



**ERASMUS+**

## **Proposal Template**

**Administrative Forms (Part A)  
Project Technical Description (Part B)**

**Erasmus: Key action 1: Erasmus Charter for Higher Education**

**EACEA-03-2020 ECHE-LP-2020**

Version 1.1  
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**ERASMUS+**  
**PROPOSAL (PART B)**

**Erasmus: Key action 1: Erasmus  
Charter for Higher Education**

**EACEA-03-2020 ECHE-LP-2020**

## COMMITMENT TO THE ERASMUS CHARTER PRINCIPLES

### Declaration

I, undersigned, declare that if my institution is awarded with an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, my institution will undertake to:

- Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Programme.
- Ensure equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.
- Ensure full automatic recognition of all credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System – ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility.
- Charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.
- Ensure the quality of the mobility activities and of the cooperation projects throughout the application and implementation phases.
- Implement the priorities of the Programme:
  - By undertaking the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.
  - By promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.
  - By encouraging the participation of individuals with fewer opportunities in the Programme.
  - By promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project.

### WHEN PARTICIPATING IN MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

#### Before mobility

- Ensure that selection procedures for mobility activities are fair, transparent, coherent and documented.
- Publish and regularly update the course catalogue on the website of the Institution well in advance of the mobility periods, so as to be transparent to all parties and allow mobile students to make well-informed choices about the courses they will follow.
- Publish and regularly update information on the grading system used and grade distribution tables for all study programmes. Ensure that students receive clear and transparent information on recognition and grade conversion procedures.
- Carry out mobility for the purpose of studying 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 mobile participants.

- Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for their activities abroad, including blended mobility, by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of linguistic proficiency and develop their intercultural competences.
- Ensure that student and staff mobility is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.
- Provide active support to incoming mobile participants throughout the process of finding accommodation.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining visas, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining insurance, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Ensure that students are aware of their rights and obligations as defined in the Erasmus Student Charter.

#### **During mobility**

- Ensure equal academic treatment and the quality of services for incoming students.
- Promote measures that ensure the safety of outgoing and incoming mobile participants.
- Integrate incoming mobile participants into the wider student community and in the Institution's everyday life. Encourage them to act as ambassadors of the programme and share their mobility experience.
- Provide appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobile participants, including for those pursuing blended mobility.
- Provide appropriate language support to incoming mobile participants.

#### **After mobility**

- Provide incoming mobile students and their sending institutions with transcripts of records containing a full, accurate and timely record of their achievements at the end of their mobility period.
- Ensure that all ECTS credits gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility are fully and automatically recognised as agreed in the learning agreement and confirmed by the transcript of records/traineeship certificate. They shall be transferred without delay into the student's records, shall be counted towards the student's degree without any additional work or assessment of the student and shall be traceable in the student's transcript of records and the Diploma Supplement.
- Ensure the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and/or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements (the Diploma Supplement).
- Encourage and support mobile participants upon return to act as ambassadors of the

programme, promote the benefits of mobility and actively engage in building alumni communities.

- Ensure that staff is given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement and in line with the institutional strategy.

#### **WHEN PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS**

- Ensure that cooperation activities contribute towards the fulfilment of the institutional strategy.
- Promote the opportunities offered by the cooperation projects and provide relevant support to staff and students interested in participating in these activities throughout the application and implementation phase.
- Ensure that cooperation activities lead to sustainable outcomes and that their impact benefits all partners.
- Encourage peer-learning activities and exploit the results of the projects in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals, other participating institutions and the wider academic community.

#### **FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

- Ensure that the long-term institutional strategy and its relevance to the objectives and priorities of the Programme are described in the Erasmus Policy Statement.
- Ensure that the principles of the Charter are well communicated and are applied by staff at all levels of the Institution.
- Make use of the “ECHE guidelines” and of the “ECHE self-assessment” to ensure the full implementation of the principles of this Charter.
- Regularly promote activities supported by the Programme, along with their results.
- Display this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website and on all other relevant channels.

