

UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ: ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Erasmus activities included in JYU EPS

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

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): JYU strategy

The vision of the University of Jyväskylä (JYU) is to be a global leader in the study of learning, wellbeing and basic natural phenomena, reshaping competence to build a sustainable society. Our institutional vision is well in line with the goals of the renewed EU agenda for higher education and the vision of a more innovative European Education Area by 2025. Participation in the Erasmus Programme is of paramount importance for JYU in achieving the institutional objectives defined in its new strategy and in contributing to the development of the European higher education.

Strengthening internationalisation is one of the crosscutting themes in the new JYU strategy, which consists of development programmes on education, research, university community, campus and digitalisation. Participation in the Erasmus Programme supports especially the objectives set in the Education Development Programme. JYU is committed to the following:

- developing and implementing studies and curricula across disciplines and in dynamic cooperation with international partners and stakeholders
- providing education that supports students in building meaningful and future-oriented competence profiles
- offering all students diverse opportunities to include goal-oriented international study and internship periods abroad in their degrees
- being a responsible partner and producing added value to its regional, national and international cooperation partners and networks
- supporting teachers' continuous professional development through modular university pedagogy studies that include pedagogical, international and digital competences
- facilitating the integration of international staff and students into the university community

JYU aims at contributing to an increasingly innovative European Education Area in the framework of Erasmus projects particularly in the multidisciplinary profiling areas confirmed by JYU the Board:

- Social sustainability for children and families;
- Emerging work in the digital era;
- The behaviour change, physical activity, and well-being across the lifespan;
- Interdisciplinary nanoscience.

Furthermore, we look forward to active participation in projects connected to our national coordination roles in educational research, in applied language studies research and in the development of teacher education.

European Universities are an effective tool for taking concrete steps towards a European Education Area. Being a committed member of FORTHEM Alliance (Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility) allows us to develop innovative new teaching content by pooling of expertise, to launch new physical and virtual forms of student and staff mobility, to enhance our societal involvement and the civic engagement of students and to transfer research-based knowledge into society. Together with our FORTHEM partner universities and our other key partners within Erasmus we will be able to educate active and skilled European citizens and to give a strong contribution to creating a more competitive, more innovative European Education Area.

As an active coordinator of KA107 mobility programmes and a long-term coordinator of the Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID) network, JYU is looking forward to enhanced opportunities to support global cooperation and mobility during the new Erasmus period with international KA103 and KA107 funding opportunities. We expect to strengthen our cooperation particularly with selected partner universities in Chile, Peru and Uruguay in Latin America; Israel in Middle East; China and Japan in Asia; Ghana, Ethiopia and Zambia in Africa; as well as with Western Balkans region, Russia and North-America. Yet, these do not exclude new promising openings with new partner countries and HEIs.

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

JYU shall participate actively in all the key actions of the new Erasmus programme, with a focus on KA1 and KA2. JYU continues to be active, for example, in projects related to teaching and learning in multimodal environments, to language, culture and society and to sport sciences. As one of the Finnish universities providing tailored study counselling and language training to immigrants, we expect to contribute to European efforts to enhance training opportunities for immigrant populations.

Being a member of a European Universities network (FORTHEM), part of our learning mobility activities will be implemented within Partnership for Excellence framework. However, we will continue to implement student and staff mobility also with a number of other key partner universities, selected by our faculties. We are also aiming at activating our faculties' involvement in developing new joint degree programmes, both within FORTHEM and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees action. JYU is currently updating its institutional policy and guidelines for implementing international joint degree programmes. This is expected to facilitate considerably the launching of new joint degree programmes.

JYU plans to take advantage of the very welcome new initiatives for supporting the short-term mobility of doctoral candidates and implementing the blended mobility of students and staff. Erasmus funding for short-term mobility will enable us to give PhD students, many of whom have families and work commitments, more equal and more flexible opportunities for international experience. As for blended mobility, it is one of the key activities of FORTHEM Alliance, in addition to virtual mobility. Furthermore, JYU Open University will develop and implement virtual mobility actions with other European open universities within the framework of the European Association of Distant Teaching Universities (EADTU) institutional network.

