

# EPLUS2020

**Call: EACEA-03-2020**  
(Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027)

**Topic: ECHE-LP-2020**

**Type of action: EPLUS2020-ACR**

**Proposal number: 101013677**

**Proposal acronym: UNIPR-ECHE**

**Deadline Id: EACEA-03-2020-1**

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### *How to fill in the forms*

The administrative forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the administrative forms are pre-filled based on the previous steps in the submission wizard.

## 1 - General information

Topic ECHE-LP-2020

Type of Action EPLUS2020-ACR

Call Identifier EACEA-03-2020

Deadline Id EACEA-03-2020-1

Acronym UNIPR-ECHE

Proposal title The Erasmus Programme 2021-2027 at the University of Parma. Contributing to the creation of the European Education Area.

*Note that for technical reasons, the following characters are not accepted in the Proposal Title and will be removed: < > " &*

Duration in months

86

Fixed keyword 1

Bologna process - related to Modernisation of Higher Education

Fixed keyword 2

International cooperation

Fixed keyword 3

Learning mobility (including virtual and blended)

Fixed keyword 4

Modernisation of Higher Education

Fixed keyword 5

Quality assurance

Free keywords

*Erasmus mobility learners education ECTS virtual blended modernization transparency civic engagement research education credits inbound outbound university cooperation enterprise training credits*

Application language

English

## Abstract\*

*The University of Parma encourages and supports mobility of all individuals, guaranteeing equal opportunities for participation to all students, including those from groups who are usually under-represented in mobility programmes: people with fewer opportunities for either economic, social, cultural, geographical, health disadvantage or for reasons such as disability or educational difficulties.*

*The University internationalization strategy fully reflects the inspiring principles defined in its Statute, which guarantees access to higher education and its opportunities to any citizen.*

*The University of Parma develops its international strategy in full coherence with the objectives set by the EU in its agenda towards the creation of a European Education Area, namely:*

- working towards developing mobility as a norm in the academic growth of its students and staff;*
- sustaining academic recognition in full and fostering the principles of Bologna Process;*
- supporting the growth of language competence of European citizens;*
- guaranteeing equal access to mobility opportunities, despite their socio-economic background;*
- working to reinforce the European identity of citizens*

*Strategic objectives for the next seven years are the following:*

- To improve the overall numbers of inbound and outbound mobility;*
- To increase the number of Degree Courses taught in English;*
- To improve and continue the process towards the modernization of the online didactical activities and blended mobility*
- To play an active role in the European Modernization Agenda*
- To improve our students' competences of digital and soft skills*
- To consolidate the running international collaborations with the various regions of the world*
- To improve the quality of students' services*
- To achieve an overall "paperless" management of students' processes*
- To support the development of quality collaboration networks for the enhancement of both education and research opportunities introduction of innov*

Remaining characters

7

# Proposal Submission Forms

Proposal ID **101013677**

Acronym **UNIPR-ECHE**

Has this proposal (or a very similar one) been submitted in the past 2 years in response to a call for proposals under Horizon 2020 or any other EU programme(s)?  Yes  No

Please give the proposal reference or contract number.

XXXXXX-X

## Declarations

1) We/I declare to have the explicit consent of all participants on their participation and on the content of this proposal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2) We/I confirm that the information contained in this proposal is correct and complete and that none of the project activities have started before the proposal was submitted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3) We/I declare: - to be fully compliant with the eligibility criteria set out in the call - not to be subject to any exclusion grounds under the EU Financial Regulation (Regulation No 2018/1046) - to have the financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4) We/acknowledge that all communication will be made through the Funding & Tenders Portal electronic exchange system and that access and use of this system is subject to the <a href="#">Funding &amp; Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions</a> .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5) We/I acknowledge and authorize the collection, use and processing of personal data for the purpose of the evaluation of the proposal and the subsequent management of the grant/prize (if any). We/I acknowledge and authorize that the data may also be used for the monitoring and evaluation of the EU funding programme, the design of future programmes and communication purposes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The coordinator is only responsible for the correctness of the information relating to his/her own organisation. Each applicant remains responsible for the correctness of the information related to him/her and declared above. If the proposal to be retained for EU funding, the coordinator and each beneficiary will be required to present a formal declaration in this respect.

### Note:

For **multi-beneficiary applications**, the coordinator vouches for its own organization and that all other participants confirmed their participation and compliance with conditions set out in the call. If the proposal is retained for funding, each participant will be required to submit a formal declaration of honour confirming this.

**False statements** or incorrect information may lead to administrative sanctions under the Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

**Personal data** will be collected, used and processed in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725 and the [Funding & Tenders Portal privacy statement](#).

Please be however aware that, to protect EU financial interests, your data may be transferred to other EU institutions and bodies and be registered in the EDES database. Data in the EDES database is also subject to Regulation 2018/1725 and the [EDES privacy statement](#).

## 2 - Participants & contacts

#	Participant Legal Name	Country	Action
1	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA	Italy	

## 2 - Administrative data of participating organisations

PIC	Legal name
999846028	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA

ECHE Reference Code	Institution Code
29240-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA3-ECHE	I PARMA01

Short name: *UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA*

### Address

Street VIA UNIVERSITA 12  
 Town PARMA  
 Postcode 43100  
 Country Italy  
 Webpage www.unipr.it

### Specific Legal Statuses

Legal person .....yes  
 Public body .....yes  
 Non-profit .....yes  
 International organisation .....no  
 International organisation of European interest .....no  
 Secondary or Higher education establishment .....yes  
 Research organisation .....yes  
 Industry (private for profit).....no

### Enterprise Data

Based on the below details from the Beneficiary Registry the organisation is not an SME (small- and medium-sized enterprise) for the call.

SME self-declared status.....01/12/1977 - no  
 SME self-assessment ..... unknown  
 SME validation sme..... unknown

# Proposal Submission Forms

Proposal ID **101013677** Acronym **UNIPR-ECHE** Short name **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA**

## Department(s) carrying out the proposed work

### Department 1

Department name   not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street

Town

Postcode

Country

### Department 2

Department name   not applicable

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street

Town

Postcode

Country

# Proposal Submission Forms

Proposal ID **101013677** Acronym **UNIPR-ECHE** Short name **UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA**

## Person in charge of the proposal

The name and e-mail of contact persons are read-only in the administrative form, only additional details can be edited here. To give access rights and basic contact details of contact persons, please go back to Step 4 of the submission wizard and save the changes.

