

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

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:

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 Area¹ 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)

In its 2030 strategy, Lapland University of Applied Sciences (Lapland UAS) the northernmost university of applied science in the European Union, defines its vision: By 2030 Lapland UAS, as part of the Lapland University Consortium (LUC) with the University of Lapland aims to be a creative pioneer, a responsible Arctic university community. With 2030 strategy, Lapland UAS will be nationally and internationally leading actor and pioneer of Arctic research, expertise and staff. Lapland UAS' strategic objective is to further internationalise its research, education and artistic activities especially in the areas of its strategic spearheads - global arctic responsibility, sustainable tourism and future services and reachability - and to create a stronger and more effective network of collaboration. Implementation plan for the strategy is currently under work and internationalisation and transformation will be an integral part of that plan. The implementation plan will be finalised in 2021.

The Lapland UAS and the University of Lapland, two higher education institutions in the province of Lapland, compose the Lapland University Consortium (LUC). Through the strategic co-operation, these higher education institutions can offer enhanced quality in expertise and future prospects to benefit students, personnel, and the surrounding society as well as for the development of the European Higher Education Area. The LUC has been established to ensure the possibility to continue conducting and offering nationally and internationally high-grade research, education, and art in some of the northernmost higher education institutions in Europe. First part of the strategic development has been developing and organising the joint services for LUC. This strategic development programme will reach its objectives by 2021, when the joint services have been organised and are in operation towards the strategic objectives. Internationalisation and mobility are part of the strategic services, which will be organised jointly in LUC from the beginning of the year 2021.

Erasmus+ programme with its key actions (KA1 and KA2) plays an important part in achieving the strategic objectives in organisational transformation and internationalisation. The LUC strategy, that steers Lapland UAS' actions, acknowledges that the strategic objectives can only be achieved with international collaboration including contribution of mobile staff and students and participation in European and international cooperation projects in order to enhance the quality of its research, higher education programmes and student experience.

The participation in Erasmus+ will contribute towards modernising Lapland University of Applied Sciences and LUC as a higher education institution, as well as participating in building the European Education Area as follows:

- 1) Strengthening European collaboration and uptake of new and novel solutions for education, learning and university management to support institutional changes and modernisation:
 - a. A more comprehensive internationalisation and academic and social integration throughout the campus;
 - b. Global, digital, ethical, 21st century skills and competencies for university graduates to better access changing labour markets;
 - c. Continuous learning, especially re-skilling and up-skilling of people in the labour markets, and;
 - d. Blended learning and virtual learning pedagogies and models and digital solutions.
- 2) Deepening European partnerships and networks by strengthening active partnerships towards strategic partnerships and by strengthening participation in international networks, including actions of:
 - a. sharing competences and knowledge in internationalisation and project management;
 - b. developing joint learning modules and double degrees and
 - c. intensifying cooperation in all levels of organisation.
- 3) Developing the integration of learning to RDI (research, development and innovation) and working life.
- 4) In addition, adapting actions to European grand challenges in particular Commission Green Deal and its role in new skills for graduates and opportunities within the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027.

For Lapland University of Applied Sciences, LUC strategic objectives pursue a clear policy for internationalisation and modernisation. Building systematic structures and operational modules for implementation and collaboration (both internal and outwards) in strategic, tactic and operational levels is important. To reach the strategic objectives, the implementation in four strategic enablers will play the key role: 1) international and national networks, 2) education development, 3) welfare and support of communality, and 4) renewal of expertise and reinforcement of structures. Each

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

of the strategic enablers include targets and indicators mentioned in the section *envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme*.

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)

Lapland UAS follows the relevant guidelines at national and European level in all Erasmus+ actions and will participate in the following actions:

- 1) KA1 – Learning mobility and
- 2) KA 2 – Cooperation among organizations and institutions in education and training, youth and sport
 - a. Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices,
 - b. Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees and
 - c. Partnerships for innovation.

ERASMUS KA1 – LEARNING MOBILITY

By participating in the Erasmus KA1 activities Lapland UAS aims to:

- 1) develop and strengthen the partnerships to create a strong partnership network,
- 2) develop education collaboration and teaching and learning possibilities (joint courses, double degrees, strategic-oriented mobility activities including blended/virtual mobility) as well as increase possibilities for joint education and RDI projects
- 3) and increase the competences of the individual mobility participants as well as the competences of the organisations and the surrounding communities.

Through cooperating with European partner universities and implementing high quality, mutually benefiting mobility periods Lapland UAS modernises its organisation and participate in building the European Education Area.

Implementation of learning mobility

Lapland UAS offers fair and equitable internationalisation opportunities to all potential participants, including groups with fewer opportunities for participation and usually under-represented in mobility programmes. Lapland UAS has fair and transparent procedures throughout all stages of mobility and in the process of responding to queries/complaints from mobile students/staff.

