

## Erasmus Policy Statment

The international strategy of the University of Tor Vergata is inspired by the guidelines set out in the Bologna Process to facilitate the construction of a European Higher Education and Research Area. The Erasmus Programme is, for the University, the essential tool for the construction of this Space. Since its inception, the University has believed in the potential of the Erasmus Programme by starting its participation in 1989.

The last 7 years of the Erasmus + Programme 2014/2020, probably also thanks to the new integrated structure (plus), have led to a strong acceleration in the dynamics of internationalization of the Institute which, participating as Coordinating Institute or partner Institute in many Action Projects Key 1 and 2, Jean Monnet and Sport, has almost totally achieved its objectives in terms of mobility and given a strong impetus to a significant modernization process.

Participation in the new Erasmus + Programme 2021-2027 will further boost the University's internationalization process and allow the achievement of the quality objectives that are an integral part of its mission. During the next 7 years, the University plans to increase the offer of courses in English, currently 21 - Bachelor and Master- and 30 PhD, through the creation of new innovative training courses compared to the past. For this reason, in 2018 the University participated as a partner of the European Universities Project - Key Action 2 - and obtained funding from the European Commission for the "Young Universities For Europe" (YUFE) Project, a partnership formed by Maastricht University (coordinator) - Netherlands, Carlos III University of Madrid - Spain, University of Antwerp - Belgium, University of Bremen - Germany, University of Cyprus - Cyprus, University of Eastern Finland, University of Essex - United Kingdom - which aims to build a young European University, student-centered, non-elitist, open and inclusive.

The University believes a lot in this project because through it, in a medium / long term perspective, it starts to transform itself into a European university while maintaining its national identity. Incoming and outgoing mobility will become the cornerstone of innovation. The use of new technological tools such as Virtual Exchange mobility and the European Student Card will make possible an exponential increase in student and staff exchanges while respecting the sustainability criteria required by all European regulations.

The University will be able to issue joint degrees that can be easily used in the job market in all European countries through the Credit / ECTS system, and the use of other instruments such as the Europass and the Diploma Supplement. In this way, the University will have a close connection with the European and international job market and will give its graduates and PhDs more career opportunities also through the implementation of digital platforms, such as GaragErasmus of which it is a founding member. , for the job placement or for the birth of new enterprises. The companies themselves will be able to train their staff at its faculties for a process of continuous training (Life Long Learning), indispensable by now to keep up with the continuous process of transformation of work activities. The University will be able to contribute to the growth of Third Countries through Capacity Building Projects and Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters for the creation of courses aimed at the modernization of developing countries. The key element of all the initiatives will be physical, mixed and virtual mobility of students and staff and will have the regulatory and financial author in the Erasmus Programme. In this regard, considering the steady decrease in national funding, the Erasmus Programme will be an essential tool for financing innovative training projects that will attract students and scholars from all over the world.

Through the new Erasmus + Programme 2021-2027, the University has the ambitious goal of becoming a reference point in the panorama of European Higher Education, making use of all the Key Actions envisaged by the Programme. During the 2014/2020 period, the University participated and obtained funding, as coordinating institute or partner institute, for many Projects of Key Actions 1 and 2, Jean Monnet and Sport of

the Erasmus + Programme. In the same way, the number of training credits obtained by students abroad has grown exponentially, and this, for the University, is one of the most important quality indicators.

