

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The European Polytechnical University has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2016-2020. The EPU supports the EU Modernization and Internationalization Agenda for Higher Education. The Erasmus Policy Statement outlines the University strategy in relation to the Charter.

The European Polytechnical University (EPU, the University) is the youngest private university in Bulgaria. It is founded by prominent Bulgarian scientists upon initiative of private investors and supported by stakeholders from the business and public sector. The academic profile of the University is shaped by the high demand in engineering sciences, innovations in civil engineering, applied informatics and computer sciences, green energy, social sciences and humanities. EPU is aimed at implementing of the university product in the knowledge-based economy.

The vision of EPU is to attain the level of the best European universities with similar academic profile by the means of the successful integration in Multiversity and to become a model of the European education in South Eastern Europe.

In order to pursue its vision and in compliance with the Agenda for the Modernisation of Europe's Higher Education Systems, the University maintains its initially defined mission, which was also adopted by the new founder:

The European Polytechnical University is a multinational centre of interaction between contemporary tuition, scientific research activities and innovations, and academic and business co-operation. The University personalizes the relationship with its students and doctoral students, complies with their individual abilities and preferences and prepares them for professional realization in the market environment of the dynamically changing world. The University adheres to the philosophy of sustainable development and its priority values are:

- European traditions and standards combined with American pragmatism of higher education;
- Development of the academic science within the profile of the University, oriented towards practices and needs of the international and Bulgarian business;
- International character of higher education as a means of achievement and maintenance of high quality;
- International academic staff of scientists and developers from foreign universities and international academies;
- Teaching of contemporary academic contents, harmonized with the European and American context;
- Tuition in avant-garde professional environment and assessment of the students by contemporary methods;
- Development of the personal qualities of the students and PhD students in order to achieve the maximum of their intellectual potential;
- Encouragement of students' initiative, development of habits for continuous self-improvement and skills for self-learning, acquiring 'portable' knowledge, key competencies and skills.

Some of the key objectives of EPU are to introduce European standards of education, to teach modern learning contents, to have academic staff of scholars from European universities and international academies, to carry out the training and assessment with modern methods in innovative professional environment, and to cultivate the values of the European civilization.

EPU harmonizes its values and objectives with Pegaso University. The most substantial and important idea is the global university developed by Multiversity. For the implementation of this idea Pegaso Consulting organizes interdisciplinary and intercultural educational clusters. It establishes consortia and partnerships for innovation, extends its network of universities in Europe (Malta, Poland and Bulgaria) and looks at the universities in Asia and Latin America. Such a global university will create opportunities for delivery of joint programmes and the issuing of diplomas of graduates from more than one university.

Exceptional opportunities are revealed also for research cooperation with international research teams from the university network. EPU has been assigned the role of Southeast European Academic Centre, which attracts foreign students and scientists for the development of the knowledge-based economy.

EPU orients its research and innovation to the needs of the contemporary national and international professional practice by following the European traditions and standards in higher education and vocational training whilst ensuring level and competences corresponding to the demands of the modern business and entrepreneurship.

To maintain a sustainable level of competitiveness the University aims at finding opportunities for transfer of knowledge, operational models, evaluation criteria, research products and the establishment of joint programmes, partnerships and collaborations.

The University regards as key priority the preparation of motivated and highly-qualified specialists competent to apply themselves on the international labour market and in the field of science. To achieve this goal the University relies on high quality and pragmatism in the training, the introduction of innovative educational technologies, internationalization and the development of student policy focused on integration of learning and development in a multicultural and multi-lingual environment.

Since 2012 EPU is member of the International Forum of Public Administration and Management, IFPAM (IFPAM).

Since 2014 EPU is member of the University Consortium Africa and Mediterranean CUAM

Since 2015 EPU is member of the Balkan University Association and the association of the academic institutions accredited by the German Accreditation, Certification and Quality assurance Institute ACQUIN

EPU's policy in respect to Erasmus+ is a part of the University internationalization strategy and based on two key priorities:

- Extension of the opportunities for students, lecturers and academic staff mobility through establishment and maintenance of strategic partnerships with leading European and world universities;
- Participation in multi-partner capacity building projects and transfer of good practices in higher education, development of joint master programmes and networking.

EPU is going to observe the below referred principles concerning Erasmus+ mobility:

- ensuring equal access and participation opportunities to all willing students, lecturers and staff, and prevention of gender, age, race, ethnic, religion, disability and social discrimination;
- maintenance of a notification system for all interested students, lecturers and staff;
- accounting the results of the completed mobility;
- full recognition of training or practice as host institution;
- provision of full support to incoming mobility students and local tutor;

- issue of Europass mobility certificate for the completed mobility;
- recognition of the mobility of the lecturers and other employees as a part of their regular job duties;

In view to all the above, international collaborative partnerships are a core element of the strategic objectives of the University with regard to learning, teaching and research excellence. Mobility of the academic and administrative staff is also a priority in order to make possible the joint delivery of master's programmes.

The Erasmus partner universities will be chosen not solely among those with whom EPU has established and well-functioning collaboration during the past years, but by finding new opportunities for collaboration. The University will approach partners with similar programmes so students and staff can be offered wider range of opportunities and the programmes can be enriched. The participation in the Erasmus Programme is a valuable instrument for the attainment of internationalization of the EPU and will put the University in a better position to attain its main goals.