Mobility activities are based on the Inter-Institutional Agreements, which are based on the mutual interest of the partners, compatibility of the study programmes and mutually agreed quality requirements. Decisions of the agreements are done at the expertise groups (faculties), involving academic staff and discussed together with the international services. The agreements are administered centrally in international services using SoleMOVE mobility system where also individual mobility administration for students and staff is conducted. The agreements are evaluated annually based on the feedback from the mobility participants and the necessary adjustments are made.

Currently Lapland UAS is implementing the partner analysis to evaluate all the existing Erasmus+ partnerships to decide which partnerships will be renewed. The aim is to strengthen the Erasmus+ partnership network and the cooperation with good partners which are in line with the LUC strategy and the key areas of expertise, but still keeping the large and diverse enough Erasmus+ network to enable all the students to find the suitable mobility destination which fits to their needs and professional development plans.

Lapland UAS respects the principles of non- discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff in all of actions including mobility activities. All students and staff members are treated equally and the same services and facilities are offered for the incoming mobile participants as for the local students and staff, including the services for the students with special needs, for example curator services.

Lapland UAS offers the equal opportunities for all student and staff members to gain international experience and competencies during their studies and work. Lapland UAS has created together with the University of Lapland a concept, My Global Story, for promoting internationalization possibilities for the students. The concept introduces a diverse set of internationalization possibilities to ensure all students can easily find the most suitable form for them that best fits to their individual needs and the current situation in life to build their international competences during their studies. The aim is to emphasize the factors which motivate students and decrease the obstacles and contingencies that may prevent students from pursuing mobility activities. Information on the internationalization possibilities are

offered via multiple channels; website, social media, face-to-face info sessions, webinars, using peer-marketing and former and current mobility participants as student ambassadors to share their experiences and benefits of mobility.

Mobility participants are selected following the Erasmus principals. Students who fulfil the quality requirements agreed on the Inter-institutional agreements are usually admitted. The possible student selection is done based on the pre-identified selection criteria which are informed for example in Lapland UAS website. Students unsatisfied with the selection decision are able to appeal using the Lapland UAS normal appeal procedure.

All mobile students make a learning agreement for studies/traineeships prior to the mobility period. Learning agreement and suitable institution/enterprise for traineeship is approved and monitored by the student counsellor or supervising teacher and international services officer. For teacher and staff mobility, the supervisor approves the mobility period according to the Lapland UAS mobility guidelines. International services admit the Erasmus+ grants. Erasmus+ mobility/learning agreement is always signed prior to the mobility period by the student/staff member, home and host institution.

Lapland UAS provides guidance and information for all mobility participants throughout the whole mobility period. International services have the main responsibility to give support for the mobile students. Student counsellors and teachers are responsible for the academic mentoring. International services officers keep regular dialogue with the student counsellors, teachers and other support staff members as well as international student tutors to ensure the fluent communication and sharing information. From the beginning of 2021 the international services will be joint together with the University of Lapland internationalisation services to form LUC internationalisation services, which enables to work more efficiently and offer better services for the mobility participants, both incoming and outgoing.

For the incoming mobility students, the course catalogue is published well before the mobility periods, assistance with visa and insurance issues are offered and the accommodation arranged for all incoming mobility students. Orientation week and local student tutors are arranged to assist new students. The student union, student tutors and Erasmus student network offer integrative activities for incoming students to feel welcomed and help them integrate to the local student community.

For incoming teachers and staff members, a planned program and introduction days are provided. A contact person and mentor are assigned for each incoming visitor to give guidance and support throughout the whole mobility period.

For outgoing students, Lapland UAS provides study counselling and departure orientation including intercultural communication lecture. Outgoing students can read previous mobile students' reports and meet them personally. Support with accommodation, visa and insurance issues is offered for all. International services, other support services and academic mentoring are available during the mobility period.

Lapland UAS issues the transcript or records after the completion of the mobility period to the incoming mobility students. For outgoing students Lapland UAS automatically recognises the studies completed abroad based on the learning agreement and the host university's transcript or records and issues a Diploma Supplement to accompany every degree successfully completed by the student. During and after the mobility students are encouraged to act as international student ambassadors to share their experiences and benefits of mobility. From attending this activity, they can gain extra ECTS credits. For teacher and staff mobility participants, the same kind of activities are included into the mobility and they are expected to share their experiences and gained competences to the others and utilize the mobility outcomes in their teaching for the benefit of the students and the organisation.

ERASMUS KA2 - COOPERATION AMONG ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Lapland UAS will participate in cooperation partnerships in order to increase the quality and relevance of the activities, reinforce partner networks, increase capacity to operate jointly at transnational and international level and exchange new practices and methods. The aim is to operate within partnerships which strengthen the LUC 2030 strategy.

Taking part in Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Programme, Lapland UAS will support the development of the Lapland UAS Master's degree programme and increase the international competences and mobility of the students.

Lapland UAS will take part in Partnerships for innovation in order to foster innovation and modernization of education in identifying and supplying the right set of skills, knowledge and competences to match the future labour market demand. This will also deepen networks with the working life. Especially fostering innovation, creativity and social entrepreneurship will be in focus and are linked to the LUC 2030 strategy.

