

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

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:

1.2 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?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

The University of Szeged (USz), tracing its origins back to 1581, is a leading 3rd generation university (3GU) in Hungary, the main intellectual centre in the Southern Great Plain region, and a competitive and high-quality institution that operates in close cooperation with the society and the economy of the region and the country.

The strategy of the University of Szeged (USz) that is to increase attainment levels in order to provide graduates and researchers Europe needs, improving the quality and relevance of higher education, research and innovation, strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation, linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development. Furthermore the objectives are to meet the social and economic needs of the society, to broaden and reinforce the European and global dimension as well as to respond to the demand of national and international labour market. USz citizens are fully committed to perform USz internationalisation and modernisation strategy as a main tool of development and integration of the institution into the global area and EHEA, enriching also individuals' professional, social and intercultural skills and their employability. All international activities are and were based on prior agreed, signed, valid inter-institutional agreements. USz is fully committed to further modernisation, the comprehensive understanding of the partners, compatibility of academic profiles, automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and learning periods abroad (ECTS), equal and equitable opportunities to all current and prospective participants, inclusion, digitalisation, ERASMUS Without Paper and European Student Card Initiative, adequate levels, standards, quality, responsibility, non-discrimination, trust and transparency, environmental-friendly "Green ERASMUS", charge no fees for tuition, registration, examinations, access to laboratory and library facilities, and guarantees the quality ensurance of the mobility activities and cooperation projects, sustainability, online education and blended mobilities.

The USz has nearly 21,000 students, with an international student ratio of more than 19%, and approximately 7,000 members on the working staff. The USz has 12 faculties engaged equally in educational, scientific and artistic activity, and it offers education at the levels of bachelor, master, one-tier, doctoral (PhD), vocational and postgraduate specialist training programs in the fields of agriculture, humanities, economics and business administration, informatics, engineering, medicine and health care, pharmacy, dentistry, social sciences, natural sciences, law, education, arts and music. USz is active in 700 research areas with 19 Doctoral Schools/110 PhD programmes.

The University was ranked the best Hungarian higher education institutions on the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University list in 2020. USz is among the top 9% universities of Emerging Europe and Central Asia and is among the best universities of the world on the (QS) World University Ranking by subject. USz is placed between the top 301-350 universities of the world in Medicine and in Agriculture and Forestry. In the broad subject area of Life Sciences and Medicine it is ranked 450-500th and it has the prestigious place of 501-550th in the specific subjects of Biological Sciences and Chemistry. According to rankings published in HVG journal in Hungary, the University of Szeged is the best university out of the capital; The University is fiercely proud to be the greenest higher education institution in Hungary. Based on GreenMetric World University Rankings results USz was also able to upgrade its results to the 74th place. USz Library has 7th out of the 50 Most Amazing University Libraries in the World and Szeged is 8th on the list of the Best University Towns in Europe.

The University of Szeged is ranked among the best 200 universities in the world in the latest Times Higher Education ranking, which examined the higher education economy, social impact and responsibility of the institution. In the ranking which is based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nation, USz is the best Hungarian institution with the ranking 101–200th place.

The Times Higher Education Impact Ranking launched in 2019 examines the third mission activities of higher education institutions around the world. This special list measures the institution's social, economic impact and its responsibility is based on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The USz has an outstanding performance in the ranking again this year: USz is the only Hungarian institution that has been ranked among the 300 best universities in the world in all 17 goals (SDGs) on the latest list of THE.

Responding the European Universities Initiative call USz successfully joined to the European Universities Alliance named EUGLOH. Université Paris-Saclay (France), Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany), Lund University (Sweden), University of Porto (Portugal) and University of Szeged (Hungary) have created a pilot European University called "European University Alliance for Global Health", inspired by European values and committed to education for global challenges of health and well-being. Coordinated by Université Paris-Saclay with the active involvement of all its member institutions, the project has been selected for the first European Universities call for proposals launched by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ programme.

The European alliance EUGLOH focuses on a unifying and transdisciplinary topic, global health, in order to deal with major societal challenges. The five universities thus aim to combine their expertise and resources to offer the best education to their students thanks to the excellence of their programmes and their cutting-edge research and equipment.

