



Uppsala University intends to take part in the following Erasmus activities during the duration of the Erasmus programme 2021-2027:

**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:

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## 1. Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

**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).**

Uppsala University acknowledges that internationalisation is not an end in itself in Uppsala University: Mission, Goals and Strategies, but rather a strategy to support the University's development, contributing to the quality and relevance of the research and education. The following prioritized areas are mentioned:

- International cooperation and exchange will be deepened
- Internationalisation will drive quality and enhance skills
- The University will be an attractive choice for teachers, researchers and students from all over the world

Another strategic priority that is mentioned is to offer appropriate infrastructure that will support education, the focus on digitisation and digitalisation in the Erasmus programme will support the modernisation of Uppsala University,

Uppsala University's participation in all of the actions within the Erasmus programme will contribute to attaining these goals. The Erasmus programme provides unique ways of cooperation, from mobility of individuals, to project collaborations to European University Networks.

Uppsala University has applied for an EUN project called ENLIGHT together with eight universities covering the four EuroVoc regions. The abbreviation ENLIGHT stands for: European university Network to promote equitable quality of Life, sustainability and Global engagement through Higher education Transformation. The eight participating universities are Ghent University, Belgium, University of Bordeaux, France, University of the Basque Country, Spain, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia, National University of Ireland, Galway, University of Groningen, Germany, University of Tartu, Estonia and Uppsala University, Sweden. ENLIGHT has the potential to transform Uppsala University into a truly international European university. ENLIGHT's overall objective is to be a role model for fundamental transformation of European Higher Education by pioneering international challenge-based education involving students and university staff as well as regional stakeholders. The ENLIGHT project will contribute to achieving the objectives of the European Education Areas in different ways, within the following areas: multilingualism, European Student Card, Automatic Recognition, Quality Assurance, Three Cycle Degree, synergies with the European Research Area, Student involvement.

Uppsala University recognizes the potential in, and is prepared to explore the synergies between the Erasmus programme and Horizon Europe, interlinking the European Education Area, EEA, and the European Research Area, ERA further. Some synergies are

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<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)

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more obvious; like the mobility funding possibilities provided by the Marie Skłodowska Curie actions, however Uppsala University is dedicated in going beyond the obvious and exploring synergies that are even harder to attain. As one of the goals in "Uppsala University: Mission, Goals and Strategies" is to: Expand education strengthen connection between education and research, for example via:

- Attracting more international students
- Increasing the range of internationally advertised second-cycle (master's) programmes with strong links to research.
- Developing more transdisciplinary programmes and courses based on new combination of subjects, preferably across disciplinary boundaries.
- Ensuring the volume and breadth of third-cycle education and that all doctoral students belong to or have access to a stimulating doctoral education environment.

All of these areas will be further strengthened and deepened via Uppsala University's continued participation in the Erasmus programme. Within ENLIGHT the consortium have set ambitious goals for the achievements within the EUN project, however the other parts of the Erasmus programme individually support Uppsala University in achieving these goals. For example, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees attract more students that are international, increase the number of available international Master's programme as well as provides opportunities to create transdisciplinary programmes. The new component of the KA103 will facilitate developing transdisciplinary blended courses. The Erasmus programme provides Uppsala University with standalone possibilities for international cooperation and collaboration

**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.**

Uppsala University plans to take part in all actions within Erasmus Key Action 1, 2 and 3, within the coming Erasmus programme period. Uppsala University has pursued a very ambitious agenda within the Erasmus programme 2014-2020 and have successfully run the largest mobility projects in Sweden within KA1, as well having increased the number of Erasmus funded projects within KA2 where Uppsala University has either been taking part as the coordinator or a partner. With the planned participation in the European University Network: ENLIGHT the expected results are set even higher.

The university is already active in a number of the key actions; the new programme period of 2021-2027 will be strongly influenced by the successful structures, strategies and routines already in place at Uppsala University. Most projects (KA1 as well as KA2) involve a wide range of actors internally. Many Erasmus projects are managed centrally by the Division for Internationalisation but involve (academic) staff members from different departments. For example Key Action 1 Mobility projects are managed centrally however many agreements and mobilities are coordinated on a departmental level, as a key component in successful credit mobility is in involving academic staff, ensuring the relevance and quality of teaching at selected partner universities. Some KA2 projects are managed by departments, such as Erasmus Mundus joint programmes that are designed and implemented by faculties and departments based on interest from research groups, teachers and staff.

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**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.**

The impact of the Erasmus programme contributes to the fulfilment of Uppsala University's overall goal to conduct education and research of the highest quality and relevance, and that Uppsala University will maintain and develop a leading national and international position, to make the university attractive to staff and students, as an international partner for education and research cooperation.

Highly skilled individuals with experience from learning in an international environment will form a basis for future cross-border cooperation within the academic sector as well as in the wider society, which will play an important role in the difficult socio-economic situation that Europe will find itself in after Covid-19. Uppsala University acknowledges that the uncertainty of the impact of Covid-19 on international mobility and international cooperation makes targets hard to set, the targets provided are therefore rough estimates and can and will be adjusted if necessary. Uppsala University foresees a decrease in the overall mobility numbers in the coming years, however it is also foresees that the intra-European mobility will increase after a few years and reach higher total numbers than before the Covid-19. Intra-European mobility is seen as a key factor of recovering pre-Covid-19 mobility numbers, due to geographical proximity and that EU/EES citizens have a certain set of rights within EU/EES countries such as right to medical and health care and freedom of movement, providing safety and security for mobile participants. Moreover new flexible mobility formats within KA103 such as blended mobility are also foreseen to have a positive effect on the overall mobility numbers.