Title

Sex  Male  Female

First name **Paolo**

Last name **ANDREI**

E-Mail **rettore@unipr.it**

Position in org.

Department

Same as organisation name

Same as proposing organisation's address

Street

Town

Post code

Country

Website

Phone

Phone 2

Fax

## Other contact persons

First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Phone
Alessandro	BERNAZZOLI	alessandro.bernazzoli@unipr.it	+39 0521 030437
Simonetta Anna	Valenti	simonettaanna.valenti@unipr.it	+39 0521 034200
Roberto	Montanari	roberto.montanari@unipr.it	+39 0521 905851



## Type of organisation

- Higher education institution (tertiary level)
- School/Institute/Educational centre - General Education (secondary level)

## Information related to eligibility criteria

	Yes	No
Applicant is an HEI established in a Programme Country.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The applicant institution is eligible by National Authorities of Programme Countries.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I confirm that I have received a notification from my Erasmus+ National Agency stating that I am allowed to apply for the light procedure.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Warning: You must comply with the content of all the checkboxes.



**ERASMUS+**

## **Proposal Template**

**Administrative Forms (Part A)  
Project Technical Description (Part B)**

Erasmus: Key action 1: Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

EACEA-03-2020 ECHE-LP-2020

Version 1.1  
4 March 2020





**ERASMUS+**  
**PROPOSAL (PART B)**

**Erasmus: Key action 1: Erasmus  
Charter for Higher Education**

**EACEA-03-2020 ECHE-LP-2020**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE


Applications must be submitted via the Funding & Tenders Portal Submission Service before the call deadline.

Applicants must use this template for their applications (designed to highlight important aspects and facilitate the assessment against the evaluation criteria).

### Character and page limits:

- page limit **20** pages
- supporting documents can be provided as an annex and do not count towards the page limit
- minimum font size — Arial 8 points
- page size: A4
- margins (top, bottom, left and right): at least 15 mm (not including headers & footers).

Please abide by the formatting rules. They are not a target! Keep your text as concise as possible. Do not use hyperlinks to show information that is an essential part of your proposal.

 If you attempt to upload an application that exceeds the specified limit, you will receive an automatic warning asking you to shorten and re-upload your application. After you have submitted it, any excess pages will be made invisible and thus disregarded by the evaluators.

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## **COMMITMENT TO THE ERASMUS CHARTER PRINCIPLES**

### **Declaration**

I, undersigned, declare that if my institution is awarded with an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, my institution will undertake to:

- Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Programme.
- Ensure equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.
- Ensure full automatic recognition of all credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System – ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility.
- Charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.
- Ensure the quality of the mobility activities and of the cooperation projects throughout the application and implementation phases.
- Implement the priorities of the Programme:
  - By undertaking the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.
  - By promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.
  - By encouraging the participation of individuals with fewer opportunities in the Programme.
  - By promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project.

### **WHEN PARTICIPATING IN MOBILITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Before mobility**

- Ensure that selection procedures for mobility activities are fair, transparent, coherent and documented.
- Publish and regularly update the course catalogue on the website of the Institution well in advance of the mobility periods, so as to be transparent to all parties and allow mobile students to make well-informed choices about the courses they will follow.
- Publish and regularly update information on the grading system used and grade distribution tables for all study programmes. Ensure that students receive clear and transparent information on recognition and grade conversion procedures.
- Carry out mobility for the purpose of studying and teaching only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions. These agreements establish the respective

roles and responsibilities of the different parties, as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception, support and integration of mobile participants.

- Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for their activities abroad, including blended mobility, by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of linguistic proficiency and develop their intercultural competences.
- Ensure that student and staff mobility is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.
- Provide active support to incoming mobile participants throughout the process of finding accommodation.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining visas, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining insurance, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Ensure that students are aware of their rights and obligations as defined in the Erasmus Student Charter.

#### **During mobility**

- Ensure equal academic treatment and the quality of services for incoming students.
- Promote measures that ensure the safety of outgoing and incoming mobile participants.
- Integrate incoming mobile participants into the wider student community and in the Institution's everyday life. Encourage them to act as ambassadors of the programme and share their mobility experience.
- Provide appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobile participants, including for those pursuing blended mobility.
- Provide appropriate language support to incoming mobile participants.

#### **After mobility**

- Provide incoming mobile students and their sending institutions with transcripts of records containing a full, accurate and timely record of their achievements at the end of their mobility period.
- Ensure that all ECTS credits gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility are fully and automatically recognised as agreed in the learning agreement and confirmed by the transcript of records/traineeship certificate. They shall be transferred without delay into the student's records, shall be counted towards the student's degree without any additional work or assessment of the student and shall be traceable in the student's transcript of records and the Diploma Supplement.
- Ensure the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and/or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements (the Diploma Supplement).
- Encourage and support mobile participants upon return to act as ambassadors of the

programme, promote the benefits of mobility and actively engage in building alumni communities.

- Ensure that staff is given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement and in line with the institutional strategy.

#### WHEN PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

- Ensure that cooperation activities contribute towards the fulfilment of the institutional strategy.
- Promote the opportunities offered by the cooperation projects and provide relevant support to staff and students interested in participating in these activities throughout the application and implementation phase.
- Ensure that cooperation activities lead to sustainable outcomes and that their impact benefits all partners.
- Encourage peer-learning activities and exploit the results of the projects in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals, other participating institutions and the wider academic community.

#### FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- Ensure that the long-term institutional strategy and its relevance to the objectives and priorities of the Programme are described in the Erasmus Policy Statement.
- Ensure that the principles of the Charter are well communicated and are applied by staff at all levels of the Institution.
- **Make use of the “ECHE guidelines” and of the “ECHE self-assessment” to ensure the full implementation of the principles of this Charter.**
- Regularly promote activities supported by the Programme, along with their results.
- Display this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website and on all other relevant channels.

*On behalf of the Institution, I acknowledge that the implementation of the Charter will be monitored by the Erasmus National Agencies and that a violation of the above principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the European Commission.*

*On behalf of the institution, I commit to publishing the Erasmus Policy Statement on the institution website.*

Legal representative of the institution

Signature of the legal representative

Prof. Paolo ANDREI

IL RETTORE

Paolo Andrei





In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

## 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<sup>1</sup> 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)

Jointly with education, research and third mission, internationalisation is one of the four pillars of the Institutional Strategy of the University of Parma. The University fixes and achieves its goals through the approval of three-year strategic plans. The institutional level of commitment and contribution to the Erasmus Programme and internationalization is detailed and updated in each plan, officially approved by Academic Senate and the Board of Administrators and available on the institutional Web portal.

