



# Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020

## Application Form Call: 2014

Note: The data of this application form will be used by the European Commission/ Executive Agency EACEA and National Agencies for evaluation and monitoring

<b>Program</b>	<b>The 2014-2020 EU programme for education, training, youth and sport proposed by the European Commission on 23 November 2011 (hereafter the Programme)*</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Erasmus Charter for Higher Education</b>
<b>Call</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Deadline for Submission (dd-mm-yyyy)</b>	<b>15/05/2013 12:00 midday Brussels time.</b>
<b>Application language</b>	<b>EN</b>
<b>Correspondence Language</b>	<b>EN</b>

**31579-LA-1-2014-1-GR-E4AKA1-ECHE-1**

**Applicant's previous EUC number (if applicable):**

31579-IC-1-2007-1-GR-ERASMUS-EUC-1

**Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) section D of this application form - original language (official EU languages): EN**

If the original language is not English, French or German, the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) should also be provided in one of those three languages.

**Erasmus Policy Statement translation language (if applicable): not applicable**

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

AUTH, the largest comprehensive University in Greece, is widely recognized as a vibrant center of learning which draws its inspiration from a long tradition of academic achievement. This can be underpinned, among others, by the fact that so much in science, as in the arts, medicine and technology, it prides itself in its international outlook. Most of its academic personnel have been trained in reputable Universities in Europe, the US, Australia and Japan. It has been actively participating in Erasmus Programme, since 1987, accounting about 1/4 of the Erasmus mobility in Greece. Still, mindful of rapid change, we aim to improve our strategy, policies, and everyday practices in order to meet contemporary local and global demands. Assessing our experience, we have been able to determine our strengths and weaknesses, and we have adopted a holistic internationalization strategy, whose main objectives can be briefly described as follows:

Strengthen our role in the European and international knowledge community, building on collective and personal academic achievements. Enhance visibility among traditionally prestigious academic institutions, establishing long-term cooperation schemes at research and education level. Reinforce our traditional presence as leading education and research institution in SE Europe and Eastern Mediterranean, building focused strategic partnerships in the area. Play a decisive role in academic exchange, good practices dissemination, and knowledge diffusion. Support multicultural co-existence, social and cultural cohesion, and sustainable regional development. Make multilateral rather than unilateral approach a core aspect of our work - at education, research and administrative level. Enhance and reinforce our relation with Greek society. Make our graduates able to think and act across traditional academic boundaries and across national borders. Properly equip them so that they may benefit from international knowledge and experience, and support national and local dynamic development.

In order to achieve these aims we are undertaking a major reorganisation in order to:

- Establish a quality assurance system—at personal, faculty, and institution level-, respecting the diversity and the particularities of academic disciplines, putting internationalization in the forefront.
- Integrate international dimension within curriculum, promoting attractive, innovative and competitive study programmes that can meet contemporary social needs. Take measures so that while enhancing the international dimension, subject areas closely related to Greek culture are highlighted.
- Encourage research networking within and across the main academic areas. Build upon our membership in 34 University associations and networks, and make essential use of the participation. Attract world-renowned academics, disseminating our activities and achievements.
- Take measures to attract the best students worldwide. Provide easily accessible information online, and simplify the necessary procedures. Support them before, during and after their study period at AUTH. Increase the number of courses taught in other than Greek language.
- Encourage mobility among our students and stimulate their interest in achieving the highest academic standards and qualifications. Better prepare outgoing students for the study period abroad, simplify the administrative procedures, help them cope with academic and psychological difficulties, and morally and practically support vulnerable social groups.
- Establish permanent relations with our graduates when they decide to continue their studies and research abroad. Provide them motivation to keep contact with their home country and institution, and avoid brain-drain phenomena.
- Enhance international focus and awareness in all our staff, embed internationalisation into our core activities, and encourage staff mobility. Establish safe measurable criteria, in our internal regulation and evaluation systems, for the support and recognition of relevant activities.
- Evaluate our rich and long experience in the field of bi- and multi-lateral agreements, and devise a monitoring and assessment system, that takes into consideration quantitative and qualitative data.
- Choose our future partners based on (a) already established inter-personal and inter-institutional links, (b) academic excellence, (c) mutuality, so that through co-operation, we will not only gain from the “powerful” institutions, but also help young and/or “weaker” institutions or institutions from countries with serious economic, political and social problems, (d) compatible study programmes, (e) common educational goals, (f) reciprocity, ensuring balanced incoming and outgoing flows, and (g) a wide geographical field both within and outside Europe especially building upon our Erasmus Mundus experience, while focusing on the neighboring countries.
- Draw on our experience from the inter-departmental study programmes and increase the number of Joint degrees corresponding to contemporary, state of the arts interdisciplinary approaches.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Since 2012 we are organizing a yearly Staff Training Week which gives to the participants the opportunity to thoroughly discuss topics related to general internationalization policies and everyday practical issues. Apart from this organized programme, we regularly accept administrative staff members from other countries to work with us at the European Educational Programmes and International Relations Departments.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

- It is hoped that the analysis in the narrative which precedes these final queries has dealt with the concerns expressed in these concluding six points. In summary therefore we wish to report as follows:

- In order to increase the requisite attainment levels for our graduates and researchers we strive to equip them with both the scientific skills and the social grace and dexterity to cope with whatever challenges they may face and ambitions which they may harbour in the European environment.
- As to the quality and relevance of higher Education we deploy methods of continuous, rigorous internal and external assessment of progress at all levels of endeavor in the education, research, mobility, administrative and cultural fields.
- We improve quality by means of cooperation with local authorities and other relevant bodies in schemes of personal development and employability through placements both in Greece and across borders in Europe.
- Committed to the pursuit of excellence and following on from the above we encourage our University community at all levels to develop cooperative activities with regional businesses and local authority administrations of proven quality and commendable record of performance.
- Given the current difficult situation in Greece it is not easy to secure the necessary funding to match our ambition. However, by improving the governance, streamlining our administration and projecting an image of competence and attracting praise and respect for our work we manage to meet our needs mostly from sources in Europe and occasionally from International organizations farther afield. In this respect it is gratifying to report that our incoming students and academics, on returning to their home countries, act as the best ambassadors for our University.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)