



This Statement is formulated as part of the ECHE application 2021-2027

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) 2021-2027

UNIVERSITY OF PITEȘTI

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?

The University of Pitesti is a comprehensive university which integrates various academic fields; the vision of the it is to excel as a modern and dynamic scientific, education and research institution, founded on competitiveness and quality and extremely active and highly integrated in the local, regional, national community and also in the European Higher Education Area.

The Charter of the University of Pitesti specifies the principles underlying the functioning of the institution and the development of its relations. Among them, we could mention the following:

- developing the education system, research and innovation through national and international cooperation;
- implementing high-quality university management;
- improving the methodology of equivalence of studies by using internationally accepted systems in higher education;
- improving the lifelong learning system;
- participating in international teaching programmes through bilateral conventions with universities in Europe and all around the world;
- continuous improvement of the services offered to students.

The strategic plan of the University of Pitesti provides objectives which aim to facilitate the internationalization and modernization of the institution in the directions of education, research, innovation. Participation in the Erasmus+ programme is the basis of the Internationalization Strategy of the University of Pitesti, approved by the University Senate on May 18, 2020, covering the period from 2020 to 2027. The priorities of the Internationalization Strategy of the University of Pitesti are: Quality Assurance, Institutional Capacity / Institutional Modernization, University Identity / Promotion / Marketing, Partnership Policy, Incoming and Outgoing Mobility, Curricular Internationalization, Scientific Research.

The Learning Mobility component of the Erasmus+ Programme responds to the following objectives included in the Internationalization Strategy of the University of Pitesti: O.S.2. Increasing the quality of educational services in order to improve the competitiveness and visibility of the educational offer of University of Pitesti at regional, national and international level, O.S.6. Developing the foreign language communication skills of teachers and students from University of Pitesti, O.S.11. Developing the academic and professional mobility with strategic partner institutions, O.S.12. International compatibility of bachelor's & master's degree programmes from University of Pitesti.

In this framework, University of Pitesti considers it important to strongly encourage and support exchanges of students, teachers and other staff categories, especially in the case of those with limited opportunities, providing a selection that respects the principles of non-discrimination, transparency, fairness and inclusion. Through study or placement mobility, students and recent graduates acquire or improve their basic and transversal skills, in particular: professional skills, language, civic and intercultural skills, digital



Erasmus+



skills, critical thinking, entrepreneurial skills, problem-solving skills, creativity and flexibility, which are useful in one's future professional activity and essential in ensuring a successful integration into the socio-economic environment that can be characterised by a fast digital transformation. Teaching and training mobilities ensure career progress, the development of pedagogical skills and the harmonization of curricula. Through the mobility of incoming students and professors, our university develops not only the multicultural component, but also the exchange of good practices in different fields. At the end of the mobilities, an important objective is the automatic recognition of all ECTS obtained abroad. This ensures the transfer of credits between the two partner institutions, which ensures greater quality of student mobility and flexible ways of obtaining grades. Through all the above, the University of Pitesti contributes to achieving the objectives of EEA (European Education Area).

The *Cooperation among organizations and institutions* component of the Erasmus+ Programme, as well as the *Support to policy development and cooperation* component, support the achievement of the following objectives that University of Pitesti has included in Internationalization Strategy: O.S.10. Extending the regional, national and international strategic institutional partnerships with the relevant educational actors for the top fields of the University of Pitesti, O.S.3. Organizing and streamlining support structures and services for internationalization, O.S.4. Increasing the institutional capacity by internationalizing the university's activities in order to provide relevant services for the international education environment, O.S.15. Increasing the visibility and prestige of international conferences and publications of University of Pitesti.

The University of Pitesti continuously encourages and supports members of the academic community to develop innovative projects of cooperation with strategic partners (Erasmus +, Horizon 2020), projects financed by European Structural Funds and investments (ESI funds) in infrastructure, facilities, skills and innovative projects, namely the development of projects financed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in higher education infrastructure. All projects aim to strengthen the institutional capacity and results of the university.

