# Erasmus Policy Statement (2021-2027)

## I. Institutional Internationalisation Strategy

The relevance of taking part in the Erasmus+ programme is an essential principle of the University of Pannonia for more than twenty years. Nowadays new challenges that come from the globalization needs new solutions and these new solutions need a European wide and worldwide knowledge transfer which can provide the mobility activities between the Higher Education Institutions. The University of Pannonia are planning to take part in European Universities project which we have just started so we can work in the near future on international curriculums with the European HEI participants.

Our institution has been implementing the Erasmus+ KA 103 mobility programme in the connection with the Institutional Development Plan which plan has always been contributed the modernisation and the internationalisation of the University of Pannonia. The unbroken and successful participation in the Erasmus+ KA 103 programme for more than twenty years (yearly) encourage us to continue this activity with accomplishing the new initiatives that provide the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027.

The management framework of implementing the Erasmus+ KA 103 programme for the next period for the upcoming activities will build up in the following institutional structure at the University of Pannonia that we call "The six elements of the internationalisation". Firstly, the Directorate of Academic Affairs (International Office) is responsible for the Erasmus+ project work, promotion and administrative tasks and secondly the Directorate of Communication and International Affairs will be responsible to work out the new student services and strengthen the international cooperation with our partners and mainly preparing the plans for the digitalisation services of the new Erasmus+ programme. The faculties and faculty coordinators provide help for our students to prepare their Learning agreements and promoting the new initiatives of the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 among our students.

The trial cooperation of the faculty coordinators, the representatives of the Directorate of Academic Affairs (International Office) and the Directorate of the Communication and International Affairs gives the main and principle basis of the modern and effective internationalisation at the University of Pannonia. We believe that the new ideas of the upcoming Erasmus+ programme will be discussed within in the framework of the mentioned trial institutional cooperation so the new Erasmus+ initiatives contribute our internationalisation strategy. This trial institutional cooperation is only the basis and core of our strategy. We need to involve and spread the information of the new Erasmus+ programme among all the representatives of the university, especially the students. We need to involve the local Students' Union representatives as well concerning they are the more important indicators of the mobility activities so they are the fourth part of being part to create an exclusive Erasmus+ programme than it was before.

With the cooperation and work of the four parties of the mentioned university units we truly believe that we will be able to include more and more mobility participants and to create an exclusive Erasmus+ mobility programme. Our main goal is simplifying and digitalising the Erasmus+ programme with the introduction all of the elements of the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) project. By promoting the Erasmus+ application with the representatives of the Students' Union we can reach many students and tell them that to apply for Erasmus is easier than before.

With our common institutional discussions and effective communication, we have the vision to start the "blended mobility" form which enables the participants to participate in physical and online mobility actions. For excellent international mobility outcomes, we need to work on the "mobility window" which will help us to the earned credits easier than before. By the inspiring of the teacher mobility, both incoming and outgoing mobility we can boost the knowledge transfer between the academics of the foreign HEIs and our institution so we can add something new and spread the knowledge of the European Higher Education Area. The teachers and tutors, the academic staff are the fifth element of our future internationalisation strategy in the connection with the Erasmus+ programme.

We have a responsibility to involve the people who have some disadvantages or disabled. They might come from a region with fewer opportunities. That is why will cooperate continuously with the Unit of the Disadvantaged Students at our institution. We are planning to try to promote the Erasmus+ mobility in a much more effective way in the next programme period, for example we invite for our Erasmus+ information Days disadvantaged students to tell their past mobility stories and experiences. They are important us so they are the sixth element of our strategy. We need their ideas no matter where they are from or what physically or mentally illness they have, we need to include them and this kind of inclusion and the mentioned six elements lead us to a diverse and elastic higher education institution where all entrants/participants will be able to share the knowledge and experience. These six elements can create the civic engagement and active citizenship amongst the university students and staffs as well. The active citizenship also means that students who will take part in the Erasmus+ mobility programme will be able to join the local society groups and organisations doing some voluntary work and earning some credits. We have the vision for the next period creating a much more recipient Erasmus+ programme with the active cooperation of the participants all of the six elements for the period 2021-2027.