Implementation of Erasmus KA2 activities

Lapland UAS is a strong player among Finnish HEIs regarding co-funded projects. Internationalisation has always been one of the main features of the projects and at the moment around 25 % of the research, development and innovation projects are international with partners mainly from Europe. Lapland UAS utilizes a wide range of available EU funds. Projects are based on the needs arising from the region, the degree programmes and UAS staff with the strong link to the strategy (LUC 2030 strategy). Projects' linkage to the strategy is evaluated as a part of the project planning process. Lapland UAS has a wide partner network in Europe due to the active international project activities throughout of the history of the UAS and many project proposals come through these previous consortia and networks. Lapland UAS is also a member in several European wide substance-based networks and many projects are starting also from these networks. The aim is to implement the projects with the partners which strengthen reaching the strategic goals of LUC 2030.

Lapland UAS has an audited quality assurance system which defines processes e.g. for cooperation project initiation, planning, implementation and management. Process descriptions, instructions and templates for managing all project cycle phases have been prepared and they are available in the organisation intranet for the teachers and other staff working with cooperation projects. Also, staff trainings and info webinars are provided on regular basis. Project planning

and implementation are supported by project management specialists both in administrative and financial matters as well as by a project information system which includes information about all organisation's projects. Special support is also available for communication about the project and publishing.

Teachers have resources (time) dedicated for project planning (idea and proposal phase) and project implementation in their time schedules (plans). The integration of teaching and development and research is one of the core elements of the daily work. Students participate in the project as a part of their studies, e.g. practical training or theses. Lapland UAS is committed to openness by signing the Declaration for open science and research. Lapland UAS wants to act openly in presenting the project ideas, results and data. All project descriptions, goals, results, partners and meta data are openly visible in the Lapland UAS website. Project results are disseminated in publications, seminars, Erasmus+ Project Results Platform, social media and other ways following the project plan. Dissemination plan, exploitation plan and plan for data management are requirements for every project according to the project process description. Best practices, courses, materials etc. developed in projects are included in the curricula and practices of the organisation.

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.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme supports the internationalisation and modernisation of the Lapland UAS and LUC. The strategic enablers will form the framework for development throughout the organisation. The feedback from mobile students and staff (EU surveys) as well as the ECHE self-assessment have given us valuable information on the targeted actions to be developed. The envisaged impact for Lapland UAS in participation in the Erasmus+ programme will be as follows:

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NETWORKS: DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

- 1) Educational and RDI international cooperation focused on the strategic key areas of expertise.
- 2) International RDI cooperation and educational cooperation oriented strategically towards the same partnerships to deepen and widen the cooperation.
- 3) Strengthen the presence in European RDI project consortia and thematic networks and platforms.
- 4) Number of funded Erasmus+ Cooperation projects to be duplicated from the 2014-2020 numbers.
- 5) European and international networks and partnerships to be evaluated and developed in relation to strategic key areas of expertise in LUC context bi-annually.
- 6) Cooperation with Nordic and Arctic partners to be increased and intensified.
- 7) Team Finland Knowledge national network cooperation to be intensified and developed.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT: INCREASING INTERNATIONALISATION

- 1) Developing international education and increasing the number of international degree programmes which are attractive and serve the regional and global needs of expertise.
- 2) Pursuing educational collaboration with partners: developing integrated, transnational teaching and learning activities with European and global partners (joint virtual and/or blended courses and modules, curriculums, double degrees, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master programmes and continuous learning).
- 3) Each bachelor degree programme will have an internationalisation module of 30 ECTS credits in the curriculum by year 2021.
- 4) Increasing internationalisation activities, such as mobility, including blended and virtual mobility, according to the European and national recommendations. 20% of students take part in mobility during their studies in Lapland UAS by 2027.
- 5) Improving the quality of mobility support services: EU Survey feedback in general to be improved in coming years, and especially in the sections up-to-date course catalogue (10 %, improvement) and administrative support arrangements (5 %, improvement) by 2024.

- 6) International competencies defined in the organisational level. International badge for students in use by 2024.

WELFARE AND SUPPORT OF COMMUNALITY: DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL INCLUSIVE CAMPUS CULTURE

Developing the integration of international students and staff by developing university community and services that;

- a) support improving language skills and cultural competencies;
- b) help in integration to Finnish working life and the society (including civic engagement possibilities for incoming mobility students);
- c) intensify the international alumni cooperation and network and
- d) encourage the welcoming and inclusive campus culture.

RENEWAL OF EXPERTISE AND REINFORCEMENT OF STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONALISATION

- 1) Developing the model for organizing internationalisation services in the LUC consortium by 2021.
- 2) Intensifying mobility support services and reducing administrative burdens and costs by actively implementing European Student Card Initiative.
- 3) Developing the international competencies of the staff; international competences, internationalisation and mobility is included into the HR processes, ensuring the quality and the impact of the mobility by following the Lapland UAS staff mobility guidelines.
- 4) Increasing the number of international employees according to the national recommendations to 15% by 2030.