The University of Pitesti also aims to strengthen its membership of such associations as: *L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF), *European University Association* (EUA), *The Danube Rectors' Conference* (DRC), *European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training* (EFVET), *The European Distance and E-Learning Network* (EDEN), *The International Association of Universities* (IAU), *The Association for Teacher Education in Europe* (ATEE). It also facilitates the involvement in other European and international bodies of interest, being an opportunity to establish partners for different types of European projects. The development of cooperation is not only the starting point in carrying out research projects, but also in organizing conferences, with the support of international collaborators and partners.

Through Erasmus+ mobility and cooperation with similar higher education institutions and strategic international partners, another goal of the Internationalization Strategy is achieved. Research and innovation in transnational teams is a permanent concern of the University of Pitesti. Excellence in the fields in which a successful research has been carried out, in which there are strong partnerships with the socio-economic environment, especially in the Muntenia region, with research institutions, at the regional, national and international level and the development of the research capacity are major research and innovation objectives of the University of Pitesti. In order to ensure the good development of research and innovation activities in cooperation with economic partners, there were created: the Center for collaboration with the socio-economic environment, the Regional Research-Development Center for Innovative Materials, Processes and Products for the AUTOMobile Industry (CRC & D-Auto), the Center for Research-Development-Innovation and Technology Transfer.

The support through the Erasmus+ Programme that we can benefit from allows our institution, on the one hand, to achieve its own modernization objectives (OS3. Organizing and streamlining support structures and services for internationalization, OS4. Increasing institutional capacity by internationalizing university activities in order to provide relevant services for the international education environment, OS 5. Creating a culture of internationalization in University of Pitesti, OS 12. International compatibility of bachelor's & master's degree programmes from University of Pitesti, OS 13. Development of internationalized bachelor's, master's and doctoral study programmes (in partnership, double degree, co-tutoring)), and, on the other hand, by achieving them, to contribute to the building of the EEA (European Education Area).



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 University of Pitesti aims to get involved in all 3 actions of the Erasmus+ Programme:

- Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) – Mobility of individuals;
- Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices;
- Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) – Support for Policy Reform.

Key Action KA1 will support one of the priorities of Internationalisation Strategy of the University of Pitesti, respectively Priority no. 5 - Mobility (incoming & outgoing). This will be practically implemented through the following measures:

- continuing a 22-year tradition in international cooperation through mobility programmes, facilitating international mobility activities and capitalizing on experience through dissemination and promotion (*Erasmus Open Doors, International Students' Day, International Day for Cultural Diversity, Multicultural Week, Erasmus Evenings, Europe Day*);
- promoting and continuously supporting the initiation of SMS and SMP mobilities of all undergraduate, master and doctoral students, respectively STA and STT for teachers, researchers and other staff categories, paying special attention to those with fewer opportunities, respecting the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion;
- setting up the Erasmus Student Network association at University of Pitesti, which will encourage civic participation, inclusion of disadvantaged students, non-formal education programmes (including Romanian language courses for foreign students), cooperation for development, promoting and supporting the incoming and outgoing student mobilities;
- reviewing internal regulations, methodologies and procedures for implementing of Erasmus+ programmes and developing new ones, especially to ensure automatic and full recognition of all credits earned during mobility, even in the case of blended mobility (face to face and virtual), to implement a culture of digitization within the *Erasmus Student Card* initiative, encouraging environmentally-friendly practices and attitudes, promoting and implementing the *Green Erasmus* concept at the institutional level;
- training the administrative staff, teaching staff and students who will use digital tools within the *Erasmus Student Card Initiative*, to ensure good management of digital tools.

The participation of the University of Pitesti in the KA2 and KA3 actions will support the achievement of the objectives subordinated to the following priorities within the Internationalization Strategy of the University of Pitesti: no. 1 - Quality assurance, no. 2 - Institutional modernization, no. 4 - Partnership policy, no. 6 - Scientific research. This will be practically implemented through the following measures:

- cooperation for developing master's and doctoral programs in co-tutoring, which should ensure obtaining joint diplomas (joint degrees), recognized in the common European space;
- elaborating and implementing a coherent strategy of international cooperation for increasing international visibility and affirmation of the university in the European and World Space of Higher Education;
- identifying and classifying the strategic fields and interests of the university, in order to consolidate the relations with the international partners according to these strategies;
- strengthening the collaboration with the already established international partners;
- establishing new international framework agreements, new Erasmus+ Agreements with universities from EU and non-EU countries, and also including University of Pitesti in prestigious international associations;
- annual evaluation of bilateral agreements (highlighting active ones, identifying domains and geographical areas which may face problems) and finding efficient solutions to these problems;
- further developing international cooperation relations with universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research centers, companies and international foundations, having as starting point the good collaboration within the existing agreements;
- identifying international funding opportunities and involving relevant international partners in the implementation of joint projects;
- international promotion of scientific research and innovation activities from University of Pitesti;
- capitalizing Erasmus+ collaborations for scientific, research and innovation cooperation.