Taking part in the activities of FORTHEM and launching EMJMD projects with selected partner universities will help us train responsible academic experts in a culturally diverse world and develop new innovative curricula in dynamic cooperation with international partners, both of which are key aims of our Education Development Programme. Furthermore, JYU is committed to supporting the continuous development of teachers' competences, supporting research-based education development and strong multidisciplinary and international cooperation. Participating in the Erasmus programme facilitates the achievement of these objectives.

Based on its Community Development Programme, JYU aims to be a platform for new knowledge and education, changing the world in constant interaction with society, and responding to the challenges of a changing world through science-based expertise. These aims are well in line with FORTHEM Lab Mission, which involves students and societal partners in finding research-based solutions to societal challenges, and FORTHEM Outreach Mission, which aims at enhancing knowledge circulation between FORTHEM Alliance, society and economy and at promoting the employability of students. In addition to our FORTHEM membership, active and well-planned participation in KA2 Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges, and for Innovation will provide us tools to accomplish many of the strategic goals of Community Development Programme and Digital Development Programme.

The crosscutting themes of the five strategic development programmes of JYU include internationalisation, societal impact, digitalisation and diversity, which are well in line with the focus areas of the new Erasmus programme and which can also be linked to the three key missions (Mobility Mission, FORTHEM Labs Mission and Outreach Mission) of the FORTHEM Alliance. In addition to strengthening our institutional capacity to achieve the strategic aims for education, internationalisation and societal engagement, FORTHEM institutionalises an environment of permanent and deep-going academic cooperation.

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

As noted earlier, our strategy for education states that JYU offers all students diverse opportunities to include goal-oriented international study and internship periods abroad in their degrees and that we promote the active participation of our staff in international cooperation. JYU has not defined institutional quantitative aims for student or staff mobility, but as a member of the FORTHEM Alliance, we are committed to moving towards the joint aims of increasing international physical, blended and virtual mobility to involve 30% of students and staff by 2022 and 50% of students and staff by 2025. JYU aims for all students to develop a multilingual academic communication repertoire for expert communication alongside the academic literacy needed for studies and more importantly for working life. The Erasmus programme will be a crucial tool for implementing all of these educational aims.

As a key initiative to develop the quality of student mobility, the Centre for Multilingual Academic Communication (Movi) is cooperating with faculties to build a pedagogical model for supporting the systematic development of students' communication and internationalisation skills and for improving their competences for multidisciplinary and multilingual working. The aim is to bring together students from various disciplines and language and cultural backgrounds to work together to achieve these goals. The development of communication skills, language skills and cultural awareness will be evaluated in these encounters.

The aim of JYU is to widely promote the opportunities offered by Erasmus KA2 and KA3 projects and to provide hands-on support to staff and students interested in participating in these activities throughout the application and implementation phase. Our project processes seek to ensure the relevance and the high quality of project initiatives, before the applications are submitted. The diverse range of support services for projects are provided at project application phase by research funding

advisors at Research & Innovation Services and at project implementation phase by faculty-level project secretaries. The goal is to ensure flexible and smart project management, allowing project implementers to focus on producing qualitative results for the project. The JYU Quality Assurance Guidelines for Project Activities ensure that projects lead to sustainable outcomes and that their impact benefits all partners. Through Erasmus KA 2 and KA3 partnerships we expect to achieve lasting results that can be used to develop the quality and innovativeness of education and our societal engagement.

The FORTHEM Alliance is committed to increasing international mobility, but our shared goals are not only quantitative: driven by a strong belief in the benefits of multilingualism and multiculturalism, we will try to ensure that all collective and individual mobilities are meaningful pedagogically and professionally and can be implemented as seamlessly as possible. Active use of Erasmus programme, including the new short-term mobility for PhD students and new blended mobility support, will be a crucial tool for reaching these aims. In addition to facilitating a 'big leap' forward in developing the quantity, quality and versatility of student and staff mobility, membership in FORTHEM Alliance will have a great impact in increasing virtual exchange, civic engagement of students and closer cooperation with local schools 'bringing Europe in our classrooms'. Furthermore, our joint Lab activity will develop tested models for creating solutions for societal problems using research-based data.

The regional anchoring gives FORTHEM Alliance the capacity to spread the values of a multicultural Europe within the surrounding areas and to "enrich lives and open minds" beyond university campuses. Furthermore, the collected global partnerships of the FORTHEM will extend the collaboration possibilities of individual FORTHEM-universities to new regions outside Europe.