



Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

The Medical University of Lodz (MUL) has been participating in the Erasmus Programme since 1999 (since 2002 as the Medical University of Lodz). Since 1999 671 MUL students have been to foreign universities and 636 students have attended two/three month placement training. Over that term 348 students from foreign universities came to MUL. Also 19 of our teachers went on mobility trips to teach classes, and 220 employees participated in training mobility in European institutions. Most bilateral agreements have been established with universities in Spain, Italy, Germany and France. The knowledge of foreign languages among the students of the MUL (English, German, French and Spanish) indicated the countries in which we were looking for partners within KA103 mobility program.

Since 2016 the MUL has been participating in the KA107 mobility with partner countries. Up to 2020 year 19 MUL students have been to foreign universities to study and 6 students have attended placement training. In this time 19 students from partner universities came to the MUL to study and 8 for placement training. Also 8 MUL teachers as well as 8 teachers from partner universities performed mobility for teaching. At this time 7 MUL employees participated in training mobility at partner universities and 8 employees from foreign universities were hosted by the MUL.

The MUL also participated in projects under Erasmus Action 2 scheme: in three projects - as a member of a consortium ("Online Adaptive International Progress Test", "Pilot Application of Practicum Script Clinical Reasoning Simulator to Medical Students", "Network of Health Science

Innovation Incubation”), and in the project “Increasing the capacity of medical professionals to manage patient adherence and polytherapy in elderly”, as a the project coordinator.

In 2020 the MUL has applied for KA202 - Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training. In the project “European program for training healthcare professionals in the management of chronicity in multimorbid elderly” - as the project coordinator . In 2020 MUL has also applied for KA204 - Strategic Partnerships for adult education in the project “Development of a training program for improving QoL of seniors living in loneliness through educational activities” as a member of consortium.

The European University Policy for 2021/2027 will contain plans for the broadly understood internationalization included in the currently updated University Strategy. The Erasmus program fully plays a key role in implementing our university's strategic objectives. Internationalization is seen primarily as an increase in the number of incoming and outgoing students at our university, creating new programs in English and developing mobility.

One of the missions of the MUL is to build long-lasting cooperation with institutions performing public health tasks not only at the regional, national, but also international level. The Erasmus program supports building of this type of relationships and enables creation of collaborative networks at different levels of the university.

It is in the interest to MUL to harness the full potential of education and culture as drivers for job creation, economic growth and improved social cohesion, as well as a means of experience of European identity in all its diversity.

Goals of European Education Area that we would like to share are to:

- more students and staff members spending time abroad to study and learn
- recognizing participant achievements across the EU
- learning new languages
- access to high-quality education, irrespectively of socio-economic background
- creating a strong sense of identity as the Europeans, knowledge of Europe’s cultural heritage and its diversity

The activities of the Medical University of Lodz in 2021/2027 will focus on introducing priorities of the Erasmus program: digital mobility management, promoting eco-friendly practices, encouraging participants to play the role of ambassadors for Erasmus Programme.

The MUL has been putting emphasis on digital management for several years. Digitization has already covered the travel applications of employees (also outgoing under the Erasmus program) and staff matters, the new Virtual University tool opens for us the possibility of conducting online recruitment for outgoing and incoming students. The MUL is open to implement the European student card and the necessary application as soon as it is available.

The MUL implements one of the environmental-friendly attitudes set out by the New Erasmus Program. We implement the ECO UMED Program, which was created to implement the pro-ecological policy of our university. The MUL, feeling social responsibility as the largest medical university in the country, took up the challenge of building a university model based on sustainable management of construction investments and promoting environmentally-friendly behaviour.

As an example of good practices among students, we have already implemented the Buddy program, under which student volunteers take care of incoming students. This is the opportunity for students to share their experience, promote the Programme and create Erasmus Community.

We would like to emerge a group of Erasmus Ambassadors from among the academic staff. Mobile teachers are becoming representatives of the home institution at the host institution. Thanks to their actions taken at partner universities the cooperation is expanding and strengthening. International cooperation among academic staff in higher education institutions contributes to the MUL internationalization. At the same time the MUL is strongly encouraging and promoting networks and partnerships that have major impact for education and provide inspiration for the use of new teaching methods.