The University of Parma encourages and supports mobility of all individuals, guaranteeing equal opportunities for participation to all students, including those from groups who are usually under-represented in mobility programmes: people with fewer opportunities for either economic, social, cultural, geographical, health disadvantage or for reasons such as disability, gender or educational difficulties.

The University internationalization strategy fully reflects the inspiring principles defined in its Statute, which guarantees access to higher education and its opportunities to any citizen.

The University of Parma develops its international strategy in full coherence with the objectives set by the EU in its agenda towards the creation of a European Education Area, namely:

1. working towards developing mobility as a norm in the academic growth of its students and staff;
2. sustaining academic recognition in full and fostering the principles of Bologna Process;
3. supporting the growth of language competence of European citizens;
4. guaranteeing equal access to mobility opportunities, despite their socio-economic background;
5. working to reinforce the European identity of citizens.

The long experience gained in the participation in Erasmus over the last 30 years (including 2 ECTS Labels and a number of collaboration projects approved), have constantly and significantly contributed to the development of internationalization of this University. The results achieved during the last seven years of Erasmus+ show that the path of coherence and progressive improvement chosen by the succeeding university governances favoured a constant growth of its international dimension, not boosting into flashing, though not-enduring, outcomes but rather gradually helping the whole University in its complex structure (Departments, Centres, Units, Administration) to grow a slower but sounder awareness and presence in the international context.

Thanks to a strong policy and relevant investments, internationalization data has shown a growing trend and interest towards mobility and collaboration opportunities. The University of Parma aims to encourage and increase this dimension by investing and building on the past good experiences and practices, and correcting and improving the less positive experiences. The University will further refine its monitoring activity to analyse the number and the quality of bilateral agreements with European and non-EU Countries HEIs, in order to maintain a constant coherence with its internationalization objectives. The University also aims to widen its external relations with new EU and non-EU institutions to share the vision of an open campus for encouraging exchanges, research activities, scientific cooperation and the design of new and competitive degrees. The development of double, multiple, joint degrees is set as an institutional priority, together with the progressive introduction of degree courses taught in English.

Strategic objectives for the next seven years are the following:

1. **To improve the overall numbers of inbound and outbound mobility.** Mobility remains the pillar of the institutional EPS for the next seven years. The University of Parma endeavours to improve its numbers of outbound mobility, as well as inbound students, to accomplish the vision of an international campus, wide open to European and international students, scientists, staff and stakeholders for the consolidation of a real European space of higher education.
2. **To increase the number of Degree Courses taught in English and the number of joint/double Degree programmes at all cycles.** The implementation of Double Degree programmes has become a need for a growing internationalisation of the educational offer at the University of Parma. In the Institutional Strategy Document, the development of international Joint and Double Degree Programmes is clearly stated as a concrete action to develop the

<sup>1</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

strategic planning of international teaching and research programmes. Strongly encouraged and supported at national level, this action is aimed at promoting the recruitment of international students who are not usually keen on choosing Italy as first option for their academic career.

3. **To improve and continue the process towards the modernisation of the online didactical activities and blended mobility.** The current emergency situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic has solicited higher education institutions to adapt to a new social context and expedite with maximum urgency the implementation of a digital agenda. The sudden, though hopefully, temporary stop to ongoing mobility and the social context that the outbreak has generated throughout Europe and the whole world the need for universities to draw a new agenda to the implementation of solid programmes to ensure virtual learning. Taking this as an opportunity, the newly-developed environment, once perfected, may be actively used to increase students' and staff's digital skills, as well as to enhance transnational collaborations to provide students with a challenging international context within their normal classes and lectures;
4. **To improve our students' competences of digital and soft skills.** Improving digital skills is set as a strategic objective in order to raise graduates' competitiveness on the labour market. The use of social media, digital entrepreneurship, digital marketing and Internet of things are among the standards of the new digital era and the university has the competences and tools to improve these skills. In a cooperation environment, Erasmus is identified as a powerful instrument to raise digital competence. At the same level, soft skills (teamwork, problem-solving approach, management of information, autonomy, active citizenship, etc.) are equally relevant to develop new generations of highly-qualified professionals who could have rapid access to the global labour market;
5. **To improve the level of English language competence in students, faculties and staff.** The university has the ambition to achieve a stronger presence of the English language in its day-to-day activities in order to create a more internationally-oriented scientific and administrative setup. This endeavour will be the base not only in terms of improving our academic offer in foreign languages, but also in facilitating our internal procedures related to welcoming international students and staff at all stages. The recent investment on the new University Language Centre structure, with new competences on language training for students and staff, will be further developed to achieve this objective. Furthermore, the new University Language Centre will allow the University of Parma to offer its students and staff, as well as the surrounding territory courses taught in different languages, other than English, thus giving its contribution to the development of the area;
6. **To consolidate the running international collaborations with the various regions of the world.** The long-lasting friendship with institutional partners has led to the activation and consolidation of competitive international programmes (academic degrees, summer schools, joint PhDs). During the next seven years, this University aims to broaden its collaboration portfolio not in mere terms of expanding the already-wide number of established partnerships, but rather in intensifying and focusing on quality collaborations, through the creation of disciplinary quality networks that may significantly contribute to the development of a real European Education Area, with free exchange of students and staff within the various networks. Moreover, the different cooperation projects already financed by the EU and those that are still being elaborated will allow us to intensify our collaborations with low-income countries, thus contributing to boost the University of Parma know-how transfer in extra-UE area;
7. **To improve the quality of students' services and the international attractiveness of the University** (accommodation opportunities, full digitalization of services, social and civic engagement measures, etc.). The University of Parma has given full endorsement not only to the EWP principles, already under development at institutional level (the University of Parma was among the first HEIs to test the OLA platform on a wide scale), but also significant investments in the improvement of services available to exchange students and staff. This is done with specific reference to the accommodation opportunities and the introduction of services that are being newly developed in tight collaboration between the University, the Municipality and the Emilia-Romagna Region, for a shared vision of Parma as a "University City", in order to improve our international students and talents attractiveness as to develop a competitive academic and social environment;
8. **To support the development of quality collaboration networks for the enhancement of both education and research opportunities and the introduction of innovative approaches to collaborative education and research.** As detailed in objective 6 above, The University aims to establish quality networks (both European and international) with a view to creating ideal environments for both education and research, for students, researchers and staff, open to anyone wishing to join but willing to share the same vision and the same agreed standards. In this perspective, as of 2015 the University has activated two specific Programmes, entirely financed by its own funds, in collaboration with some territorial stakeholders. The first one concerns the annual Call for "Visiting Professors", having excellent international reputation profiles and coming from all over the world, in order to enrich the English Teaching Offer of the

University of Parma and to deepen the research collaboration in the field of PhDs activities. The second one, called “TeachInParma” regards especially PhDs and is functional to the attraction of internationally recognized high-profile Professors to give lectures to third cycle students.

