



Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

"Suor Orsola Benincasa" University has a long tradition of participation in the Erasmus Programme and gives great importance to the development of the Programme within its walls. Indeed, thanks to the vast network of cultural and academic exchanges envisaged by the Programme, it intends to actively contribute to the construction of the European Education and Culture Area, essential for the promotion of a common European citizenship. To this end, in line with what has already been carried out in the previous seven years and with its long and important tradition as a centre for the dissemination of cultural debates on an international level, the University wishes to further develop the already dense network of contacts with partner universities, European and non-European, increasing both the amount and the quality of the exchanges within the framework of actions foreseen by the Erasmus Programme. The aim is, therefore, to present projects in the context of Key Actions 1 and 2, with particular reference to Alliances for Cooperation for the Exchange of Cultural Practices, and to Alliances for innovation, thanks to the involvement of the University's interdepartmental research centre "Scienza Nuova" (New Science). In particular, thanks to preferential relationships established with French universities, the University intends to propose partnerships of excellence, aimed at outlining integrated educational paths within the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree intended to converge into a wider project of alliance within the European Universities framework, as a natural development of its strong European vocation and of its commitment to the full implementation of the principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. To this end, we would like to highlight a pre-eminent interest of our institution in both the general strategy of internationalization, and in the specific choices taken, in line with this strategy, in the presentation of Erasmus projects specifically for the Mediterranean area. Naples is undoubtedly a highly significant city in the Mediterranean, and for many years the University has collaborated with other prestigious institutions of the Mediterranean, in order not only to foster collaborative relationships in its main areas of expertise, but also to contribute in a synergic perspective to the education of the future decision makers and leaders around the Mediterranean basin. In light of previous relevant experiences conducted in the context of Key Action 107, we must also mention our cooperation with Tunisia in the fields of restoration and cultural heritage. Our goal for the next seven-year period is to further develop our projects in these fields, through Key Action 107, by extending their field of action to socio-legal and economic disciplines, in line with the relevant expertise offered by our University and with its consolidated experience of collaboration with other universities within the Mediterranean.

Thanks to our participation in the Erasmus Programme, we also intend to further enhance another internationalization initiative of our University's, which sees, as central to Law Studies within our institution a continuing cooperation with the U.S. universities with which the University already maintains collaborative relations. In particular, ongoing exchange programmes for students, doctoral students and teaching faculty exist with the Golden Gate University School of Law and with Fordham University, both of which we intend to further develop thanks to Key Action 107.



The Erasmus Programme is undoubtedly absolutely fundamental in determining and implementing "Suor Orsola Benincasa" University's internationalization policies.

The University has chosen to join the project of the European Student Card Initiative, towards a significant enhancement of the digitalization process of its administrative procedures to facilitate student access to information related to their training and education in Europe. Therefore, a sustained effort is underway both to simplify and improve administrative procedures and processes, thus contributing significantly to the modernisation of the University, and hence to ever better adherence to the values of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education.

Our University intends to reinforce the choices it made in the previous seven years, pursuing both the quantitative and qualitative targets of its activities related to Key Action 1, by increasing the inbound and outbound mobility of students and staff, with particular reference to the International Credit Mobility system. Indeed, it intends to give particular importance to participation in Key Action 107 in order to achieve the institution's main internationalization objectives, more specifically with countries of North Africa, the Mediterranean basin and North America.

The University is also engaged in Jean Monnet Actions, particularly in the field of Law Studies; in this connection, we recall the experience of the Chair of "European protection law of individuals in relation to new technologies". We intend to follow up on this experience, making use of the expertise of specific research centres operating within the University, with the aim of establishing a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the issues in question benefitting from the consequent interdisciplinary competences and approach. The issues of European citizenship and the history of European identity will be the subject of further specific Jean Monnet actions, with particular regard to the presentation of course modules and Networks.

The goal of the next seven-year period is also to strengthen and differentiate the University's participation in all Key Action 2 projects. Joining and promoting strategic partnerships is functional for the pursuit of the University's modernisation policies and for building synergic relationships with European businesses.

Taking advantage of the interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise of its "Scienza Nuova" (New Science) research centre, the University also intends to promote innovative strategies so as to expand and improve the range of available forms of learning and of its teaching programmes, with particular attention to the use of new digital technologies.

The University also intends to develop proposals in the context of the design of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, creating consortia with other universities, thanks to already consolidated partnerships (to date, in particular with countries in the French-speaking area) in order to further promote the international dimension of teaching and also to attract non-European students from around the world. "Suor Orsola Benincasa" University also aims to embark on the path of building a project network within the "European Universities Initiative", in order to actively contribute to the creation of a European Area of Culture and Education. The University is currently actively developing its proposal, taking into account the importance, and the fascination, of this new challenge which engages the partner institutions in a combined and cooperative effort aimed at defining a long-term



strategy that will potentially have a highly significant impact on students' lives and on their respective home countries. This project is intended to contribute, thanks to the Erasmus Programme, to the construction of a common European citizenship, and we believe that extremely positive results are to be expected for the lives of our students, our University and our local and national communities.

