through the development of curricula for joint degrees, availability of more courses and study programmes in English, modernisation of curricula to integrate the business environment, new knowledge, innovative e-learning forms and multicultural issues, involvement of University's staff in the organisation of international weeks, intensive programmes, summer schools, workshops and seminars, increasing the number of visiting professors from abroad.

**2.** Increasing student and staff mobility through enhanced credit mobility for studies and work placements and participation in intensive programmes, scholarships for outgoing and incoming students, increasing the number of admissions for students from programme and partner countries, a system of support for incoming students through international relations and student organisations, developing opportunities for exchange of experience between academics and administration (teaching and training activities).

**3.** Internationalisation of research through the creation of strong international research teams, development of a system of staff motivation to engage in EU research programmes, better dissemination of research results in international indexed journals, promotion of research mobility, strengthening of administrative units to support the launch and implementation of research projects.

**4.** Strategic partnerships, focusing on cooperation with institutions of a similar profile, involvement in national and international university networks, strong cooperation with local and regional authorities, social partners and enterprises.

**5.** International promotion related to the reconstruction of the University website, increased presence in social media, production of on-line promotional materials (leaflets, student guides) and their distribution in partner institutions, participation in international student recruitment and education fairs, organization of conferences and other international events disseminating the results of academic and research projects, membership in international networks, information meetings and presentations, active presence in local and university press, public media and rankings.

6. Obtaining international accreditations, which has already been partly achieved thanks to the University's participation in the Erasmus+ programme. One of them is the CEEMAN IQA (International Quality Accreditation), which was granted to the University on February 6th 2020. Currently, the University is in the process of obtaining the prestigious AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation, as well as EPAS accreditation for the International Business programme.

7. Developing a path for full integration of short-term and long-term students (both Polish and foreigners).

The condition for achieving these strategic objectives is a modernised university structure and a comprehensive university management system, which has already been implemented and is being successively improved based on current market needs and requirements.

The UE Katowice aims to ensure that its international partner institutions (both in bilateral relations and in multilateral projects) represent the highest quality standards in didactic and research. International agreements are subject to review by the Senate Commission on International Cooperation. Each international agreement has an academic supervisor who is responsible for the implementation of its provisions and indicators.

International agreements concerning student and staff exchange are concluded with universities of a similar academic profile to ensure full recognition of learning outcomes and credit transfer.

The University is constantly expanding its cooperation with institutions in the Programme and Partner Countries, in order to increase access to a more comprehensive exchange offer that would meet both European priorities and the wider needs of students and academic staff. Further development of double/joint degrees is planned, with the main priorities being international networks and consortia for international study programmes such as IB (International Business), ARIMA (Master Studies Quantitative Asset and Risk Management) or Mercuri (European Master's in Customer Relationship Marketing), which are already being run at the university. An important part of the strategy is to progressively increase the number of e-learning courses, which in the longer term should greatly facilitate the development of joint study programmes with partners outside Europe, but also contribute to smooth curriculum delivery where full-time stationary learning could not take place. It would also lay the foundations for proper, effective implementation of blended mobility.

II. All the above-mentioned initiatives of the University contribute to the achievement of the objectives in accordance with the priorities for building the European Educational Area in the following way:

- ensuring high quality teaching and research for students and researchers and cooperation with relevant partner institutions;
- improving the quality and relevance of higher education by developing new and adapting existing curricula to market expectations, internationalising curricula, developing a system for monitoring graduate careers, ensuring adequate language policies for both incoming and outgoing students, internationalising research and active participation in international networks;

- strengthen quality by increasing student and staff mobility for teaching and training purposes, reviewing existing partnerships, developing double/joint study programmes, developing coherent recognition rules for international student mobility and placements;
- linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development with the help of newly established strategic partnerships and the active involvement of business experts in the teaching process.

International cooperation of the University has been developing dynamically for many years and, thanks to the support of authorities and the involvement of employees, has resulted in a stable position on both national and international academic markets. Bearing in mind the new budget perspective of the European Union, the University is determined to intensify these efforts to fully adapt to the new challenges facing European higher education.

All the above activities will aim at strengthening the position of universities at home and abroad, continuing to build a strong, stable university, based on a well-educated academic staff richer in international experience and knowledge; a well-matched, qualified, experienced and motivated administrative staff, and above all students motivated and hungry for knowledge, new skills and competences.