9. **The achievement of an overall “paperless” management of students’ processes.** The objective of a complete paperless management of students’ careers does not only involve exchange students but also the regular ones. The full digitalization of processes and career management will greatly facilitate students’ autonomy and will coherently support the Student Card implementation and make the University more competitive and aligned with the European and international standards.
10. **To play an active role in the European Modernisation Agenda.** All of the University strategic goals find full coherence with EU modernisation Agenda.

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)

Networking and scientific cooperation with HEIs in Europe and across borders, in order to achieve common objectives in the field of education, research and training, fostering mobility and improving competence and skills of learners and staff. This is one of the strategical goals for the next 7 years.

The University of Parma already counts a steady network of Academic and Scientific institutions with which it works to internationalise the research and didactical activities. Nevertheless, according to its Strategic Plan, the University is to raise the networking activity, in order to gain greater scientific reputation in Europe and worldwide. Thanks to an increased participation in networks, the University of Parma will be more attractive to foreign students and will intensify the capacity to establish common degrees with international HEIs and to work in international research projects.

With regards to the internationalisation of the research activities, the University is already active in supporting all the Departments in implementing projects and in submitting proposals to European Calls, mainly under the Erasmus+ and Horizon Programmes.

The assisting activities foreseen:

- Administrative support to researchers in all the project cycle management phases;
- Training in European Research and Education Programmes;
- Monitoring and dissemination activities to promote the international calls and financial opportunities.

New strategic networks within the academic community will be put in place to build research capacity and partnerships over the medium and long term. With reference to the specific Erasmus actions, the University has planned as follows:

- KA1 “The mobility of higher education students and staff”: Mobility is set as a priority. What started during the Erasmus+ phase will be continued and further developed during the next seven years, with a view to achieve the fixed objectives. Objectives 1, 2, 5, 8 of the institutional strategy strictly relate to this action and the planned actions offer consistency with the set objectives. Participation in KA1 mobility will contribute to both increasing the number of mobility staff and students and, specifically, raising the personal awareness of a European dimension and approach to study and research, favoring the creation of a broader and transnational basis to tackle the new challenges that will rise from a society that is expected to undergo significant changes in the next future, including in reference to the ongoing pandemic Covid-19 crisis and its consequences.
- KA2 “Cooperation among organizations and institutions”: in accordance with EPS objectives 2, 3 and 9, this University aims at making its presence more relevant within cooperation activities. Over the last 7 years, the University had the opportunity to consolidate relevant collaborations, which are now ready to be used for the development of its Erasmus dimension. A number of double degrees activated over the last 5 years are now competitive to enter the Erasmus Mundus Action. On the basis of already-running cooperation projects and networks, the University has been planning the submission of European University application, envisaged within the first 5 years of the new Programme. Of course, the level of commitment required by such an Action and its innovative objectives, though meeting the institutional ones, ask a broad sharing of initiatives and commitment with the involved partners that prevents an improvised submission,

rather a shared and common view that may give a sound background and an elevated success rate to an action that will change forever the systemic approach of the involved institutions.

- KA3 “Support to policy development and cooperation”: the University of Parma, together with its consolidated network, aims to share acquired know-how and act towards the diffusion of its methods, instruments and models with relevant stakeholders and potential partners, by favoring the introduction of best practices at national and international level. Its presence in the specific actions is planned starting from 2023.

The institutional participation in all of the above Erasmus actions will greatly support the planned development of an international and inclusive academic environment.

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)

The impact of the University participation in the Erasmus Programme has been and will be relevant and significant at all levels:

- individual level, for students, researchers, and staff benefitting from the improvement of their competences through collaboration (around 70.000 units in seven years);
- institutional level, through the exchange of good practices, the consolidation of quality collaborations and benefits from a tight collaboration with partner HEIs (9 Departments, 20 University centres, administration structures);
- regional level, through the improvement of civic engagement, the presence of an international environment, the promotion of economic growth, the attraction of innovation, the presence of an inclusive reality and the presence of graduate students with broad competences and a high expendability on the labour market (450.000 inhabitants, 41.000 enterprises).

With the vision of an international campus open to collaboration in education and research, improving student mobility (inbound and outbound) will impact the participating students themselves, but also the non-mobile students, pushing them to raise the quality of their academic performance and to expand their approach to education. Increasing the overall number of outgoing mobilities is the most ambitious and challenging objective of the University of Parma for the next seven years. Main target groups for mobility and exchange initiatives will be second and third cycle students, teaching and research staff and administrative staff, albeit exchange opportunities for first-cycle students will be active, available and supported.

The University (27.000 students, 800 teaching staff and 800 administration units) is located in a medium-sized and wealthy city in the northern part of Italy, where there has not been a long tradition towards international mobility and internationalization in general. However, over the last 15 years the city has been positively affected by the presence of international corporations and of the European Food Safety Authority – EFSA, food industries based in different countries all over the world and sports organizations, such as the Zebre Rugby Club. Indeed, these organizations brought to Parma thousands of new foreign citizens and workers. Therefore, the situation steadily changed and a new and wider international approach is spreading on the local community and at the University of Parma. Over the last seven years (Erasmus+), the University managed to send around 5.000 students abroad (3.200 Erasmus students and 1.800 overseas). According to the latest data, the last academic years from 2017 to 2020 (2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020), show a constant increase of the outgoing mobility related to the Erasmus+ Programme and to the Overworld university project (for non-EU and Overseas mobility). An average value of around 17.000/year credits awarded in an abroad experience in the last three years show a growing level of commitment on behalf of students involved.

Over the next seven years, the University aims to increase overall physical student mobility of 60% and support the access to virtual/blended mobility options to 50% of its student and researchers' community. The new blended mobility option is expected to have a relevant impact on second and third cycle students, providing an international, though sustainable, support to activities such as thesis preparation,

traineeships, collaborative research activities. The increase is expected to be rather linear over the seven-year period of the new Erasmus Programme.