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## II. Implementation Plan

The main principle of the implementation of the new Erasmus+ programme at the University of Pannonia is preserving the earlier practices of the mobility activities that connect to the new initiatives of the new Erasmus 2021-2027 programme period especially in the following topics:

- Being an active participant of the European Higher Education Area with preserving our local values and developing our student services is an important key of the modernisation at the University of Pannonia. The institution will offer more efficient, inclusive and accessible

mobility activities for students (researchers as well) and for the lecturers than before. The tools for the better mobility accessibility are the Erasmus+ initiatives, see them by our keywords. The active communication of the institutional units and the and implementing the new Erasmus+ initiatives into our internationalisation strategy will lead our institution an active and modernised HEI;

- The University of Pannonia in Hungary is the leader higher education institution in the Transdanubian region has many agreements with the local enterprises which means we are able to provide the opportunity to international students to cooperate with them, get credits for their work and after the graduation the students will be able to find a workplace. One element of civic engagement is the "service learning" can be also introduced with the engaging of the local enterprises;
- We are ready to the introduction of the new mobility activity which is the "blended mobility". As our institution has two good-working online studying system which called Moodle system and E-learning we are sure that we can introduce this new mobility from the earlier beginning of the new programme period. We can also use alternative online teaching platforms like Loom or Redmenta. We have the concept inviting and sending teachers from and to our partner institutions where the teachers have the opportunity to know the new (online) teaching methods and practices. Students can also benefit from the "blended mobility" because after a short period of physical mobility they can improve their digital skills with the online learning. They have the opportunity to gain some intercultural experience during their short physical mobility and the participants leave much less "environmental footprint" because they do not use the public traffic services so the "green Erasmus" initiative will be reality;
- The core of the Erasmus+ mobility activity is the adequate procedure of the fully automatic study recognition of all credits gained abroad. Our faculty coordinators have always helped for our students to fill in the Learning agreements correctly and adequate. The administration of the Learning agreements will be moved to online soon to the Erasmus Dashboard. We have already been registered for the Erasmus Dashboard so we can receive and send the Learning Agreements online. The development of the Erasmus+ online application system for our incoming Erasmus students has already been started in the end of 2019 by our IT experts. We hope that after we developed this online application system, our IT experts can link the application system with the Erasmus Dashboard and the digitalisation will simplify to recognise the Learning outcomes.

  By the information of the Hungarian National Agency the full credit recognition rates of the University of Pannonia are a bit higher than in the other institution in Hungary (nationwide is 81%, by us 88%) so we are optimistic by the better Learning outcomes of our students. In the next few years we will start to work on the online system that enables to our outgoing mobility participants in the easier credit recognition by their Transcript of Records so we can leave the paper-based credit recognition behind. As for our incoming students: our course catalogues are online and up-to-date but we are planning to increase the number of English taught (online) courses and find an easier way to access to the incoming students. Our

grading system will be accessible in our "Erasmus fact sheet" that moves to the digital platform of the European Student Card (ESC) online surface;

- As for our Erasmus+ bilateral agreements: Revising and checking our whole list of our bilateral agreements is also a goal for us which we have already been started to revise and we will try to keep our eyes on quality not the quantity. International cooperation should be filled with content and knowledge so we try to gain Erasmus partners who aspire to implement innovative ideas in the Erasmus+ programme and opened for the civic engagement (for example the "service learning"). Erasmus+ international bilateral agreements should be published online within the Erasmus Without Paper project (EWP);
- Transparency tools for validation ECTS are needed to be published online at our institution. We planned to draw the attention of all incoming and outgoing students for the importance of the ECTS system before the Erasmus+ application. They can have information online through the starting page of the upcoming online application system and on the Erasmus+ application as well. We are hoping better and more efficient credit recognition results by informing the mobility participants through the online tools.