*On behalf of the Institution, I acknowledge that the implementation of the Charter will be monitored by the Erasmus National Agencies and that a violation of the above principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the European Commission.*

*On behalf of the institution, I commit to publishing the Erasmus Policy Statement on the institution website.*

**Prof. Ferruccio RESTA**

**Legal representative of the Politecnico di Milano**

*Milan, 20 May 2020*

Signature of the legal representative

**IL RETTORE**  
*(Prof. Ferruccio Resta)*



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

## 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.

<b>Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:</b>	
The mobility of higher education students and staff	X
<b>Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:</b>	
Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices	X
Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities	X
Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees	X
Partnerships for Innovation	X
<b>Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):</b>	
Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:	X

### 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 Area<sup>1</sup> 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)

Thanks to the international experience and reputation built throughout the years, Politecnico di Milano aims at becoming a crossroad and a gateway to a network of international opportunities. To reach this aim, Politecnico wishes to further expand its capability to attract, share and exchange students and staff, as well as resources, infrastructures and skills with its partner universities.

Participation in the Erasmus program is the main vehicle through which to achieve this ambition. Typical examples of this are the strategic networks to which the Politecnico belongs (in particular IDEA League, TIME and Alliance4Tech) which, beginning with student exchange, have consolidated a relationship of knowledge and trust - an ideal environment in which to experiment with more articulated and extensive collaborations. Collaboration within the networks has now come to encompass the creation of shared educational pathways, the transmission of shared values and a common usage infrastructures and services. It has been possible, within these contexts, to implement the automatic recognition of credits earned abroad, to offer students the opportunity to expose themselves to multiple exchange experiences, encouraging their active participation in the life of the university and of society through the establishment of transnational student bodies. The exchange of students was subsequently extended to include researchers and teachers, joined together in the design and delivery of shared educational paths.

The value of these experiences and experiments coupled with the desire to increase their positive returns for the University, extending them to the local and national scene, was the impetus for participation in the activities of Erasmus Programme Key Action 2, particularly the European Universities call. The wish to actively participate in building a European Education Area is made manifest in the plan for international affairs and referred to in the University's wider strategic plan.

The plan for international affairs leaves the concept of "Internationalizations process" (seen as a series of activities different from the standard way of working) behind and designs a number of actions aimed at creating a context in which to fully operate as an International University. A University in which international students, alumni and faculty become Politecnico's students, alumni and faculty, integrated in an international context; host and home university open their courses and assets; services offered locally by Politecnico are integrated with those offered within a network of Universities. Politecnico will then confirm itself as a global university, a bridge between the local and European context.

The actions planned to reach this goal are articulated into four areas: **attractiveness, global experience, valorization, international relations**. We will describe in more detail the ones that have a stronger link to the Key Actions of the Erasmus Programme.

#### **ATTRACTIVENESS**

The objective of this first work area is to further enhance the University's ability **to attract quality students and teachers** from abroad so that they can contribute to the development of the Politecnico and its environment. One of the actions to undertake will be to increase the number of double degrees with strategic partners, and to develop common study paths in innovative and transdisciplinary fields. Other actions are related to increasing and better addressing international promotion, and to reviewing the student selection process. Attracting foreign faculty is also an ambition, even though it is not facilitated by the current Italian context.

#### **GLOBAL EXPERIENCE**

This second area of work aims **to offer all those involved in the Politecnico the opportunity to be exposed to an international environment**.

In order to help students, administrative and academic staff feel they are part of the local Politecnico community and the city of Milan, further activities should be put in place in addition to those already in existence in order to facilitate their **integration**:

- focus group with foreign students as well as PhD students, in order to better communicate the opportunities, services, and activities that the University has to offer and to brainstorm ideas for new communication methods and services

<sup>1</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

- expanding and supporting the participation of foreign students and teachers in Italian language courses (in person and online).

**The more academic staff gains international exposure** by spending time abroad at qualified universities and research centres, the greater it will contribute to generating new ideas for Politecnico's future development. The following actions will therefore be proceeded with:

- mapping of existing relations at the international level by e.g. analysing funded research projects and collaborations on scientific publications
- creation of bilateral agreements with selected partner universities, to share teaching duties between faculty, with the possibility of creating intensive/blended teaching modules
- sharing of specific research tools

**The number of students who are offered an international experience** is limited by an availability of agreements that are not fully aligned with student demand, it may also be influenced by selection methods and procedures. We will reconsider the entire selection process as follows, with a view to increasing participation.