A significant boost is expected in the framework of mobility of academic and administrative staff. Despite an increase by 10% in the last 4 years, the results are fairly low, counting on an average of 40 units for each category per year. The introduction of formal recognition of participation in Erasmus will definitely contribute to raise the figures to more acceptable standards. The set objective sees an overall 100% increase (double) of staff mobility for teaching and training purposes.

The development plan consists of 2 phases. The first phase (2020-2022) will focus on the set up of the conditions for digital and virtual exchanges. Due to the consequences generated by the COVID emergency, the University Has recently approved an institutional project named COVE (Enhancing **C**ollaborative **V**irtual **E**ducation in an Emergency Context), addressed to potential inbound mobility from partner HEIs, facilitating the attendance of online courses with full academic recognition on behalf of their home institution. Moreover, the COVE project foresees the implementation and support of collaborative teaching for non-mobile students (international virtual study groups, online teaching from partner HEIs, international seminars in virtual mode), as well. The initiative will foster the concept of blended mobility and open the doors to a closer digital collaboration between institutions, in the next 2 years. From 2022 to 2027, the second step will target on:

- a) improving the services and the support offered to those who wish to apply for outgoing mobility. Therefore, new guidelines and a new close cooperation between offices and administrative structures will be put in place to support students, academic and administrative staff with legal and internal procedures before, during and after the mobility;
- b) boosting the potential of the new University Language Centre to enhance the language skills of both students and staff, in a new multicultural environment and with the ambition to increase the internationalization potential of the University, as well as its contribution to the Third Mission (Public Engagement), elevating the linguistic competences of the territory inhabitants;
- c) defining the collaboration environments to foster virtual and blended mobility, which, jointly with the regular mobility of individuals, will determine the growth of the international dimension of the University.

With reference to collaborative projects (KA2, etc.), the University commits to support (financially and at policy level) a wider participation in cooperation projects in order to both boost the level and quality of cooperation with partner HEIs and to take active part in expanding the influence and the impact of European models in non-EU Countries. During the previous seven years, the University has participated in a number of collaboration projects (around 30 as both partner and coordinator), but more can be done under this aspect, firstly by intensifying coordination, support and monitoring on these initiatives. The vision of a European and international campus must find its full coherence in these actions, and these actions must all together contribute to converge their objectives towards the creation of this competitive and exciting view.

Indeed, in order to quote only the most recent achievements, the University got the approval in 2019 of an Erasmus+ KA2 grant, as applicant and project coordinator, for the initiative 'EnRHEd- Enhancement of Rwandan higher education in strategic fields for sustainable growth' (EAC/A03/2018). The project aims at improving the quality and internationalization of Higher Education programmes and the qualification level of both teachers and graduated students in Rwandan HEIs. Over the new Erasmus cycle, this project is expected to grow by inviting Rwandan Government to support the introduction of concrete measures for establishing new standards regulating the exchange of students and staff with European partners.

The same may apply to Myanmar – grown from an ICM project into a broader context and now seeing a close interaction between the Myanmar Government, the Emilia-Romagna Region and other regional stakeholders to develop a systemic approach towards the improvement of the local higher education system and government structure.

A team formed by two Vice Rectors, 10 University delegates, 9 Department Committees (70 units overall) and the International Relations Division (15 units) are required to help the University to achieve this challenging objective, which may be resumed as follows: to develop an inclusive, sustainable and international University campus by raising quality, attractiveness, standards and cooperation measures.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Implementation of the new principles

Please explain the measures taken in your institution to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. Describe how your institution

ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.

The University of Parma is fully committed to respect the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. This concept also applies to internationalization, as the University declares to promote international collaboration without any ethnic, linguistic, cultural, **gender** or religious prejudice, by privileging openness to diversity, considered as a resource. The ancient origin of this University places it among the oldest higher education institutions in the world: its history tells of thousands of scholars from all over the world willing to join Parma to share knowledge and advance the evolution of society. As a state university, the University of Parma is tightly bound to the principles of our Constitution and the full adherence to the European Union and its inspiring principles.

The University of Parma already clearly states in its Statute all the above-mentioned principles and has created internal offices and teams to ensure their full respect. A mandatory professional training is also foreseen each year to promote the internal policy.

The University of Parma welcomes applications and exchanges of students with special needs. Indeed, a specific support for students with physical or learning disabilities and special educational needs was set up in the recent years, including a wide range of individual adjustments and tailored services available to help find the most appropriate support programmes. Specific interventions range from psychological support, examinations and assessments, IT equipment, modifications to the buildings to overcome architectural barriers and teaching guidance.

Particular attention is also given to students with lesser economic opportunities, with yearly fellowships and specific assistance for accommodation and canteen services in compliance with the aim of guaranteeing the right to study to all students in place. The abovementioned services are available to all scholars, including Erasmus and international students via our Welcome Office structure.

Since 2017/2018, the University has set up new activities in line with the need to disseminate the culture of equal opportunities and mutual respect, so as to raise students' awareness on gender issues.

For the next seven years, the University commits to enhance:

- the construction of gender mainstreaming inside the **U**niversity community;
- sensitizing, informing and training actions on equal opportunities directed to all members of the university community (students, teaching and administrative staff);
- prevention, monitoring and contrast to any form of discrimination, harassment, abuse or violence within the University.

Such actions should be further concretized through the envisaged constitution of a new Welcome Centre addressing not only to all students in disadvantage or difficult backgrounds (students with economic or social disadvantage; international students or migrant students needing integration; students with physical or learning disabilities; students with gender-related issues, etc.), but also to specific demands of students who come from other Italian regions (e.g. housing), combine studying with work or family needs (e.g. mothers with little babies).

The University future policy certainly aims to consolidate the actions already taken so far for disadvantaged students, as well as generally implement further measures to promote and broaden the opportunities for every student to access higher education and pursue their studies in the spirit of equality and transparency in admission criteria.

Please explain what measures your institution will put in place to implement the European Student Card Initiative, and promote the use of the programme's Erasmus+ mobile App to students. Please refer to the timeline indicated on the European Student Card Initiative website<sup>2</sup>.

The University of Parma is ready to give its contribution to the Student card initiative. The whole implementation task is presently requested from our national IT provider, CINECA, which has been actively working on the setup for the last two years. The principles of the Card are clear and shared at institutional level. Endorsing the initiative means facilitating and boosting mobility of learners as well as facilitating recognition procedures and reducing the administrative burden presently existing when dealing with the mobility of learners.

