

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 Area 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 Agricultural University of Athens (AUA) is the oldest Greek HEI in Agricultural sciences and the 3rd oldest University in Greece. AUA celebrates its 100-years anniversary in 2020. Since then, it has been making valuable contributions to Greek and European agricultural and economic development by conducting basic and applied research in the agricultural sciences and, by producing high quality graduates of all three study cycles as well as cutting edge scientific knowledge.

Among its main goals are to maintain and further improve the quality of mobility and to enhance the international dimension of its activities in order to strengthen its relative position amid the Universities at a local, European and international level.

The strategic targets of AUA to serve institutional internationalization and modernization are:

1. Excellence of Education and teaching through:

- a) continuous intern assessment of all academic members
 - b) reformation of study Programmes, introduction of cutting edge courses contributing to labor market needs,
 - c) regular seminars and lectures offered by invited speakers from Greece or abroad
 - d) Overhaul of practical training goals
 - e) Students' dynamic participation in Institutional decision-making and management bodies
 - f) Further development of Career Services Department to improve students' networking and transversal skills
 - g) Improvement of student welfare services (library facilities etc.)
 - h) Introduction of new teaching methods and establishment of a Scientific Advisory Office
- 2. Research and Innovation Development through:**
- a) Offering of research and academic excellence scholarships to attract students, researchers and teaching staff of high quality,
 - b) Seeking out new financial resources to promote research
 - c) Financing of projects on time value research topics
 - d) Interconnecting research activities with innovation, entrepreneurship and society needs via strategic partnerships with local and international companies
 - e) Increasing participation in research projects, facilitated by seminars on project proposals preparation
- 3. Internationalization through:**
- a) Active participation of the academic community in international alliances of high quality
 - b) Improvement of worldwide awareness and publicity of all internationalization activities
 - c) Dynamic presence in the international academic environment.
 - d) Improvement of the position of AUA in the international University Rankings because of its excellence on education and research.
 - e) Development of international mobility opportunities and cooperation, e.g. organization (or hosting) of conferences, participation in University consortia, inviting scientists from abroad etc.
 - f) New collaborations with worldwide educational/research institutes on a regular basis
 - g) Summer schools in English on cutting edge technology
 - h) An increasing number of undergraduate courses taught in English to incoming students
 - i) Organization of undergraduate and postgraduate study programs in English for students from all over the world.
 - j) Participation in the new EC initiative of European Universities. AUA is member of the European University for Smart Urban Coastal sustainability (so called EU-CONEXUS). EU CONEXUS is one of the 17 European Universities selected during Call 2019.
- 4. Exploitation of Research Results and connection with industry and organizations through:**
- a) Strategic partnerships with Universities, research institutes, museums, cultural institutions and participation in international research networks.
 - b) Protection of intellectual property and patents, creation and support of start-up and spin-off companies
 - c) Offering life-long learning programs and consultancy services to the public and private sectors on topics relative to AUA disciplines.
- 5. Modern Academic Environment through:**
- a) Adequacy, maintenance and proper use of institutional infrastructures, educational and research equipment.
 - b) Radical reorganization of administration and IT services to facilitate inter-collaboration, minimize bureaucracy and launch e-University structure.
 - c) Training of staff at a regular basis to make the most of productivity and apply evaluation procedures
 - d) Increase of economic resources (production of goods bearing protected designation of AUA origin, Contractual agriculture etc.)
 - e) Establishment of "Green University" to control its energy footprint
 - f) Cultural activities and wide participation of academic community in AUA cultural clubs, collaboration with museums, local and national cultural institutions, support of

initiatives for cultural heritage protection

6. Quality Assurance through:

- a) Improvement of internal evaluation procedures
- b) Monitoring and dissemination of assessment results
- c) Compliance with the technical requirements of the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (HQA) regarding external evaluation and accreditation of study Programmes

AUA strategy has been determined in alignment with EC policy towards a **European Education Area** across EU that provisions:

- Establishment of mobility for studies and learning across EU as a standard practice
- Automatic recognition of HE learning outcomes and qualifications
- Multilingualism
- Equal opportunities to access high-quality education without social exclusion and discrimination
- Awareness of Europe's recognised common values, history and culture heritage and its diversity and sense of European identity

AUA intends to support its strategy taking advantage of all Erasmus actions since:

KA1 fits to **Target 1, Target 3:**

KA2/ Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices fit to **Target 1, Target 5 and Target 6**

KA2/ European Universities & KA2/Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees fit to **Target 1, Target 3 and Target 5**

KA2/ Partnerships for Excellence fit to **Target 2**

KA2/ Partnerships for Innovation fit to **Target 4**

KA3/ Support to policy development and cooperation fits to **Target 3**

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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Key Action 1

AUA has long term experience in **Key Action 1/ Learning mobility** implementation. It runs successfully mobility of students and staff within EU and third countries from their launch. Apart from that, participation of AUA in KA1 refers to seminars and lectures offered by speakers from abroad, new practical training schemes, chance for students to participate in decision-making management bodies, improvement of students' networking and transversal skills, introduction of new teaching methods, active participation of the academic community in international alliances of high quality, new collaborations with worldwide educational/research institutes, undergraduate courses taught in English to incoming students and so on. AUA participation in KA1 is implemented at Institutional level under the supervision of the Vice Rector of Administration Issues, Academic Issues and Student Welfare and the European Programmes' Office.

Key Action 2

AUA has experience in Key Action 2 projects either as Coordinator or as partner. KA2 projects are implemented by the teaching staff members of AUA and their team group. The extent of participation depends on the teaching staff members' involvement, scientific interest and network. However, the University authorities (Senate and Special Research Funds Account) encourage, facilitate and coordinate participation activity in order to ensure its compliance to the Institutional Strategy.

Indicatively, future participation of AUA in **Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices** will include reorganization of IT services to facilitate inter-collaboration, reformation

of study programs, improvement of internal evaluation procedures and exchanges of good practices on career matters.

AUA participation in **European Universities** Initiative is already successful. As mentioned above, AUA is partner of EU CONEXUS; one of the 17 European Universities selected during Call 2019. AUA plans to join **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees** as Partner University in the near future.

Future participation of AUA in **Partnerships for Excellence** action will refer to strategic partnerships with international companies to meet entrepreneurship needs of local society.

Future Participation of AUA in **Partnerships for Innovation Action** will refer to the creation of a Food Innovation Centre and the setting up of spin-off companies.

Key Action 3

AUA intends to play active role in the transformation of national policy on Higher Education taking advantage of the experience gained by its participation in the European University initiative. Main points of interest in policy development are connected with the legal framework of a European University consortium at National level (inflow of students by national entrance exams etc.)

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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- Increased number of outgoing mobility of students and staff. At least one thousand AUA active students should have the opportunity to spend a short period abroad for studies or practical training by 2027. All staff members should have the opportunity to spend a period abroad for teaching or training by 2027 at least once.
- Establishment of English taught study programs at bachelor and masters' level at the most representative disciplines to attract international students. This will facilitate increased number of incoming students for studies/practical training.
- Foreign Language Teaching Center by 2023.
- Organization of one week for staff teaching and one week for staff training per year starting from 2022.
- Enforcement of full e-Government practices by 2022.
- Active participation in KA1 and KA2 activities by 50% of teaching staff members per year.
- Green University with small environmental footprint based on energy and renewables by 2027.
- Connection of study programs to local labor market needs and high employability of graduates.
- Activation of EU CONEXUS with students from all over the world by 2025.
- Establishment of Center of Excellence and Innovation by 2025.