



## **Erasmus Policy Statement**

***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)***

University of West Attica was founded in March 2018 by the National Law 4521. The foundation of the newly established University came from the merging process of the former Technological Educational Institute of Athens and Piraeus University of Applied Sciences. In 2019, the National School of Public Health joined the newly established university. Now the University of West Attica is the third biggest University of Greece. Our strategy is to continue the long tradition in International activities and to keep developing the European and International visibility of our University.

Our international visibility and international cooperation is based on the collaboration with other Universities in Europe and worldwide. The international collaboration presupposes certain internal policies, actions and structures supporting the persons engaged in order to achieve the desired learning, teaching and research outcomes, which are proposed by the Erasmus Administration Committee and applied after related Senate decisions.

The geographical areas of our interest are all EU countries and countries outside EU, respectfully to the selection criteria set. The most important objectives of our mobility activities are: to broaden collaboration (through participation in world- wide projects) invite, motivate, encourage academic, staff members & students to participate in mutual exchanges, enrich the range and content of courses and research activities, promote and benefit from expertise knowledge and experience on pedagogical methods from higher education institutions in other EU and non-EU countries, to improve

transparency and academic recognition of qualifications and studies throughout the European Union.

Furthermore, to enable students to benefit from new lectures, by academics coming from abroad, by different teaching methods, to experience learning in foreign languages and thus enhance their language skills. We also intend to offer different perspectives to the academic personnel by offering opportunities to teach, perform research activities or work in another participating country and to know first-hand another European educational systems; learn and share new ideas, be inspired by colleagues in other institutions and different outlooks, refresh thinking, broaden horizons, discover new ways of teaching, develop new skills, revitalize and reignite passion for lecturing, explore new tools and technologies, find out about the latest developments across Europe. Finally, another important goal is to assist the Institution to establish new contacts, broaden the academic network, establish research collaboration, strengthen its international standing and its European dimension, and benefit in “multilateral” cooperation activities and in the development of curricula. Our mobility strategy concerns the target group of undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff with tenure, part time teachers, non teaching staff, administrative personnel and technical assistants.

The monitoring of these actions will provide us with indications of the success of the University policies. On the other hand every internationalization result, as common research and educational activities, cooperation in the regional and global level, will contribute to the acceptance and integration of these strategies in the main body of the academic life in our community under a continuous change, adaptation and modernization framework.

An indication of the importance of the internationalization of the University of West Attica is the fact that it became already member of the two very important international Unions and Associations of Universities:1) United Nations Academic Impact/UNAI, 2) International Association of Universities/IAU.

***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)***

University of West Attica has participated in the past (also as Technological Education Institute of Athens and Piraeus University of Applied Sciences) and it will continue to participate in every action of the Erasmus+ Program. Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility is an institutional action. It is a very important and basic tool supporting the internationalization strategy of the University. It is used to realize mobilities of our students and personnel. The incoming and outgoing members of the academic community fertilize and

update continuously the research and education characteristics of the University of West Attica.

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organizations and institutions refers to individual projects. University of West Attica encourages its personnel to participate in proposals and approved projects under the KA2 framework. These projects allow and focus on the cooperation with various stakeholders like companies, chambers, institutes, associations, as well as laboratories and universities from various countries. KA2 projects give the opportunity of exchanging ideas, practices, educational and training methods in various fields, in many regions, on many topics. Therefore, KA2 projects are very essential for the continuous update of the materials and practices implemented and used in our University and especially based on experience gained from non-exclusively University partners.

In the same sense KA3 projects will support the development and cooperation policies and they will act as synchronization and coordination tool with other institutes towards a European converge of the HEIs

***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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University of West Attica has redesigned and restructured all its educational programs in cooperation with the state services and social partners. The University has cooperated with the local authorities and municipalities as well as with industrial and business chambers of our geographical area, in order to get curricula in adaptation with the current and future market situation and needs. The local actions in combination with the international activity form a dynamic structure driving and affecting the modernization processes in the University. The international factor permits the earlier information flow from many other countries in the cases of newly appearing changes, allowing the preparation of the University for its best adaptation in the global market needs.

The Quality Assurance Unit in cooperation with the Liaison Office of the University monitor changes and transitions in the labour market relevant skills compared to the offered ones and regularly it will indicate possible and necessary changes for the respective adaptation actions of the structure and

the contents of the curricula. The outcome of the monitoring of the internal, local and global trends allows the generation of indicators and benchmarks for the qualitative and quantitative description of the continuous adaptation actions. The cooperation with other Universities worldwide makes possible the study and the use of best practices already in operation, thus saving time and efforts.

The main target of the educational, research and training services of the University is the strong connection with the state administration structures and the market forces in order to achieve a high employability of the graduates at any level. The digital and networking technology allows the information flow and the making of the decisions in a fast and reliable way. The students can be informed and guided while the system tends to the personalized study condition. This is achieved through the big number of study flows within a certain study program as well as through the potential exchanges to universities with specific specialization. The fitting of the curriculum to the student personality leads to better outcomes and educational results. The participation in the KA2 projects enhances the international cooperation in academic level as well as with other social stakeholders, professional organizations, chambers, companies etc. The established links support the realization of academic activities fitted in the actual social and labor market conditions.

The higher level of the education provided to the students is related to the updated knowledge level of the teaching staff. The only way to maintain and guarantee the continuous availability of the front end technology and knowhow in the University of West Attica is the strategic development of its research power. The research excellence is usually thematic and geographically distributed. This is a very important factor and the international cooperation becomes a unique tool for the fast development of research cooperation, interactions and successful results. University of West Attica participates and also encourages the participation of its staff in high level projects within EU research frameworks such as Horizon 2020 etc. Erasmus+ as well as Marie Curie Programs allowing the increased mobility capacity of the University in order to achieve the goals of the international cooperation.

The ties between the universities, with education and research activities and the market stakeholders become stronger by the effectiveness of the education functions and the strong research capabilities in parallel to the skills development of the graduates. All these factors are highly affected by the international cooperation which must be maintained and to be further developed in the future.