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en)

The communication between the information systems of higher education institutions in Europe is most welcome, as well as any process devoted to facilitate recognition of the student status and identity.

The University of Parma is ready to guarantee European students an easy access to its services without the necessity to provide any new card or ask the student to present himself/herself at a physical desk.

Up to this current year, the University of Parma has been active part in the implementation of OLA (Online Learning Agreement and Erasmus App) and this process has greatly helped to raise the institutional awareness about the importance of this digitalization process.

The IT Management Area of the University is already well informed about the initiative and is currently working side by side with the official IT Systems provider (CINECA) for the implementation of the process. Since CINECA is the official IT provider for a number of Italian HEIs, the implementation agenda will be accordingly agreed. At local level, in the framework of a massive introduction of digitalization processes already ongoing, the IT Area is already training the relevant staff and stakeholders for the newly-introduced measures (OLA, Erasmus Dashboard, etc.) and the same will be done as soon as the system is ready for the Student Card.

The EU-given time plan should not meet any relevant difficulty for its implementation at local level; therefore, we expect a full activation by 2023. All staff will receive appropriate indications.

Furthermore, as previously detailed, the University (as many others, if not all) had to face the consequences of the COVID outbreak by digitalizing all the lectures and setting up a technical environment apt to facilitate the access of more than 27.000 learners.

Though still under refinement and improvement, the acceleration of the digitalization process for academic courses allowed a new perception of the potential of digital education, not in terms of replacement of standard in-presence courses, but rather regarding their potential role of complementarity, expanding the learners' horizons and learning opportunities.

Please explain how your institutions will implement and promote environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ programme.

The University of Parma pays great attention to the topic of sustainability in all its aspects, making it one of the transversal objectives in its Institutional Strategy Document for 2019-2021. The University is actually part of the RUS - Italian network of Sustainable Universities. This policy has led to concrete actions over these years, until institutionalizing a specific Commission for Sustainability producing a yearly report and promoting activities on the topic, including the Sustainable Development Festival taking place every year at the end of May. In synergy with the local Municipality, the University actively promotes environmentally friendly practices among its students, teaching and administrative staff. To name but a few, incentives are given for the increased use of bikes as a means of transportation, including reduced fees – or even free of charge – for yearly passes for bike sharing; reducing waste of water resources by promoting the use of water canteens and flasks – even commercialised by the University with its logo – and implementing water dispensers at the University premises; last, but not least, students are sensitized toward recycling and reduction of paper waste.

Such “green” practices are strongly encouraged and disseminated among inbound students. Every year, on the occasion of the Induction Week or Welcome Days, students are informed about the recycling system in Parma and inside the University premises; the use of bikes is promoted as well as bike sharing or car sharing (electric/hybrid or methane-gas running vehicles), whose passes have reduced fares for exchange students. Inbound students can also take advantage of major discounts of yearly or six-month passes for public transportation (100 and 50 euros respectively). Last but not least, during the last Welcome Days for a.y. 2019-2020, inbound students were gifted water flasks with the University logo.

All these actions have been rewarded by placing the University of Parma as the 4th Italian HEI in the Times Higher Education - THE University Impact Ranking 2019 measuring the implementation of measures for Sustainable Development Goals. Our University obtained the highest scores on two specific objectives: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Good Health and Well-being. Good scores also for Gender Equality and Partnership for the Goals. This confirms the success of our University among 450 academic Institutions in more than 76 Countries. In the next seven years, the University of Parma will maintain and further enhance its formative and communicative commitment towards the culture of sustainability and environmentally friendly practices, as well as definitely give a strong impulse to the digitalisation of the administrative processes and documents, with the aim of reducing paper waste and printing. Especially as regards the connection with the Erasmus project, the University aims to:

- enrich the teaching offer with specific degree courses held in English and focusing on sustainability, even in blended modality; as a matter of fact, one step forward has already been taken by introducing



a brand new interdisciplinary course on sustainable development and adapting some course programmes towards sustainability in different fields (e.g. Economics, Food and Architecture);

- greatly involve incoming Erasmus students in all the University initiatives as regards sustainability (e.g. encouraging sustainable mobility within the University community by promoting bike sharing and public transportation; implementation of blended or online teaching, promotion of water canteens and increase in availability of water dispensers);
- digitalising all the administrative processes and documents of the Erasmus+, thanks to the new technologies and platforms made available by the Erasmus Programme and the University itself.

The University also foresees the possibility of adhering to projects, networks or partnerships in the frame of Erasmus+ Programme focusing on the theme of environmental sustainability, which may lead to further concrete actions or tailored pilot projects.

Parma is a medium sized university city, with a vibrant and high quality of life. It offers a wide range of entertainment and cultural opportunities and is the new national Capital of Culture (2020-2021).

It is a place where local and international students can find a lot of different activities and amazing sports, cultural and academic events. Indeed, the University of Parma is promoting and supporting students' organizations that actively organise projects and activities in this regard.

Nevertheless, as said above, the University of Parma is strengthening the collaboration with the students' associations and fostering agreements and common deals with the local Municipality.

Third Mission engagement obviously entails a positive impact in the internationalization process: a greater connection with the local territory means creating opportunities for an increased attractiveness at an international level, in terms of partnerships, incoming mobility and degree-seeking students.

Furthermore, since 2016 the University is an active member (and until 2021, Secretariat) of the EUniverCities Network which gathers academic institutions and medium-sized cities actively engaged in promoting the participation of local stakeholders in building an inclusive society. Cities and their Universities aiming to exchange and spread the knowledge, expertise and experience about city-university cooperation across urban Europe. Parma is currently holding the network Secretariat for 2019-2021.

Please explain how you will promote civic engagement and active citizenship amongst your outgoing and incoming students before, after and during mobility.

The University of Parma is particularly active as regards Third Mission and civic engagement activities, thanks to a greater connection with the local territory which has concretely developed over the last few years. As a result of a fruitful collaboration with the Municipality of Parma, officialised with a formal agreement, the University has engaged in a series of actions aimed at making Parma a model for university-city cooperation and an ideal place for student life.

Particularly focusing on students, the University and the Municipality, together with local stakeholders, are jointly working on the project "Parma Città Universitaria" ("Parma as a University City") which has led to remarkable outcomes in terms of service improvement and tailored initiatives for students living in Parma, either temporarily or for their whole study career. A physical example of this engagement is the opening, in 2018, of Parma UniverCity Info Point, a space in the heart of the city centre providing first-hand information for students, selling the University merchandising and hosting press conferences and meetings. The glass walls of this structure further convey the concept of openness to the city and its community.

