

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT ECHE 2021-2027

The academy's strategy for modernisation and internationalisation implies building an international dynamic environment for knowledge transfer where students, staff, higher education institutions, artistic and cultural institutions, local authorities of different countries could actively cooperate and benefit from such cooperation. The academy sees the participation in the programme as a measure to meet this main goal by engagement in actions enabling accomplishing the following objectives: 1) Increasing the number of student mobilities by eliminating the elements which limit the mobility scale so that more students could participate in study or training mobility (reaching out to learners coming from disadvantaged backgrounds by offering them different support schemes, implementing and promoting digital mobility management, removing obstacles in the recognition of qualifications, working on introducing blended mobility). 2) Proceeding with modernization of study programmes which will provide students with adequate education and training to allow them to be successful on the labour market. Equipping students with skills necessary for them to respond to changing circumstances and thus acting towards increasing their employability. Making efforts to support not only their professional competences but also the social and multicultural ones. Acting in order to create basis for active citizenship where citizens are aware of all sorts of dangers including the raise of different radical phenomena and threats to the environment. 3) Increasing the number of international students (also from outside of Europe) thanks to high quality programmes and increasing the number of education components offered in languages other than Polish (continuing to introduce selected subjects or modules in foreign languages as well as expanding the offer of summer and training courses, initiating the first full study course in a foreign language and in the final stage - offering a joint degree study programme with another European higher education institution or becoming a member of one of the European Universities). 4) Increasing the number of staff mobilities. Only the academic staff which works in international environment is capable of stimulating and introducing innovative solutions and getting involved in activities leading to changes and modernization of the academy. 5) Gaining more partners among international enterprises operating in the field of art and design and being able to drive innovation in education. All the partial objectives set by the institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy are targets that can be met by increased involvement in different types of actions offered

by the Erasmus+ Programme. The academy recognises mobility as a key measure that will enable to achieve the objectives that need to be accomplished in order to internationalize and modernize the institution. Mobility is also at the heart of working towards the European Education Area. By placing mobility in the centre of its involvement in the programme the academy commits itself to work towards the creation of the European Education Area as only through growth in mobility the objectives crucial for the scheme can be accomplished: increasing the number of participants of learning mobility, removing obstacles to the recognition of qualifications, modernising curricula, boosting language learning, driving innovation in education, fostering the sense of a European identity. By participating in the Programme and pursuing its institutional objectives the academy will also contribute to achieving the results necessary for building the European Education Area. The Programme will not only help to increase mobility but will also help to open the academy to exchange of practices and cross-border cooperation with institutions of all types. International environment for experience and knowledge transfer together with the scheme of linking education with non-educational institutions, especially with business, will support our efforts to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and by this will equip our graduates with knowledge and competences sufficient to successfully compete on the labour market. The Programme will provide opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad. Improved study programmes that can result from the academy's activities under the Programme will address to a greater extent the expectations and needs of students. The intensified international cooperation is to prepare the academy to increase the number of students, especially to attract international students thanks to high quality programmes and introduction of increased number of education components offered in languages other than Polish. As the participation in the programme is planned for a longer period of time it is difficult to foresee exactly what activities will be undertaken in a particular academic year. Nevertheless, the academy will try to use the full potential of the programme according to its current operation capacity in order to maximize the effect on the institution. After gaining enough experience from engagement in learning mobility the academy is getting ready to be involved in cooperation projects. It is understood that further development is possible through cooperation and exchanges of practices with other higher education institutions, enterprises or policy makers. The academy's participation in activities from all three Key Actions will be based upon prior analysis of