The Erasmus Programme has made a significant contribution towards developing the international dimension of the range and quality of the courses offered by our University. Inbound and outbound mobility within Key Action 1 has grown significantly in the previous seven years. With regard to outbound mobility (students/staff), the quantitative reference has expanded, with a significant increase in numbers.

In the next reference period, we intend to continue on the path taken, providing for a progressive and constant growth of the target audience involved in Key Action 1 (students and staff) in outbound mobility.

"Suor Orsola Benincasa" University is strongly committed to a policy of full recognition of the educational and training outcomes of the mobility activities, ensuring the full conversion of the credits acquired by its students, on the basis of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, by including the results of this process in the Diploma Supplement issued together with the "laurea" degree certificate.

In order to further increase the mobility involved in Key Action 1, the University will intensify its efforts regarding raising the level of foreign language skills of its outgoing students and staff. The University already offers training courses in the main European languages (English, French, Spanish, German and Portuguese). It is the objective of the next reference period to continue and expand this experience which has contributed significantly to increasing the qualitative and quantitative level of mobility, offering courses in both face-to-face classroom and blended modalities to broaden the "catchment area" and encourage learner attendance.

The University is also particularly careful to implement policies to adapt the amount of its co-financing in order to support the budget needs of students' mobility.

In relation to staff mobility, the University is committed to recognizing the added value of the Erasmus experience, as a fundamental training moment in a European and international dimension of teaching and related administrative functions, and considers and officially recognises these experiences as qualifying for salary and career progression.

Great attention is paid by the University to informative events dedicated to the Erasmus Programme. "Erasmus info-days" take place frequently and are organized and coordinated by the Erasmus University Delegate and the Delegates of the degree courses, with the support of the Erasmus Office. These always involve a significant participation of Erasmus alumni as ambassadors of the programme and as 'witnesses' of their experience. We consider of vital importance these information spaces about the opportunities offered by participation in the programme, as well as being valuable moments for the dissemination of its achievements. Following the same logic of testimony and dissemination, #Erasmus days are also organized at the University, providing likewise for an active involvement of outbound and inbound students as ambassadors of the programme.



This positive synergy between teachers and students involved in the Erasmus project would be further enhanced in the new reference period thanks to an increased frequency of the "Erasmus info-days" organized for the dissemination of the results of the programme.

We would also like to highlight the strong collaborative link with the University radio (RunRadio), which makes a point of conveying any information related to the Programme and to hosting interviews with Erasmus Alumni discussing their experiences, as well as with the University Delegate, the Delegates of the degree courses, the Erasmus staff, and the incoming visiting teachers of the partner universities who present their universities' characteristics to our students and staff.

"Suor Orsola Benincasa" University intends to strengthen its already significant involvement in the "Europe Direct" network, which, in a logic of civic engagement, is very active in collaboration with the Municipality of Naples, in particular in the organization of City Welcome Days by the Mayor. In this case too, student testimonials, alongside the University's Erasmus Delegate, duly contribute to the dissemination and information of Erasmus achievements.

The University has also always pursued policies to support the mobility of disadvantaged students and people with special needs, thus ensuring, according to the principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, a full and effective opportunity for everyone to participate in the opportunities offered by the Programme. Here too, the aim is to develop further support strategies. In synergy with the specific services offered by the University, it is important to implement monitoring actions on the inbound and outbound mobility of students with special needs and further involve students who have successfully participated in the Erasmus experience as Programme ambassadors.

To this extent, it intends to strengthen inbound mobility in general, continuing to pursue policies for expanding the already tightly woven network of Inter-Institutional agreements. The University also wishes to perfect the already well-structured strategies in-place for welcoming inbound students thanks to University Welcome Days and other meetings and opportunities for caring for and monitoring the students organised by the Erasmus University Delegates and by the Erasmus staff. In this case too, we make use of the availability and willingness of our students as ambassadors of the Programme who are happy to be involved with the tutors and staff in assisting incoming students for any needs related to their study period (from study to administrative, to housing or to any personal and intercultural adaptation issues). The University also offers some places free-of-charge in its university residence to accommodate incoming students, and the Erasmus Office provides useful information for finding accommodation in the city. We intend to continue to further develop these important services to improve the reception and well-being of incoming students.

The fundamental objective of the next seven-year period is to further expand the opportunities for the University to become involved in strategic alliances and partnerships for the presentation of projects within the various possibilities offered by Key Action 2. The Department of Educational, Psychological and Communication Sciences paid particular attention, in the previous period, to projects of Alliances for Cooperation and the Exchange of Good Practices, and new proposals are currently being developed, which will contribute significantly to innovating and internationalizing the University's academic and teaching strategies. It firmly intends to pursue this goal by joining the "European Universities Initiative" as a natural development of previous collaboration policies with universities in countries participating in the Programme. We will proceed in successive stages

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according to a project schedule which takes into account the needs of the University, to be presented by the Erasmus University Delegate to the Rector and ratified by the Academic Senate.