The objectives of the European University project EUGLOH:

- Train students on European values and citizenship, and at the same time on the emerging research areas linked to interdisciplinary societal challenges, and on transverse skills required for professional activities;
- Create an integrated multicultural campus to increase students' employability, mobility and adaptability to future challenges;
- Build the European University of the future: innovative, interdisciplinary, inclusive and integrated in local research and innovation ecosystems.

USz considers as a value its rich historical traditions. It respects its prestigious predecessors, their high intellectual standards, and feels bound to continue and improve this heritage. USz considers as a task to continuously develop its training content within its multi-level and multilingual fields of education, in line with the advancement of science, the

development of information technologies and social needs. USz considers as a goal to issue degrees and diplomas that meet the requirements of the labour market, moreover, to have the Hungarian and foreign companies compete for USz graduates. The University actively participates in the organisation of student life by offering opportunities for the students to become more capable of deep intellectual thought, and by keeping up equal opportunities among students. USz considers as a mission and a goal to perform academic work and to conduct research at an internationally competitive level, to be characterised as a prominent research university in Hungary. USz considers as a further important mission to become an intellectual, educational centre for areas inhabited by Hungarians outside Hungary.

USz's vision and quality policy are built on the following four pillars: education, research, third mission, medicine.

EDUCATION: education of international standards harmonizing mass and elite education, creating synergies between faculties, matching student demand with demands of the labour market.

RESEARCH: research of international standards harmonizing in-depth academic knowledge with its utilisation, maintaining an integrated scientific profile matching the local economy.

THIRD MISSION: shaping a university harmonizing the academia with societal and market knowledge transfer, meeting the demands of the local economy and community.

MEDICAL CARE: providing high quality patient management, active participation in developing and maintaining modern preventive and curative health care.

In the offered areas of science and arts, the USz conducts fundamental, applied and experimental researches, developments, furthermore, technology transfer, innovation, scientific management and other researches in support of education. Some of the outstanding fields of science relating to economic development are: research in laser physics, biology, genetics, biotechnology, environmental protection, the health industry as well as in basic and applied medical science, and also the improvements carried out in the fields of software development and renewable energy resources. Thanks to the internationally acknowledged research in laser physics at the USz, our town is the home of the biggest centre of laser physics in Europe (ELI), which further increases the need for more employees at the University and at the connected companies. The USz is in close cooperation also with shared-service companies. Furthermore, the very successful cooperation performed so far with the Biological Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Szeged also represents a great potential in the fields of education as well as in research. The standard and structure of research is further characterized by the fact that, owing to a co-operation between the USz and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, there are academic research groups working at the institution.

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.

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University of Szeged (USz) would like to take part in Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility (KA103 and KA107 programmes), Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices, including Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities, Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, Partnerships for Innovation and also Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3).

USz is fully committed to respect the main principles of the Charter, to perform the university's internationalisation and modernisation strategy as a main tool of development and integration of the institution into the global and EHEA enriching also individuals' professional, social and intercultural skills and their employability, to respect the principles and guidelines of the Charter in all our international activities, operating and accomplishing mobility programs within the KA103 and KA107 Credit Mobility programmes, developing strategic partnerships, knowledge and university alliances, capacity buildings with neighbouring and EU and non-EU countries. USz takes measures to cooperate with non-academic strategic partners, stakeholders such as diplomatic corps, enterprises, chambers of commerce, regional authorities in order to strengthen relations between the university and its external environment and to explore traineeship opportunities for the benefit of students and staff.

Erasmus partnerships are based on prior agreed, signed and valid E+ bilateral agreements and the comprehensive understanding of the partners, compatibility of academic profiles, adequate levels, standards, quality, responsibility, trust and transparency. The organisational and management scheme of the institutional project management was established according to the inner system of the institution where the institutional coordination of the programme is carried out by the International Mobility Centre of the USz and the academic coordination by the departmental and faculty coordinators.

At the USz the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme is carried out in centralised project management system where in all phases and levels of the process (Before, During and After) the tasks and responsibilities are clearly defined taking account the quality assurance requirements and also transparent for all participants of the programme.

The organisational and management scheme clearly indicates the university policy and the decision making levels by defining personal responsibilities in the corporate structure.

