

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)

Internationalisation is an important basic condition for SLU's ambition to have an organisation of the highest international class that contributes to the development of the sustainable management and use of the biological natural resources, while safeguarding human and animal life and health. With this Erasmus Policy Statement, SLU intend to clarify what SLU want to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme, and how the participation will harmonize with our strategies for internationalisation and modernisation. The internationalisation and modernisation strategies of SLU are summarised in the SLU Strategy 2017–2020 (SLU ID: SLU.ua.2015.1.1.1-409) and the actions taking place to ensure effective internationalisation, where the Erasmus programme have a pivotal role, is outlined in the Strategic direction document for internationalisation of first- and second-cycle education at SLU (2019–2023) (SLU ID: SLU.ua.2018.1.1.1-4762). SLU's mission, vision, values and objectives together act as the foundation for SLU's participation in the Erasmus Programme, and can be studied in detail here: <https://internt.slu.se/en/organisation--styrning/mission-vision-and-values/>.

As research and higher education are increasingly conducted in international contexts, the importance of relevant and high quality exchange, interaction and external influence increases. In order for higher education institutions to compete internationally for the best students, teachers and researchers, educational and research quality must be of high international standard. Within higher education, internationalisation primarily involves working actively to prepare students for an increasingly globalised and intercultural labour market. By offering exchange studies (mobility) to all students, SLU want to give each individual student the possibility to experience other cultures and study environments. By participating in the Erasmus Programme, SLU want to achieve an increased mobility of students, teachers and staff, both incoming and outgoing. Further, we want to increase the quality of our educational programmes through specific collaborations in Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Programs, Strategic Partnerships and European Universities. SLU regard Erasmus as an important tool to increase the quality of our operations. Specifically, we will use the program to increase our impact on society and reach out more broadly with the knowledge we produce, while increasing the quality of research and education.

Ever since the start of the programme, Erasmus has been of crucial importance for SLU with regards to reaching our goals for quality enhancement and internationalisation. During the programme period 2021-2027, SLU have high ambitions regarding increasing educational quality, increasing our impact on society, enhancing research quality and stimulating innovation. In all these aspects, Erasmus will play an important role. Exposing an increasing number of incoming exchange students to SLU is crucial in our work to make our campuses and classrooms more international, allowing also students that do not have the opportunity to go abroad to build a strong international network and gain intercultural competences. This is one part of SLU's efforts to obtain comprehensive internationalisation.

The participation in the Erasmus Programme will be of key importance for SLU in order to reach the goals set out in Strategic direction document for internationalisation of first- and second-cycle education at SLU. The different parts of the programme fit very well with our goals, especially when it comes to international perspectives in education and professional development for students and employees. The overall objectives of SLU can be summarised as: increased internationalisation at home, increased mobility, and increased internal coordination of internationalisation. In addition, there is a wide range of subject-specific objectives of participating in Erasmus, with the common goal to enhance quality of operations. Erasmus will thus be used as a strategic tool by the entire organisation at SLU to offer students, teachers, researchers and other employees relevant and high quality opportunities for gaining international experience, widening the scope of possible opportunities for development for all far beyond what can be offered at our own campuses. The Erasmus programme enables SLU to work towards our high ambitions in the fields of comprehensive internationalisation and internationalisation at home.

SLU intend to implement Erasmus after the principles outlined in the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. All operations and processes at SLU follow our core values (<https://www.slu.se/globalassets/mw/org-styr/styr-dok/vision-strategi/vardegrund-for-slu-2013-en.pdf>) that are well in line with the charter, and our routines and structures enable us to continue to adapt and evolve our participation in Erasmus to the benefit of SLU as an institution, our students and employees, as well as our partner universities.

Through the Erasmus Programme, SLU can be part of building a European Education Area through working towards smoother routines for recognition of qualification and outcomes of learning periods abroad. This is not only achieved through continuous improvement of our routines in cooperation with our European partner universities, but we will also use the program to educate our staff through strategic staff exchanges to modernise and improve with respect to recognition. We will also use Erasmus to enhance language skills of our students and staff, which is very important for a university like SLU, specialised in life sciences, that does not have research and education in languages.

<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)

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)

SLU would like to take part in all Erasmus actions during the next programme period. For most parts, we have a clear plan for implementation, for other parts, the nature of the participation is dependent on what kind of project is desirable for our activity. Mostly, initiative for collaboration and new projects comes from faculty and the needs of our education and research activities, and therefore it is hard to give details on each key action. However, the central administration of SLU is committed to do whatever is necessary to assist in the usage of Erasmus to achieve our strategic goals.