One of our goals is to create a network of key partners with whom we will cooperate in the field of teaching, research, student exchange, and non-academic staff exchange. Such cooperation on many levels at the same time will allow us to lay the foundations for mobility inscribed in the curriculum. MUL is aware of the importance of raising a sense of European identity and developing common procedures and tools with key partners for the long-term goal of mobility windows. Long-term cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Novi Sad has given us the image of a key partnership that is beneficial not only for students, academic staff and non-academic staff, but also for University itself expanding its horizons and building a sense of being a part of the international academic community.

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.

The MUL would like to continue participating in Action KA1 for programme countries KA103 and partner countries KA107. We would like to develop our participation in KA2 : Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices and Partnerships for Innovation.

Since the beginning of our participation in the Erasmus program, we have been constantly increasing the number of mobility by implementing KA1 projects. Since 2016, the MUL has also been developing cooperation outside the EU. The exchange of students and employees is a reflection of the university's long-term development strategy. Among the most important aspects of developing mobility are: promotion of trips among new students, supporting multiple trips, encouraging academic and administrative staff to travel. Thanks to the participation in the program, students acquire many intercultural, language and professional competences.

The strategic aim of our University is to broaden the field of international collaboration by submitting numerous applications for Erasmus Key Action 2 while currently being involved in two such projects. The International Projects Department of MUL supervises the submission of projects in KA2 in close cooperation with International Relationship Office, such a structure ensures a smooth proceeding of projects with both University units as well as with international partners. One of our main goals is to create, co-create and consolidate common good practices in the field of adult education due to the fact that as this type of education is often overlooked and the lack of such education can possibly lead to social exclusion (for example ICT exclusion of seniors). The Medical University of Lodz is a member of EIP on AHA (European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing) therefore, we particularly pay attention to projects that prevent exclusion of senior adults. Moreover, the University is focused on projects aiming at training adult professionals in an international environment (e.g. future medical professionals) by implementing gold standards and innovations in their education. We are highly focused on implementation of modern ICT solutions such as e-

learning, MOOCs and other distant teaching methods in order to increase the impact of our projects. Accomplishment of better and innovative pro-ecological solutions in higher education and in organizational culture is another strategic pillar of MUL, and therefore, we are oriented to international cooperation and partnerships in this area, currently strongly developing an ecological policy of our University.

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.

The target in the KA1 project, is 5% increase in mobility in the first 3 years and 20% increase by 2027. We want to put particular emphasis on employee mobility and activating students from faculties where Erasmus mobility has not been popular so far and mobility of PhD students as well. MUL would like to give students opportunity to participate in an educational concept of Blended mobility supported through the use of information and communication technologies.

In the project KA2, we intend to submit at least one project per year.

In the project KA103, we want to maintain and strengthen our contacts in Europe by expanding the list of our partner universities with a dozen or so of new ones. As part of the KA107 action, we would like to maintain cooperation with Georgia. We applied for this mobility in 2020. We also intend to further develop cooperation with Asia (Japan, Thailand) and the United States. In addition, we want to initiate cooperation with Armenia, Montenegro, Australia, New Zealand and Russia. As part of the KA2 project, we will focus on Central and Western Europe and Asia.

The University puts a lot of emphasis on internationalization, which has been significantly underlined in the University Development Strategy. Through Erasmus programme, which is playing a leading role in the internationalization of MUL, we want to continue building the awareness among staff and students of how important the experience gained through the participation in international activities is not only for self-development but also for University key areas, such as teaching, learning or cooperating with business.

We believe that Erasmus also contributes to the creation of a European identity among mobility participants. Over the years of participating in the program, we have developed it as an institution, becoming at the same time more open. Further participation in the Program will be an opportunity to strengthen already established partnerships and create networks with key Partner Universities.

With the development of the Erasmus program and the digitization it brings - we are constantly stimulated to develop digital services to meet the program requirements. Incorporating new technologies and innovative teaching methods entails strengthening innovation potential.

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