The USz ensures that selection procedure for mobility activities are visible, fair, transparent, coherent and documented; publishes and regularly updates the course catalogue on the central and ERASMUS+ websites of the USz guaranteeing the transparency of the courses and recognition of the earned credits for the applicants; publishes and regularly updates the grading system and grade distribution tables for all study programmes; carries out mobilities for studies and teaching only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions. These agreements establish the respective roles and responsibilities of the different parties as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception, support and integration of mobility participants. USz ensures the outgoing mobility participants are well prepared for their activities abroad, including blended mobility, by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of language proficiency and develop their intercultural competences. The USz provides active support to incoming mobility participants throughout the process of finding accommodation; assistance related to obtaining visas and insurance when required. USz ensures that students are aware of their rights and obligations as defined in the ERASMUS Student Charter as part of their Grant Agreement.

The USz ensures that all ECTS credits gained for learning and training outcomes are fully and automatically recognised as agreed in the learning agreement and confirmed by Transcript of Records and transferred towards to the student's degree in the Diploma Supplement.

The USz ensures equal academic treatment and the quality services for inbound students; promotes measures for the safety of outbound and inbound students; integrates inbound mobility participants into wider student community and encourages them to act as Ambassadors of the programme; provides appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobility participants including language support.

The USz continuously monitors the implementation of the mobilities according the rules of the ERASMUS+ programme and the ERASMUS+ Charter.

USz participation in KA1, KA2 and KA3 actions will strengthen the international cooperation of the university by widening the offer of international courses, making possible to introduce common educational and research projects and implement of double and joint degree and training programmes with partner universities and enterprises.

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

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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In the last 21 years (between 1998-2019) the USz realised 5264 outbound and 3275 inbound student mobilities, and also 3231 outbound teaching staff mobilities within the ERASMUS+ KA103 Programme.

Participation of USz in various KA1 and KA2 projects between 2015-2020:

- 5 KA103 and 3 KA107 projects for Learning mobility
- 2 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees projects (Choreomundus - International Master in Dance Knowledge, Practice and Heritage and MITRA - Migrations Transnationales)
- 14 KA203 projects between 2015-2020 (currently active: 6, in 1 project as coordinator, 5 projects as partner)
- European Universities: 1 project, EUGLOH (European University Alliance for Global Health)
- participation in 2 Capacity Building projects as partner, 2 Jean Monnet projects as coordinator between 2015-2020

Recognizing the importance, benefits and outcomes of the participation in the Program the USz has set out strategic objectives and defined expected impacts to be achieved in accordance with Europe 2020 and the EU's Modernisation agenda. In order to increase the number of graduates, to attract a broader cross-section of society into higher education and to reduce the number of students dropping out without completing their courses, the USz organizes courses and lectures to prepare students for cultural, intercultural, communication, linguistic and professional challenges for gaining relevant knowledge, skills and competences. Teachers, members of administration, mentors of ESN, Students' Organization and Alumni are involved into these activities. To sustain and extend the university grants system supporting talented students and students with low socio-economic background or disabilities is the responsibility of the university.

It is a prerequisite that the university be engaged in international projects in order to improve quality, to enhance personal development of students and staff, to stimulate and motivate modernisation of curricula and teaching methods based on achievements and international academic and linguistic proficiency gained by teachers. New

curricula are to be developed to meet the demands of the society and the Hungarian and international labour market, as well as students' career expectations. Results and outcomes have to be implemented and disseminated enhancing the institution's national and international performance. Staff mobility should be encouraged and their performance shall be acknowledged as part of the regular workload. International teaching and training mobility activities need to be recognized as components in any evaluation. Excellence in teaching and research should be rewarded at all levels. More opportunities are to be provided for students and staff to acquire additional skills through study and training mobilities abroad by exploring further possibilities of regional and cross-border cooperations, fostering links with research, industry, business and stakeholders. Excellence of education, research and innovation shall be promoted and supported as key factor for the future development of society, industry and economy. It is a need to create more and more effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence.

Assistance is given to all programs' participants in communication, administrative and financial management, in accreditation procedures, dissemination. Additional financial grants are allocated from the University Scholarship Fund for study or traineeship abroad to all students.

The achievements, strategy and vision of the USz demonstrates our strong commitment to be one of the leading universities of excellence in global higher education and research.

USz foresees minimally 400-500 outbound and inbound student mobilities including blended and physical, 300 teaching staff and 100 training staff mobilities per each academic year during the programme period.