#### *Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility*

The mobility of higher education students and staff SLU's participation in KA1 will follow the well-established routines already in place, that have been continuously improved since the beginning of the Erasmus programme. SLU handles all information and applications for student mobility, both incoming and outgoing on a central level, which ensures democratic and equal rights in all processes. The Mobility team offers clear information to all students at all campuses by offering information meetings via video, and individual counselling via digital tools.

The Mobility Team are responsible for all contacts with the partner-universities considering student mobility. The partner universities are divided between the staff in the team, as to ensure more long-term connections and facilitates negotiations, information sharing and knowledge about country/university specific processes.

The Mobility Team is also responsible for the outgoing staff mobility, and the team has strong goal in increasing the number of teaching staff mobility. All teachers who are interested in international experience within the Erasmus+ program are handled by the mobility team and new agreements are initiated according to interest from teaching staff. The application process for outgoing teachers has recently been streamlined as all staff can find all the information needed, and applications online.

SLU Mobility Team Supports the teachers and staff by guidance on where to go for a mobility, and how to go through the process. For the teachers interested, SLU makes new agreements for teaching staff mobility if a teacher wants to go somewhere SLU does not have an agreement with.

The possibilities are announced on the web and SLU Mobility staff participates in other departments staff meetings to promote international possibilities. SLU Mobility staff also take part in teaching staff conferences, both on departmental and central level.

Student Mobility information and application

<https://student.slu.se/en/studies/study-abroad/>

Information on partner universities

<https://slu.moveon4.de/publisher/2/eng>

Staff Mobility information and application

<https://intern.slu.se/en/my-employment/professional-development/staff-and-teacher-exchanges/>

A central part of SLU's strategy is to increase the amount of students that have had a longer international experience during their studies, and the goal is to reach 20 percent before 2023, we are currently at 17 percent. As most of the mobility at SLU is through Erasmus Key Action 1, this action is crucial for us to continue the positive trend of an increasing number of outgoing students.

#### *Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions*

SLU wants to increase our participation in Key Action 2, SLU intend to create a new position for coordination. How the implementation will be in practice, highly depend on each project.

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

SLU have very good experience from participating in several Strategic Partnerships, and intend to increase our participation in Partnerships for Cooperation and exchange of practices in the new programme period. SLU have ambitions to participate in and even be the coordinator of more projects, especially Strategic partnerships and Capacity Development for Higher Education, but also within sector skills alliances and knowledge alliances.

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

SLU have the ambition to build a strong European University Network during the coming years. The network will consist of a set of carefully chosen partners that partly overlap and partly complement the fields of expertise at SLU, with the

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aim to create a seamless borderless university structure, enhancing students' learning, innovation and research quality. We expect that participation in European Universities will positively affect our ambition of being among the world's three highest ranked intuitions in our fields. Our ambition is to respond to the call in 2021 or 2022 with a strong consortium currently being formed.

#### Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

SLU have a very good experience from participating in numerous EMJMD projects. We highly value the extra quality these cooperative master degrees bring into our university, and also appreciate the attractiveness these programs have to top students from all over the world. Therefore, our ambition is to continue to be part of as many EMJMD's as practically possible.

#### Partnerships for Innovation

SLU see great potential in creating new partnerships for Innovation in the coming years. Already, there is a lot of activity through our Green Innovation Park, and the Erasmus programme can be a good tool for connection to the rest of Europe when it comes to innovations in our fields of research and education.

#### Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

SLU's involvement in Key action 3 has until now been rather modest, and dependant on the interest from our partner universities because of the nature of the specific calls. However, as our subjects become increasingly important also in policy making, SLU will strive to engage in innovative policy development, policy dialogue and implementation in the coming years.

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 overall goal of participating in the Erasmus program for SLU is to increase the quality of our education, research, innovation and outreach. The envisaged impact is more diverse and relevant opportunities for students and staff to go abroad, and higher teacher engagement in international activities. Specific targets are higher number of incoming and outgoing students, teachers and staff and more coordinated projects under Key Action 2, as well as higher participation as a partner in all relevant calls. Also, a target is to be part of a European University Network during this period. Monitoring will be done by registering number of participants, and for student the percentage of graduated students with a mobility experience is a specific indicator used in the annual report of the university. For Key Action 2, the nature of each project will predict the qualitative indicators, so this is hard to reflect upon beforehand. The quantitate indicators are numbers of projects coordinated and number of projects where SLU is a partner. A timeline is impossible to give, as SLU is operating on a bottom-up fashion, and when projects are being initiated from faculty is impossible to predict. Key Action 1 is continuous, so the goal is to have the same high level of activity throughout the whole programme period. We will start creating bilateral agreements with partner universities for the new period as soon as we have earned the ECHE, and from then start implementing online learning agreements and further through the period fully implement all the features described in the commitment to the Erasmus charter principles outlined in the beginning of this document.