- Benchmarking with other universities
- Redefinition of standards for obtaining a double degree
- Definition of admission and access criteria for *incoming* international students, in order to ensure they can integrate more seamlessly into our courses.
- Facilitating interaction and exchange of experiences between students
- Rationalisation of international agreements, expanding those of greatest interest to students and creating new opportunities

### VALORIZATION

The aim of this third area of work is **to maximise the potential effects and the impact of our international activities** on the job market and on the development of technologies and skills, in Italy and abroad.

**Career service and placement** processes should continue on their internationalisation path by means of the following activities, to facilitate the process of becoming an integrated global university increasingly embedded within a strong European network.

- Structured and periodic analysis of placement data of the Politecnico's international graduates, highlighting the sectors and countries of employment.
- Identification of a number of international strategic partners with whom to share and integrate a platform of career and placement services.

The international scale and membership of a strong European network also represents an opportunity for **technology transfer** and for teachers and researchers interested in developing entrepreneurial initiatives. To this end, Politecnico's activism, in turn triggers a virtuous circle that attracts human capital and thus leads to the recruitment of students, researchers and teachers at international level. The University will therefore work on establishing the first inter-university venture capital fund at European level.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The objective of this fourth and final line of work is **to define adequate tools and policies that can support the previous activities.**

Among the policies, we aim at identifying target countries with which to develop stronger connections; we plan to involve our alumni who live and work abroad as our ambassadors, to meet and inform students about Politecnico when abroad. We will furthermore map and analyse our participation in the networks we are currently member of, to use the strategic ones as opportunities to increase our relations and collaborations with the network and its members. Within the networks we can also identify partners with whom to jointly participate in some of the Key Actions of the Erasmus Programme, with whom to share best practices and carry out benchmarking activities.

Through the international relations activity, we can reach our overall aim of operating as an international university: our international relations activity will create opportunities for all members of Politecnico, students, staff, faculty, to address and discuss relevant topics, to design and plan actions or didactic offer, no longer at a local scale but within a wider European and international context.

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.



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

The objectives and policies to be implemented by Politecnico over the next years are guided by: the belief that technology will be a driving force for responsible development, through interaction with humanities and social disciplines; the importance of conceiving strategies and actions in an international framework, as levers within a European system; the desire to reframe the City of Milan as an appealing metropolitan area with an international dimension.

To achieve this vision, the University's strategic plan reports the following aims:

- To be a European crossroad of a more extensive international network
- To contribute to sustainable technological development
- To keep a central focus on the individual, from the student to the citizen
- To enhance the University's impact on civil society

Politecnico's participation in the Key Actions of the Erasmus Programme is a means to achieve these aims. Even if actively involved in presenting and implementing projects related **to each of the three Key Actions** proposed, we have decided to implement our strategic vision through the application to a **Partnership for Excellence - European Universities (Key Action 2)**. The University's strategic goals over the coming years have been transposed into this project, which is articulated around the following scopes:

- **Creation of a "European Education Area"** that overcomes national boundaries by implementing tools for sharing of good practices, and for the co-design of teaching activities and services by all subjects involved in university life (students, administrative staff, faculty, companies, third sector). The freedom of movement within the "European Education Area" is founded on a redefinition of the way we describe the educational offer: universities will identify a common framework through which to describe learning goals and outcomes, as well as a mobility semester during which students will move freely among universities to attend courses in person or through a virtual/blended modality. Automatic recognition of ECTS credits will be guaranteed by the common framework through which the educational offer has been described, ensuring that students know in advance which courses, in any university, will allow them to achieve their educational goals. Thanks to the use of the Erasmus Student Card and to the analysis of its applications in various university contexts, students will be able to access services, information and infrastructures in any university, thus minimising bureaucratic barriers.
- **Empowerment of the individual**, through the following actions: definition of an educational strategy based on European values; development of a framework for diversity and gender equality; creation of micro-credentials for life-long learners; possibility of customising educational paths based on student interests/needs, students' involvement in the design of teaching activities.
- **Impact on society**, by means of the following: dialogue between researchers from different universities on the issues of sustainable development (Smart Cities and Climate Action pilot areas) with a view to developing a methodology applicable to all major sustainability challenges, which will be dealt with through an interdisciplinary approach; establishment of a European sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem to facilitate the growth of sustainability-oriented start-ups and provide an investment opportunity for venture capital funds.

