



**UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2014 – 2020
ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT
INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS**

UniPi is a public University whose operation is based on teaching and research. UniPi internationalization strategy is based on European and international programmes, bilateral agreements and memorandums as well as on participation in academic and research networks.

- a) The Erasmus activities and, therefore, the agreements established are taken into account research and teaching criteria. The relevance of the curriculum of each Department or School, the international prestige of the teaching/academic staff and the quality of the foreign institutions are some of the selection criteria. The agreements are established on a faculty or department proposal in order to ensure coherence/convergence of curricula and the teaching profile(s) a close cooperation in the research level in seminar/common research topics as well as quality of teaching and research activities. Particular attention has been given to criteria related to reciprocity, balance of mobility and the existence of mutual interest factors necessary for successful collaborations as well as to the development of links with the labor market. It should be pointed out that partnerships involving mobility are related in the field of teaching and research, and applied at faculty, staff and students and covers all three levels (cycles) of education.



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- b) In addition, language and geographical criteria are taken into consideration when selecting the partner institutions. UniPi has mainly been collaborating with European and the US universities but lately particular effort has been devoted on agreements with Universities from China, former Soviet Union countries, Balkan non-EU countries, Black Sea countries, Mediterranean countries, India Taiwan and South Korea in order to promote UniPi internationalization as wide as possible. As regards EU country Universities (which have been allocated the largest part of mobility), there is a uniform distribution both in the countries of the South (Mediterranean Balkan) and to the countries of Central and Northern Europe (e.g. Scandinavia countries).
- c) International mobility activities address students in first, second and third cycles, teaching staff, and administrative staff. Mobility activities primarily serve the key objectives objectives of the medium and long-term institution's strategy towards modernization and internationalization.

Key objectives of student mobility:

- Assist students in developing a multicultural European profile and transnational skills, maturity and self organization, professionalism and collaboration, as well as gain significant experience, international friendships and best practices and paradigms. This is important for the creation of dynamic, vibrant personalities of young people, which can view the future in an integrated Europe with optimism, confidence, professionalism and strong ethical values, and the achievement of remarkable career paths. Especially for mobilizing students in the second and third cycles, a special focus is on



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further helping them establish and strengthen new research and professional collaborations.

- Promote recognition of academic qualifications and periods of study in the European Higher Education Area.
- Increase recognition of the University and create positive impact at European level. Towards the realization of this goal, UniPi has established and applied certain criteria for the selection of outgoing students, with a primary focus on their academic performance.
- Provide valuable feedback and a tool for competitive evaluation of the quality of the University's education services in a broad range of scientific areas across Europe.

Key objectives of academic staff mobility:

- Assist academic staff in improving their teaching and research curricula and international presence.
- Assist academic staff in developing good practices and excellence in teaching.
- Assist academic staff in developing long term research collaborations and networking with research teams in other EU and non-EU Universities, which can materialize in common mobility projects both in teaching and research.

Key objectives of non-academic staff mobility:

- Assist administrative staff in improving their profile and in developing specialties, expertise and good administration practices in order to support efficiency internationalization activities and the University mobility strategy.



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- Assist administrative staff in developing collaborations and networking with academic and non-academic staff involved with mobility in other EU and non-EU Universities and efficiency support join mobility projects and activities.

A major target of the UniPi's strategy is to elevate the Institution to a highly ranked modern internationalized University and a respectful international focal point in research, teaching and training concerning the field of all departments. The implementation of international high quality cooperation projects in teaching and training, especially in postgraduate level., such as e.g. in the Erasmus Mundus is expected to have a significant contribution to this key objective. Cooperation should lead to a sustainable and balanced outcomes with respect to the subject area priorities, and therefore lead to future development of the UniPi's international involvement. The UniPi's strategy also takes into account the geographical factor and priorities encouraging cooperation with European partners and neighboring partners from Euromediterranean and Southmediterranean countries, Middle East countries and South Eastern Europe, as well as former Soviet Republics. Further internationalization is pursued via cooperation with partners from U.S., East Asia and India. The University Council encourage and support the individual efforts of the University Departments and faculty members for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training, and ensure the dissemination and exploitation of project results. To this end, in maintains a horizontal service to the benefit of the University Departments and faculty members, the IRO, staffed with expert personnel with significant know-how in the Erasmus procedures and the tools of the Bologna process and well-networked with peer offices at foreign Institutions, able to provide administrative and organizational support to cooperation projects in teaching and training implemented



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under the Program. In addition, another horizontal service, University of Piraeus Research Center (UPRC) is entitled to contribute to the financial administration of the international cooperation projects in teaching & training.

The EU 2020 strategy requires 40% of higher well-educated graduates within the labor market. UniPi aims at contributing to achieving this target, to its maximum ability, considering the severe cut of public spending in higher education in recent years due to financial crisis. Thus, UniPi's participation in E4All is of major importance for fulfilling its mission. Moreover, it offers a strong motivation for academic staff to organize their study programs according to the European Qualification Framework using tools like ECTS, learning outcomes, DS and promote cross national mobility. As far as the five (5) priorities are concerned the Program's impact is expected to be:

- Increasing attainment levels: First entrant students' number is centrally defined by the Ministry of Education after a consultation with the University. However, the University's development plan promotes the expansion of the postgraduate study courses and in particular of joint masters and doctoral programs in a foreign language run by universities; consortia. Moreover, a further development of the online courses offered by various faculties is under process. All these activities will also attract broader cross-section societal groups into HE, including disadvantaged, vulnerable and unemployed people. The latter have to upgrade their skills including transversal skills and re-orient their interests towards new jobs following Greece's structural reforms. Moreover, the University supports lower-income students while Erasmus grants promote mobility. In addition the EU programs offer crucial



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support for the mobility of researchers, considering the minimal public spending of research (0,56% GERD).

- Improving quality and relevance of graduate employability and career guidance is a major target within the University's strategy. EU programs fostering university-enterprises linkages and offering training and entrepreneurial opportunities for students and graduates (i.e. Erasmus placement, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs) would contribute to its fulfillment. The exploitation of EU Digital Agenda's programs is also important for the development of e-Learning, blended learning and virtual mobility activities.
- Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation.
- Making the knowledge triangle work: UniPi's strategic position close to the port of Piraeus where major global trade, financial and maritime enterprises are operating (e.g. Chinese logistics company COSCO, US company Hewlett Packard) facilitates the development of closer partnership with businesses. It also intends to be involved in the regional development plans and to become a regional hub of excellence. EU's Knowledge Alliances actions and the European Industrial PhDs could foster such developments.
- Improving governance and funding: The Council will steer and encourage the diversification of funding sources including funding through conducting research and training for enterprises.