As for the other (not the Erasmus+ KA 103) Erasmus+ mobility projects, our institution is opened for the KA 107 action as well. We are expecting to gain the Erasmus+ KA 107 application by the one of our faculty but we have not the application's result yet. We are hoping in the future a much more diverse learning environment within of the KA 107 application at the University of Pannonia. At first we planned to enhance the numbers of academic staffs by the KA 107 project so the academic participants, teachers, tutors can leave a „using knowledge footprint" that can lead in the next seven years making international curriculums and finally for the starting of the student mobility to the non-EU countries. The key is how to build up a knowledge transfer between the foreign HEIs which all have different backgrounds. This difference should be transfer to our international strategy not only by the Erasmus Mundus (KA107) but all the other projects that are opened for all HEIs like „Joint degree programmes" and the European Universities initiative. The new Erasmus+ (KA103) programme 2021-2027 also includes the plan to open the possibility to apply for KA 107 countries as well so it will be a mobility action that our institution plans to participate if it will be possible.

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## III. Impact

The envisaged impact of the participation of the University of Pannonia in the Erasmus+ programme brings us international visibility, reputation, knowledge transfer, civic engagement and modernisation in every institutional level. The Erasmus+ programme is not only an exchange programme anymore but by participating in the programme the student/staff member gives an opportunity to get a well-paid job and engaging to the European society after the graduation so the Erasmus+ programme works as a kind of catalyser.

We need to place the whole mobility system to online platforms if we would like to have much more mobility participants. We have already talked about the how to implement the Erasmus+ to the institution's strategy now we need to indicate the factors that we need to achieve: our quantitative

and qualitative goals regarding the mobility actions. It seems so easy but for our institution the most important indicator is mobility participant itself and secondly the new tools of the Erasmus+ initiative 2021-2027.

The University of Pannonia has already been registered to the Erasmus+ Dashboard within the framework of the Erasmus Without Paper Project (EWP) so we can manage the Learning agreements online and we need to achieve the goal to manage the Learning agreements for every student in 2021. The Erasmus Dashboard will also give us the opportunity to uploading our existing inter institutional Erasmus+ agreements and if we would like to create new ones we will use the Erasmus+ Dashboard. Revising and uploading our more than 200 Erasmus+ inter institutional agreements and changing the totally paperless Learning agreement procedure is our big goal for the year 2021.

Our institution is planning to join in the European Student Card (ESC) initiative as it is possible (at least until the end of the year 2022) so after the registration with the spreading information of the mobility programmes we can have more and more Erasmus+ participants. Our main goal is to double the numbers of the outgoing and incoming students with using of the ESC. The ESC is the key to increase the quantity of the mobility participants because they can use all the Erasmus+ mobility services online within one platform. They can easily enter from every kind of devices with an ESC e-identifier that enables them to get information about the Erasmus application, apply for the Erasmus programme, managing their Learning agreements, accessing the OLS, getting information about the ECTS system, and they can access to the local student services as well. We need to improve the efficiency of the mobility procedure and increasing the satisfaction of the participants.

We are planning to start the online nomination procedure within ESC system from 2022 and receiving the electronic Transcript of Records from the year 2023. As we know these new Erasmus+ initiatives more and more we can implement more and actions within the Erasmus+ programme.

Our vision is that all tasks related to the Erasmus+ mobility will be digitalised until 2025. The digitalised mobility can come true with the connections of all the online platforms: EWP, ESC, Erasmus+ application, etc.

As for the academic and non-academic staff we are planning to encourage them to take part in the mobility activities because with the knowledge transfer they can benefit themselves first and the students. The dissemination of the mobility experiences will be also an indicator that helps to understand the opportunity and the importance of the Erasmus+ mobility. We will disseminate the good practices so we will try to convince the academic and non-academic staff of our university to go abroad to know new practices. The institutional dissemination can be a qualitative indicator to improve the modernisation of the University of Pannonia and the whole European Higher Education Area.