Civic engagement, community-university partnerships and engaged learning are the core of two projects in the frame of Erasmus+ action KA2 the University of Parma takes part in: SEU – Socially Engaged Universities and CaST – Communities and Students Together, both coordinated by the University of Exeter. Thanks to these projects, the University of Parma is developing dedicated pilot projects, as well as sharing and acquiring best practices serving as a model for future actions.

The initiatives promoting civic engagement and active citizenship also involve outbound and inbound students: the former, as students of the University, firstly; the latter, as beneficiaries of this welcoming city where they can integrate into the local community. A first step for the integration of international students during their mobility in Parma is offered by the collaboration with students' associations like ESN in Parma, thanks to the organisation of socio-cultural events allowing students knowing each other, interacting and discovering the local territory. Through the ESN, students can take part to the volunteering activities of the Social Erasmus project to give their contribution and help to the local community: as regards Parma, students were engaged in playing with children in a safe house, cleaning the banks of the stream in Parma, helping in the municipal dog shelter and participating to campaigns on drug and alcohol abuse prevention or health advice.

As regards inbound students, a great opportunity to engage within the local community in Parma in the field of education is the Teaching Placement Programme: this pioneering project, managed by the University and operational for over 10 years, allows incoming exchange students, native or proficient speakers of a foreign language, to teach their respective languages (English, French, German, Spanish or Russian) at local schools or other collaborating institutions in Parma. The project has generally attracted substantial interest from both the exchange students involved in the project and the local schools that get an opportunity to offer their pupils a better linguistic and cultural approximation. In the future, the project will be further implemented with innovative methodologies enforcing distance learning and blended courses.

The number of similar initiatives involving inbound and outbound students has multiplied over the last two years. To name but a few:

- the project “Not in my backyard”, involving international exchange students for the relaunch and promotion of the University Botanical Garden. Students were engaged in cataloguing, georeferencing and translation activities to help the staff and professors working to return the Garden to the local community as a place for events, exhibitions and nature promotion for families, schools, as well as tourists or a larger international audience. Launched in February 2020, the activities had to be converted into distance working due to COVID-19 outbreak. Nevertheless, the students have kept on with their tasks, especially as regards promotion and translation – a website and online material have been created so far;
- the project “Ambassador in Parma”, matching inbound students who present their own University to the students of Parma who intend to undergo a study mobility experience in that destination, thus offering a valid support and guide for their possible decisions. Besides describing a specific University global organization and its facilities, the presentations of the inbound students are also focused on aspects of local life and the differences between Parma and their home University.
- especially for the theme of active citizenship, it’s worth mentioning the project and event “Europe in a Blink – Lo sguardo dei giovani sull’Europa. Diritti, doveri e opportunità” (The glance of the youth to Europe. Rights, duties and opportunities), which took place in December 2019 with the aim of gathering outbound and inbound students to reflect upon the significance of being European citizens today, through their Erasmus before, during and after mobility. The thoughts and opinions of exchange students arose from a debate on Europe, as well as through their pictures taken during their Erasmus period, by trying to capture in a shot what this experience meant to them.

The objective of the University of Parma for the next seven years is to maintain and enhance all these activities either through the participation to dedicated projects or by internal initiative. The rising interest towards civic engagement and active citizenship will also involve the general course offer, by structuring and updating course programmes in order to be in line with the growing need of being much more connected to the local territory.

This will be also achieved by implementing more innovative and challenging teaching methodologies overcoming the traditional lecture as to offer students a more practical and rewarding experience on-site, through the activation of learning and teaching communities: more connection and engagement with the territory combined with challenging contents and innovative methods (including the use of multimedia and e-learning tools) promoting team working and interaction will be the key to offer students a more rewarding study career by contributing to enrich their skills and make them aware of the importance of doing something concrete for their communities.

As specifically regards exchange inbound and outbound students, similar initiatives experimented so far will be further implemented and supported, by developing similar projects or updating the existing ones in order to keep the pace with the changing needs of the local community and HEIs demands: events, projects, summer schools, “course packages” in connection with local organisations or bodies. The constitution of other small networks with international HEIs for joint actions is seen as a useful and feasible opportunity.

In the short term, some chances will come from “Parma Capital of Italian Culture 2020”, now extended to 2021 after the COVID-19 breakout. The attempt is to give way to events and initiatives involving international students and partners, even in blended modality. This is the case of the “International Summer School on Food Sustainability” which will take place on-line from the 1<sup>st</sup> June to the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020, involving international professionals and managers, as well as students. The participation of people coming from the entrepreneurship world in lectures and seminars organised by the University of Parma will be developed in the next years, above all in the fields of Economics, International Law, Pharmacy, Engineering and Food.

The University also foresees an increase in collaboration with student associations for fostering the importance of internationalization and the presence of international students in civic engagement activities inside and outside University (students’ associations and representatives in the academic processes,

volunteers associations of the territory, etc.). Pro-activity will be the leading approach for each step taken towards the achievement of the fixed objectives.

Presently, a relevant experience and contribution is provided by the tight collaboration with ESN-ASSI in Parma. The association offers its services to foreign students hosted by the University and it has revealed a quality support in promoting the mobility in Europe and in assisting the Erasmus Office, thanks to the work of its volunteers. The main activities provided by them are: welcoming the students at the induction weeks, assisting foreign students with regard to accommodation, housing and tutoring services. Besides, they are also actively organizing cultural and recreational events to promote the full integration of international students in the university and in the city contexts.

For the future, a wider involvement of all student associations active on the territory will contribute to a complete process of integration of international presence into everyday life of both the university and the social community.

## 2.2 When participating in Mobility Activities - After mobility

Please demonstrate your commitment to implement full automatic recognition in your Higher Education Institution.

Please describe the concrete steps you will take to ensure the full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during a mobility period abroad/ a blended mobility, according to the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition<sup>3</sup>.

The University of Parma has a long experience in recognition procedures and the use of ECTS tools. Back in 1996, the University was among the first European HEIs to introduce ECTS credits to foster mobility recognition.

Over the years, two ECTS Labels (2009-2013 and 2013-2016) clearly demonstrate the institutional commitment to the principles of mutual recognition.

Today, the University presents a consolidated structure that facilitates recognition of credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during mobility periods.