Participation in Key Action 1, 2 and 3, in the context of European Universities, is a premise and an opportunity to address more targeted actions, to be taken in relation to new teaching methods and tools, to the development of joint educational courses and pathways with strategic partners, to design capacity building and cooperation projects.

Politecnico has been increasingly involved in these actions thanks to an effective communication plan that provides information about such opportunities, and thanks to dedicated units and staff that plan and support the various phases of application, implementation, management and monitoring for each of the actions indicated.

#### **Key Action 1**

Student and staff exchange has been a consolidated practice for decades: the mechanism that has enabled the Politecnico to establish solid collaborative relationships at European and non-European level, and to expand the horizons and opportunities of its students and faculty. In order to ensure increased international exposure, the international business plan (see GLOBAL EXPERIENCE) foresees to analyse and remove any obstacle that results in a lower than desired level of participation, also through benchmarking with universities that present higher levels of mobility. We also aim to create best conditions for undertaking exchanges, double degrees and for teaching and administrative staff mobility. To this end, we plan to carefully negotiate our agreements (streamlining and strengthening of the agreements, review of the conditions for obtaining double degrees) and create a culture of sharing and exchange of good practices, using the tools made available in key action 2 and 3.

#### **Key Action 2 and 3**

Politecnico's participation in the activities included in Key Action 2 has enabled to experiment and test tool for innovative teaching and learning methods within the Engineering, Architecture and Design fields, with the support of the new digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence. The project proposals have

focused on the development of soft and digital skills at all levels of study, from first level degrees right up to research, in order to maintain a focus on empowering the individual, who builds and personalises his/her study or research path. Politecnico intends to continue building joint, European pathways in transdisciplinary areas, and in close collaboration with public and private companies.

To this end, increasingly integrated and effective collaborations will be activated with companies and with professional and trade associations, in both the teaching and research areas, in order to create innovative study paths that are coherent to the needs of the labour market in Italy and Europe. These actions will benefit not only the quality of teaching but also the students' placement. Thanks to the many opportunities for interaction with a number of international partners with stronger experience and successful outcomes in the lifelong learning field, Politecnico is beginning to delve into this area in greater depth. Actions will be carried out in part within the European Universities project, by offering microcredits for atypical learners, and in part within the IDEA League network with the creation of a joint "technical" specialisation path.

In relation to international cooperation, we intend to continue our ongoing teaching and research collaborations with partner universities and other institutions in specific Key Countries (Southeast Asia, China, Middle East, Colombia and Brazil, Russia, etc.) through a process of sharing of infrastructures and activation of combined degree programs. The more traditional collaborative efforts to modernise educational and research systems will also continue in a number of African countries, and the Politecnico aims to participate in such activities by playing a leading role in establishing an Italian and European network leading to the creation of a Campus Africa.

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.

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

INDICATORS	TARGET	TIMELINE
#mobility students	+25% +50%	2022 2027
#international faculty (exchange and employed)	+25% +50%	2022 2027
Analysis of services and structures that require the use of a student card Study of the modalities through which the card can be released (new card, virtual card)	Adoption of the Erasmus Student Card	2022
#number of digitalized processes, connected with EWP	Digitalization of all Erasmus processes (EWP)	2023
# number of students and staff attending Italian language courses	+25% +50%	2022 2027
Approval of the European Universities application/participation in a new call in case of rejection	Launch of a European University of Technology	2022
Within the European Universities framework Student Mobility International experience of students and staff	+50% +100%	2025 2025
# of life-long learning courses	+20%	2027
Analysis document of current related climate/sustainability initiatives at selected partner universities Description and agreement on a common European	Guidelines for the application of a European Climate/Sustainability framework	2023

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Framework of Sustainability for Universities		
Creation of an Italian and European partnership; strengthening of contact with selected African partners through short/blended learning/teaching mobility; experiences; activation of common didactic paths; building of the campus	Building Campus Africa	2024
# gender balanced didactic programmes	+20%	2022
	+40%	2027