the institution's needs and suitable measures to be taken to satisfy them. This will help to choose the right type of project and partners who will guarantee the proper and successful outcome. When committing itself to cooperation projects, the academy will make sure that they lead to further development of its international involvement which implies that the results of such cooperation should be sustainable and balanced. From the very beginning the objectives of participation, the academy's role in the project and the expected results must be clear. The organizational structure, schedule of actions to be taken, people responsible for tasks and monitoring measures should be planned in advance in order to secure controlled and efficient implementation. Once committed to a project, the academy will support students and staff participating in it by providing them with administration back-up (e.g. nomination of the administration personnel, preparation of regulations and procedures, secure effective finance management, secures funding), allocate required and available resources to help them carry out their project work. The involvement in projects will be seen as an important aspect of professional development of all individual participants and a key component to internationalization and modernization of the institution. The academy will provide measures to promote the project and ensure dissemination and practical application of its results in order to maximize its impact on individuals, the whole academic community and participating institutions.

The academy declares its willingness to take part in all types of actions in the programme. We intend to continue realizing individual mobilities and improve their quality. Participation in KA2 and KA3 actions will be reflected on before each call and the capacity to get involved in new transnational projects will be assessed. The institution's newly introduced structure allows central as well as departmental units to engage in projects which best respond to their needs. Each faculty and department is responsible for its internationalisation and the advancement in the internationalisation of the whole institution. Thus achieving objectives set in the institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy can be possible by projects initiated on local and central level. Each unit will be able to choose the right time and the component that suits its needs and ensures achieving the results contributing not only to fulfilling its expectations but also to increasing the degree of modernisation of the whole institution. We expect administrative staff to benefit from cooperation projects serving exchanges of practices. The units related to student services are the area

where this type of actions is extremely useful and they can be the first ones to benefit from the programme's offer. Cooperation and exchange of good practices are crucial for the increase of the institution's operating capacity in relation to mobility scheme and other cooperation projects. As to the programme's components strictly related to innovation and development of new educational offer in cooperation with international partners, each faculty will decide individually about its access to the Programme. The central units will provide up-to-date information and stimulate involvement in the Programme. In the case of the implementation of individual mobilities of students and staff members, the academy plans to continue its good practices which proved effective in the past: constant promotion of the Erasmus+ will result in successful recruitment of participants, whose involvement throughout the whole process will be supported by appointed staff. The process will be further facilitated by the new digital tools offered in the programme and new options opening up thanks to the blended mobilities, which in all probability will result in an increase in the number of programme participants. In the case of cooperation projects, only if a project is reviewed as a step towards fulfilment of the institutional strategy and its foreseen outcomes are assessed as sustainable and beneficial to all partners, a decision about participating in it can be made. Involvement in each action will be implemented in a similar way. The authorities will appoint staff responsible for tasks. The institution will allocate relevant resources to support its realisation and dissemination from the very beginning. Since the academy's strategy for modernisation and internalisation mentions mobility of individuals as a key factor in accomplishing objectives related to increasing the institution's operating capacity on the international level, we see participation in the Erasmus+ programme's actions as means of achieving the objectives set by the institution. Mobility is the cornerstone of all goals related to internationalisation. It is often a starting point of many cooperation projects. The expected increase in the number of mobilities will have a positive effect on both modernisation and internationalization, as the impact of the programme participants' gained experience and skills will be automatically greater. Both, mobility and participation in transnational projects are necessary to ensure that the academy offers high quality of education that will equip people with necessary skills to become successful on the labour market. Innovative study programmes are not possible without international cooperation. The institution needs constant improvements to be competitive and attract students. Participation in the programme is indispensable for the institution to have tools

necessary to improve its offer, train staff, exchange experience, modernise and benefit from good practices of its partners. Without participation in the Erasmus+ and the funding it offers we will not be able to have the scale of the mobility or cooperation projects that enables necessary changes to accomplish the objectives of the strategy: further modernisation of study programmes, increasing number of international students, increasing number of mobilities, finding new international partners.