Each University Department has an International Committee (officially appointed by the Department itself) devoted to the support of mobility and recognition. Each Committee is responsible for facilitating credit recognition in application of the official "University Guidelines for the Recognition of Activities carried out by students while abroad", these responding to Art. 37 of the University Regulations for Education (Regolamento Didattico di Ateneo), which fixes recognition of activities carried out abroad by students as mandatory. In the University Policy, the International Committees will play a strategic role in actively promoting and implementing the international dimension of each Department, following the Governance's general strategic indications.

The Guidelines fully meet the principles contained in the Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad.

The University fully adopts ECTS tools since their introduction and each modification (digitalization, Erasmus app, etc.) does not affect the institutional approach of full openness to the valorisation of credits awarded by students during their periods abroad.

Of course, smaller local specific regulations for the academic recognition of credits may apply to single Departments for some specific activities, but these small differences are and will be always made transparent and available to outbound participants (and their receiving institutions) through the Departments' websites and specific information given to participants prior to the contracting steps and signing of the Learning Agreement.

Grade conversion is guaranteed under the University participation in the Egracons platform.

Moreover, during the last five years, the University managed to export ECTS tools and philosophy overseas, setting agreed credit-schemes and grade conversions also in the framework of international mobility (ICM and collaboration-agreements-based mobility).

<sup>3</sup> The text of the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition may be found at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210(01))

The same conditions apply to Double Degree programmes as well, whose Memorandum of Understanding establishes the credit correspondence between the exams for each institution, as well as details as regards grade conversion.

With specific reference to inbound mobility, as already ongoing over the last seven years, exchange students from partner HEIs will be provided a Transcript of Records within the period of five weeks from the termination of mobility to facilitate recognition at their home institutions. The Transcript reports the used national grading system and the recommendation to adopt the Egracons tool.

Please describe your institution's measures to support, promote and recognise staff mobility:

Formal recognition of staff mobility has represented a challenge during the previous Erasmus experience. Both national legislation, recruitment procedures and professional career improvement do not still reserve Erasmus staff mobility a dedicated role in terms of official recognition. Nonetheless, by exercising its autonomy, each University may identify its own methods for the valorisation of this activity.

With a view to improving the international dimension of the institution, the University of Parma set a roadmap for the introduction of formal recognition procedures of mobility activities carried out by academic staff in the framework of the Erasmus Programme, namely:

- a) formal recognition of the working hours spent at the partner institution as part of the annual workload;
- b) recognition of the tasks performed in the framework of the Erasmus programme for participation in the distribution of local funds for the improvement of research;
- c) official certificate of recognition for the performed activity, signed by the Legal Representative of the Institution;
- d) activation of an institutional fund aimed to develop international activities, with priority of access to staff engaged in the promotion of Erasmus activities.

If any further official recognition procedure will be introduced at national level, the University of Parma commits to an immediate application for the valorisation of the specific activity.

### 2.3 For the Purposes of Visibility

Please provide the web link where you will host the Erasmus Policy statement in the future. Please reflect on how you plan to regularly promote the activities supported by the Programme.

The Erasmus Policy Statements will be made visible at the <https://www.unipr.it/erasmusplus> institutional page immediately after its approval.

As already regularly done during the last Erasmus phase, each activity supported by the Programme will be promoted:

- by sending regular notice to institutional e-mail addresses of students, faculties and administration staff;
- publishing the available activity/ies in the official Web portal;
- diffusing the opportunity through the institutional social media;
- organizing information sessions for the different target groups potentially involved by the single available activities.
- Information sessions and workshops will contribute to disseminate the shared methods and approaches to consolidate the ECHE principles and objectives;
- training sessions and (online) seminars will allow the provision of the necessary know-how on how to implement the planned actions.

Please describe how you will ensure that the principles of this Charter will be well communicated and applied by staff at all levels of the institution.

Immediately after the official approval by the EU, the Charter will be sent to all the university community.

The Academic Senate and the Board of Administrators will be involved to start the actions to achieve the objectives already stated and approved at application level.

Periodic communications about the state of the art will be shared with the academic community and each achieved objective will be given accurate diffusion not only internally but also to external relevant stakeholders.

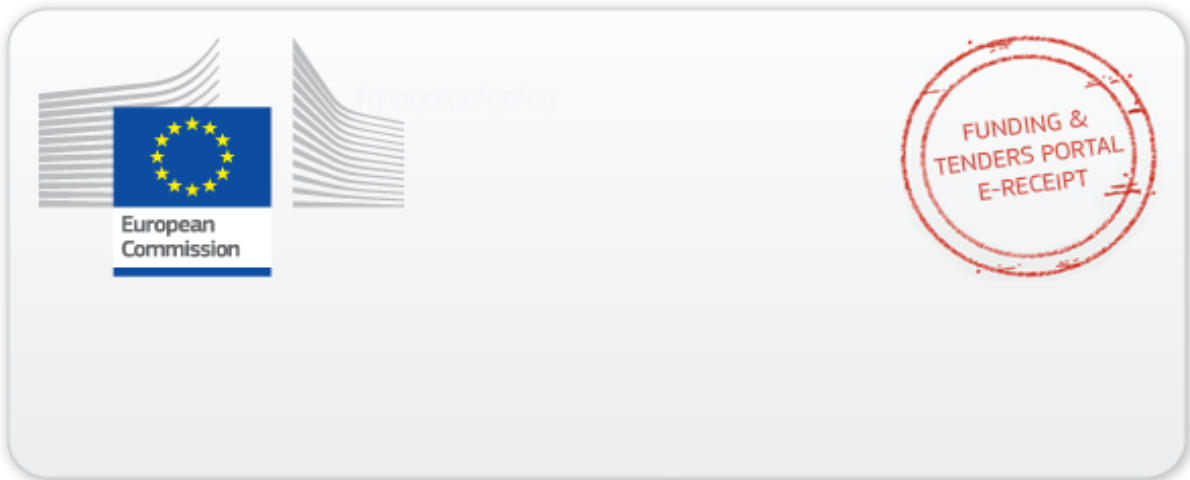
The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform will be the reference platform for the continuous monitoring of the ECHE implementation results.

Periodic meetings and visits to key stakeholders will allow to tune the strategies to the ECHE principles.

Peer review activities will be activated to monitor the fair quality of taken measures and actions;

Targeted written material such as reports, articles in specialised press, newsletters, press releases will disseminate the state of the art.

A wide use of social media and organization of public events will facilitate a wider awareness of the ECHE principles in relation to the strategic objectives chosen by the university as a community of individuals working together towards a new inclusive agenda having Europe as a common goal.



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