To ensure the quality of the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme in University of Pitesti:

- the Erasmus+ Office will perform its own analysis of the indicators set out in this Erasmus Policy Statement;
- the eQuATIC tool will be used to analyze the data on the mobilities carried out and to evaluate the quality of the partnerships that were established.



Erasmus+



The Erasmus+ Office of the University of Pitesti, composed of a coordinator and three Erasmus+ Officers, who have the support of the faculty coordinators, plays an important role in carrying out the above-mentioned actions. It operates within the Center for International Relations under the Vice-Rector for International Relations (<https://www.upit.ro/ro/international>). Another important role is played by the Programmes and Projects Office, the International Students Office and the Office of Francophonie, all within Center for International Relations, which the Erasmus+ Office collaborates with. By approving the Internationalization Strategy by the Senate of the University of Pitesti, it was considered the union, on a large scale, of the strategic fields, as well as the involvement of the entire academic community. The website <https://www.upit.ro/ro/international/erasmusplus> is used to inform the academic staff and students of the University of Pitesti about the Erasmus+ activities, regulations, methodologies and procedures. Apart from this, the Erasmus+ Office constantly sends the faculties updated information which is distributed internally to each member of the University of Pitesti and organises informative sessions and dissemination events dedicated to all faculties.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Within the University of Pitesti, the Erasmus+ program will continue to have a significant impact through its improvement of the institutional management, as well as through its increase of the internationalization, visibility and prestige of the institution. Furthermore, it will have an important role in increasing the quality of teaching, learning and research, in developing international cooperation in teaching-research-innovation, in improving basic and transversal competences, in respecting fundamental rights and the principles of non-discrimination and social inclusion, as well as in promoting sustainability and increasing responsibility towards the environment, towards the local, regional, national and international community.

To measure the impact on student and staff mobilities from University of Pitesti, we establish the following indicators:

- increasing the number of events to promote the opportunities offered by Erasmus+ mobility (at least 3 / year);
- increasing the number of events for incoming students and staff (at least 2 / year);
- increasing the number of events for the dissemination of Erasmus+ mobility results for students and staff of the University of Pitesti (at least 2 / year);
- the number of mobilities carried out should be greater than or equal to the number of contracted mobilities (at the end of each mobility project);
- increasing the level of positive feedback from beneficiaries who consider that they are satisfied with the organization, development and results of Erasmus+ mobility (at least 75% at the end of each academic year);
- annually increasing the number of incoming Erasmus+ students and staff (by at least 5% from 2021);
- annually increasing the number of new bilateral Erasmus + K103 or K107 agreements (at least 10%);
- developing activities to promote responsible and sustainable environmental impact behaviour (*Green Erasmus*) among Erasmus+ participants (at least 1 / year);
- use of digital tools offered through the *European Student Card* Initiative (according to the proposed timetable of the initiative);
- annually increasing the percentage of students using the *Erasmus+ App* (at least 75% by 2021);
- organising and conducting volunteer events of Erasmus Student Network of the University of Pitesti and other organizations from University of Pitesti (at least 2 / year).

To measure the impact on the development of international cooperation and research, we establish the following indicators:

- increasing the number of events promoting Erasmus+ project competitions (at least 2 / year);
- annually increasing the number of concluded International Cooperation Framework Agreements (at least 10%);
- increasing the number of international networks where University of Pitesti is member (at least 6 per year);
- annually increasing the number of projects with international partners (at least 5%);
- holding annual conferences / publishing magazines with international partners (at least 1 / department);
- international updating of a subject in the curricula (at least 1 / Erasmus + teacher).