The academy perceives participation in the Erasmus+ as essential to its modernisation and internationalisation. The institution's strategic Erasmus Policy Statement declares that learning mobility and transnational cooperation projects are crucial to achieving these goals. We believe that the programme will allow us to continue to create a dynamic international environment for knowledge and experience transfer where individuals and institutions actively cooperate and benefit from this. Our main goal is to use mobility as a means of constant modernisation of the institution and its study programmes. Only by offering quality education and training will we secure success of our students on the labour market. As to quantitative indicators concerning mobility, our main goal is to balance the numbers of inbound and outbound students. Currently the number of incoming students is approx. 50% higher than of outgoing ones. We will take measures to level the numbers within the first 3 academic years of the new programme. Another task is to lower the disproportion between number of study exchanges and traineeships. In the recent years the percentage of traineeships did not reach 10% of the total number of study mobilities. We will devote the first period of the programme to change the trend so after 4 years they can at least reach 30% of the number of study exchanges. In the next years the proportion should be further increased in favour of traineeships or at least kept even. We do not set any growth targets as to the number of hosted students as it increases steadily. We are determined to keep the number stable and allow controlled growth depending on our potential to receive more students. The number of outgoing staff is restrained by the programme regulations. Every academic year we will monitor the data to fully spend the grant received for staff mobility with the intention to steadily increase their number within the given conditions. We will make sure that every year there are staff members participating in the programme for the first time. As currently the academy sends more staff members than hosts them, we will focus on achieving an increase in this category to make the mobility numbers more balanced. The target will be to host staff in number

corresponding with at least 80% of outgoing mobilities within first 4 years and keep it steady throughout the Programme. Basing on our former achievements in learning mobility we estimate to start with the number of inbound and outbound mobilities for 140 per academic year. The numbers will increase once the measures applied will bring the envisaged results. To measure quality of the implementation and support for participants on mobility we will use the individual reports provided by Mtool+. We set the target to receive over 70% of positive feedback from participants from all groups. Nevertheless, participants will be further encouraged to continue to contact the International Exchange Office to report any problems encountered during their mobility experience. We will monitor the reports and other notifications, verify them and if necessary, implement new solutions. Monitoring and responding to needs of participants will help us to maintain high quality of mobility experience for all. The academy pays special attention to the support offered to participants on mobility. Outgoing participants receive help in language preparation through classes included in the curriculum, OLS, classes financed from projects or interactions with incoming students, culture preparation through participation in the buddy system and meetings with former programme participants during Erasmus Story meetings. Incoming and outgoing participants are supported during their mobilities by the International Exchange Office and appointed academic staff. Incoming students are offered Polish classes. Their integration within the academic community is supported by the buddy system and activities organized by the Office (introduction week, exhibitions, updates on Facebook group and Facebook profile). After the mobility the returning students are supported through engagement in the activities of the Office (buddy system, exhibitions, Erasmus Story), which allows them to once again feel a part of the academic community, to use their newly acquired skills and share their experience. In the future the support of the programme participants will be made easier and even more intensive thanks to the Erasmus+ App. We will use our former experience to continue the good work and face new challenges connected with the implementation of the European Student Card Initiative. The academy will take all the necessary steps to meet the requirements for digital mobility management to facilitate mobility experience to all participants. The academy is aware of possibilities offered by transnational cooperation projects. They are another element to stimulate and intensify progress through exchange of good practices and working together on innovative solution. Once the institution's units reach the sufficient operating capacity, find right

partners and projects that respond to their needs and secure long-term impact the new tasks will be undertaken. The involvement in projects beyond KA1 action may not take place in the first phase of the programme but our target will be to diversify our experience. The first choice will probably be actions for exchanges of practices and innovation. We will consider it to be a great organisational success if by 2027 the institution will be able to cooperate within any partnership for excellence. The academy will secure sustainable and balanced results from participation in any project. Each should lead to further development of the institution's international involvement. The care for ensuring a long-term impact should be taken into account from the very first stage of planning of any such participation. Then every phase of cooperation should be documented and the results should be widely disseminated so the already achieved effects could be spread and used for further development.