

## Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland (AMU) is the primary academic institution in the Wielkopolska Region and one of the leading Polish universities. Its century-old reputation is founded on the long-standing tradition of higher education in the City of Poznań and the outstanding achievements of its employees, students, and graduates to date.

The University is a center of knowledge where research and learning intertwine and where science is explored both internationally and nationally and regionally. The University constantly updates and expands its research programmes and teaching content, emphasizing its interdisciplinary character. Currently, almost 35,000 students of first and second-degree studies and one-cycle five-year master's studies are studying at 80 degree programmes and more than two hundred majors. There are more than 1300 doctoral students at the Doctoral School of AMU.

In 2018, AMU celebrated the 20th anniversary of its participation in the Erasmus programme. During this period, more than 15,000 AMU students and Staff benefited from the programme and exchanges were carried out with 55 programme countries and partner countries, under over 380 signed agreements. The University was involved in both Actions 1 and 2. AMU currently has 929 agreements with 389 foreign partners. The University offers almost 320 modules (courses) in the congress languages, which have been used by more than 900 students in the last academic year, including more than 500 international students are staying at AMU under the Erasmus+ programme and bilateral agreements.

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan is one of the ten research universities in Poland (Excellence Initiative – Research University), which means implementing additional actions, firmly focused on developing scientific research and its internationalization. AMU is also a founder and member of the European University EPICUR -European Partnership for Innovative Campus Unification of Regions. The consortium includes also the University of Strasbourg, University of Amsterdam, Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, University of Haute-Alsace, University Bodenkultur Wien, and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. EPICUR, a European University for the future, is a place where all boundlessly mobile students, doctoral candidates and staff, irrespective of their nationality, mother tongue, cultural or socio-economic background, acquire a broad, interdisciplinary, academic perspective strongly rooted in European traditions. The main objective is to significantly increase student and staff mobility and to support the quality, integration and competitiveness of European higher education. The implementation of the actions in the framework of the Research University and the EPICUR consortium is clearly and directly linked to the aims and objectives of the Erasmus+ programme. The importance and significance of internationalization processes has been expressed directly in the mission of the University: "By developing competences, we change the world." Building strategic goals, AMU positions itself as a university open to people,



their ideas and aspirations, aware of its responsibility in creating values and solutions important for society. The strategy of the University describes four strategic goals: Strategic goal 1: Scientific research at the global level; Strategic goal 2: The highest quality of education; Strategic goal 3: Professional management of the University; Strategic goal 4: Openness of the University to the social, cultural and economic environment. There is no doubt that active participation in implementing the Erasmus+ programme will contribute to implementing the assumed actions, and the impact of the University's internationalisation is visible in each of the outlined objectives. The new vision of the University assumes that it will achieve a high position among European academic centres in the field of research, teaching and knowledge transfer through active involvement in international cooperation networks and conduct of interdisciplinary research with other centres at home and abroad of key importance for the welfare and development of humanity. This vision could not be realised without further active participation in the Erasmus+ programme. Internationalisation in all dimensions of AMU's activities is essential to ensure the long-term sustainable development of the University, both internally and internationally.

Participation in the programme will impact each of the areas important for universities: from didactics, through research, to the development of skills and competences, to the modernisation of management processes and the continuous adaptation of the work of the administration to the current needs of all stakeholders. To this end, the University plans to continue and develop the mobility of students, teaching and research staff and administrative staff.

The experience of the previous editions of the programme has resulted in the broad participation of all groups of beneficiaries and contributed to profound reforms at the university management level. Moreover, the analysis of surveys among students and employees indicates the need for further participation in the programme, showing a high increase in knowledge and competencies and skills. The aims and objectives of AMU's involvement in the Erasmus+ programme are in line with those of the Research University status. The following most important coherent areas should be listed:

- radically increasing the internationalisation of research - participation in international strategic partnerships;
- increasing the effectiveness of publications in prestigious scientific journals - implementation of an effective support system;
- increasing the internationalization of AMU research and teaching staff;
- firm internationalization of the Doctoral School of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan.