In continuity with the previous Programme, the University aims to increase all mobility and planning activities, guaranteeing full recognition of all training activities for students and staff as reported in the principles expressed in the ECHE and implement logistical, economic and organizational support for disadvantaged and disabled students. The University intends to increase the mobility of outgoing students until it exceeds the ratio of 2% of the total enrollment through the signing of new agreements, with countries that have recently joined the EU fully and with non-European countries. To this end, an increase in financial resources is foreseen to integrate the mobility grants in order to make participation in the program more interesting. In order to increase teacher mobility and student mobility, new agreements will be signed for the creation of integrated curricula with European partners. To increase incoming mobility, the Italian language courses recognized fully as an educational activity will be increased, moreover, facilities will be offered for accommodation at our new Village "Campus X", thus to facilitate the attendance at study courses and the interaction among the University community. The University also counts a lot on the construction of the Sports City in Tor Vergata with the use by Erasmus students for accommodation and sports facilities. In this perspective, continuing the collaboration with the previous Partners Universities and activating new agreements will allow the implementation of new development plans for the future. To increase mobility, the University intends to proceed by increasing the creation of innovative courses taught in English also aimed at creating double / joint degrees, the University has now 16, to be supported through the Erasmus Agreements (excellent, for example, the possibility offered in this sense by the YERUN Network to which Tor Vergata participates); increase the mobility of PhD students, through a targeted participation announcement and / or the institution of cotutele or double / joint doctoral degrees by means of Erasmus Agreements (out of 900 enrolled PhD students manage to involve 10% in mobility would mean increasing the latter by at least 90/100 units); direct the stipulation of new Bilateral Agreements to courses of study with a strong growth potential (eg Engineering, the new Course in International Relations, etc.).

A further boost will come from the European Universities Project - Young Universities For Europe which will become a multiplier of erasmus projects through collaboration among the partners of the Network. In the latter Project, constant comparison with other European universities will give our University the right stimulus for the improvement of the entire university system through mobility, the sharing of common projects and good administrative practices. The idea of the European university itself represents, in perspective, a challenge and a highly innovative project that will act as a multiplier of training projects, collaborations, exchanges and, last but not least, the procurement of important financial resources. The University has already equipped itself for the challenge, its organization already rests on a time-tested structure of adequately trained offices and staff who have given excellent results to date. Looking ahead, the University intends to increase the staff currently engaged in the Erasmus program, based on new needs and to create a strong coordination structure to make all the administrative offices and teachers involved in various capacities in Erasmus Projects interact.

At the same time, the training / mobility of new staff, teachers and administrative, engaged in mobility programs through refresher courses and internship visits abroad will be planned and increased. This activity will also be implemented through innovative tools such as distance learning and virtual mobility (Virtual Exchange Mobility) and will be considered as an added value for career progression.

The contribution that the Tor Vergata University intends to make with participation in the Program consists in increasing the overall quality of teaching and mobility in the awareness that there is no modernization without quality. Increasing the qualification level of the educational offer will give Europe the graduates and researchers that Europe needs. In this way, thanks to mobility and transnational cooperation, the possibility for young people to find a job will be expanded. Mobility for study, research and work will encourage integration and, in this way, future generations will really be able to create a "European Nation".

Increasing our commitment to the use of the European and International training and research programs available, including the Key Actions of the Erasmus Program, will be a key objective in the coming years. The qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact on the University will be represented by the

constant increase in the years of incoming and outgoing mobility of students and staff for KA1 training (study / traineeship), currently about 1300 incoming/outgoing mobility persons, as occurred in the previous seven years (at least the 10% per year increase); the quality of implementation will be guaranteed by the new modes of mobility (Virtual Mobility) but also by the implementation and simplification of the administrative processes (Digitization of documents, European Student Card and aggregate services) but also by a further growth in the number of training credits obtained by students on the move; further support for participants on mobility will be provided in the form of additional funding and through the recruitment of new human resources dedicated to the development of the Program; for staff, mobility for training will be assessed for the purpose of career progression; a greater involvement will be given in cooperation projects within the KA2 action of the Departments and Decentralized Structures by means of periodic information meetings and staff training on site; the Erasmus Project Evaluation Commission will give the go-ahead only to projects that present guarantees of sustainability and long-term impact of the outcomes.

The active participation of students in the internationalization process of the University will be of fundamental importance. The continuous involvement of students, through their representatives in the university bodies and student associations will be required in the programming, tutoring, evaluation and dissemination activities results and good practices.