Therefore, the main objectives of the participation of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan in the activities of the Erasmus+ programme are as follows:

- development of the University's internationalisation, understood as a continuous and broad process, covering all groups of the academic community;
- intensification of activities for student and staff mobility, both within the programme and in partner countries;



- increasing the participation in SMP mobility to acquire practical skills and competences necessary to function in a demanding labor market;
- broadening the list of partners, especially from partner countries (KA107), and increasing there the share of SMS mobility;
- increasing the range of courses offered in foreign languages;
- increasing the offer of Erasmus Mundus joint masters courses;
- continuous efforts to improve the infrastructure of the University, with particular emphasis on the situation of people with disabilities;
- seeking to promote tolerance by developing mobility;
- working towards the elimination of social exclusion for each group;
- developing large-scale digital solutions to support the internationalisation process;
- fuller involvement of the University in the activities of the so-called Third Mission;
- promoting European values;
- ensuring an increasing presence of AMU in international fora, research networks and joint international projects.

Participation in Erasmus+ projects will also accelerate the processes of university modernisation. The modernisation objectives are clearly embedded in two key projects that determine the University's future development: Research University and EPICUR. Synergistic management of these projects will bring the expected added value, also visible in relation to modernisation.

By participating in the programme, AMU wants to benefit from other participating universities' innovative experiences and achievements. The expected modernisation of AMU is projected to cover all areas of the University's activity. It is mainly expected in the area of development of modern teaching techniques and education of students' ability to use modern technologies and critical evaluation of the information obtained. The University also intends to introduce the acquired experience to avoid digital exclusion for each group of the academic environment. This will provide students with the appropriate skills and competencies required on the labor market. The University intends to develop modern methods of communication both with employees, students and external stakeholders of the University. Such activities will be consistent with general assumptions promoting environmentally friendly practices. Great importance is seen in speeding up the digitization of mobility handling processes. This is supposed to lead to a faster, more efficient, but also more transparent formula of work. Another key benefit is the care of the environmental dimension (e.g., lower consumption of raw materials and energy sources). The mobility activities planned at AMU will also be strengthened as part of the implementation of the objectives of EPICUR European University. The consortium has foreseen several actions aimed at modernising higher education.

Dynamic development of measures in distance learning and virtual mobility will be particularly important in the next programming period. Against this background, this is again fully in line with EPICUR's ambitious 50% student mobility plans. Distance learning also includes skills development




for teachers and support staff. Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan confirms its full commitment to the Erasmus Charter Principles. AMU is convinced that participation in Erasmus+ projects is essential to achieve the strategic objectives of internationalisation in the modernisation of the University. The University supports and actively participates in building the European Education Area, where it is possible to learn, study, teach, train and work across borders so that all young people can get the best possible education and find work across Europe. Additionally, AMU consistently strives to improve the international exchange of researchers and the internationalization of education, and thus to improve the University's presence and visibility in the European Research Area and European Higher Education Area. In this regard, AMU:

- plans to promote mobility for as many students as possible, regardless of their socio-economic status;
- declares full recognition of qualifications obtained in partner universities;
- declares to support activities aimed at the knowledge of two foreign languages in addition to the mother tongue;
- supports actions aimed at developing a strong sense of European identity and recognition of European cultural heritage and its diversity;
- supports the active promotion of the Council Recommendation on the eight key competences for lifelong learning;
- implements actions to promote digital skills and technologies in education.

AMU recognizes its role in building the European Education Area by exchanging educational and research experience, identifying common research interests, developing common higher education diplomas, full recognition, and encouraging participation in civil and democratic life. AMU also declares its efforts to remove all barriers to access to knowledge. In doing so, AMU intends to contribute to the sustainable development of modern society and an innovative economy. These commitments are also reflected in the university strategy. Among the values that AMU is guided by and promotes are "integrity, responsibility in research, education, and action for civil society and the common good."

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