The Erasmus programme provides great opportunities for staff development, especially within the staff mobility schemes. Outgoing teaching mobility is an excellent way to showcase the university and to build cross-cultural understanding. Welcoming incoming academic staff members contributes to "internationalisation at home" providing international dimensions to locally based students and staff, as well as enhancing academic excellence in the world through facilitating transfer of knowledge, ideas and pedagogy.

A key instrument in further modernising the institution is linking education and research with industry and society. Uppsala University acknowledges the opportunities provided through the Erasmus programme of regular traineeships as well as the possibility to collect data for a degree project. Relevant, high-quality traineeships abroad allow students to gain additional skills needed in their future careers. Uppsala University has noted a large increase in interest in Erasmus traineeships for these reasons, and the number of outgoing Erasmus trainees have largely increased within the programme period 2014-2020.

### **Targets**

#### **2021-2023 The overall target is to reach the mobility numbers pre-Covid-19.**

Within KA103 the targets are to reach annual mobility numbers of 600 SMS, 200 SMP and 300 staff mobilities (STA/STT). PhD mobilities are covered in the numbers of student and staff mobilities. The number of staff mobilities are set to raise during this period due to the EUN project ENLIGHT.

KA107 is an important tool to strengthen ongoing collaboration with partners outside of EU as well as a tool to initiate collaboration with new partners. Mobility numbers are expected to be similar compared to previous years, given the situation allows these participants are able to travel and get residence permits/visas.

Within the KA2 Uppsala University intends to continue to be one of the most active universities in Europe. The projects in KA2 can be used to support processes relating to digitalisation, mobility and internationalisation of the university. Currently the university is involved in about 30 KA2 projects and seven staff members work full time with the coordination of these projects.

**2024 – 2027 The overall target is to increase mobility numbers.**

Within KA103 the targets are to reach annual mobility numbers well above 1000 student mobilities (SMS, SMP and new blended mobilities) and 400 staff mobilities (STA/STT). PhD mobilities are covered in the numbers of student and staff mobilities.

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Within the KA2 Uppsala University intends to continue to be one of the most active universities in Europe. The projects in KA2 can be used to support processes relating to digitalisation, mobility and internationalisation of the university. Currently the university is involved in about 30 KA2 projects and seven staff members work full time with the coordination of these projects.

**Targets within ENLIGHT**

Erasmus exchanges within the network will increase.

Five joint degree programmes involving 10 students from Uppsala University annually by the end of the 3-year period.

Key Action 2 projects and a Key Action 3 project will be developed.

Approximately 125 students from Uppsala University will annually take part in different short-term mobilities, and eventually once online learning formats have been produced along these formats, even more students will be reached.

The exchange of teaching staff is an important multiplying factor for reaching more students, towards the end of the 3 year period 15% of the teaching staff will have been reached (and 25% by 2025), in addition to teaching exchange other staff members will also be reached and take part in the activities.

By 2025 50% of the student body will have benefitted from an international credit bearing learning experience (in the framework of a course, via physical/virtual/blended teacher exchange or (collaborative) online learning).

By 2030 100% of the student body will have benefitted from an international credit bearing learning experience.

## 2. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles

### 2.1 Implementation of the new principles

**Please explain the measures taken in your institution to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. Describe how your institution ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.**

Uppsala University is strongly committed to providing equal opportunities in order to create an attractive, open and inclusive environment for study and work. Within the new programme period, Uppsala University is even more dedicated to reach out to students and staff with fewer opportunities. One way of doing so is increased and deepened cooperation with the coordinators working with special pedagogical support for students with disabilities, to reach out to students with special needs earlier. In order to provide clear information and guidance to all students regarding the possibilities for students (and staff) with special needs to get extra funding within the Erasmus programme. Reaching out early to individuals is identified as a key priority, as more preparation may be needed to enable students with special needs to go abroad.

Uppsala University is trying to inform all first year students regarding study abroad possibilities, information regarding the possibilities to get extra funding for students with disabilities and/or with children is always included. Another key priority is to identify student ambassadors with special needs/disabilities/different backgrounds in promoting mobility for all as well as developing new information and promoting mobility for all on the updated webpages. Uppsala University is updating structure and information of its external webpages, in order to present the information in accordance with the EU directive (2016/2012) on Web Accessibility and the directive of implementation thereof.

Within ENLIGHT, specific attention will be given to students from underrepresented groups, who currently do not consider mobility as an option within their studies. These include students with disabilities or health issues, from less favourable socio-economic backgrounds, with specific (for instance cultural or religious) background that discourage from participating in a mobility, who believe that a mobility would needlessly extend their study period, and who have responsibilities towards caring for a family member. Specific actions include:

- Pooling of counselling services and improved dissemination for better use of the existing mobility options that are inclusive and/or easily accessible.
- Creating inclusive mobility solutions.
- Integrating "Inclusion and Diversity" as key topics in staff development of academic and administrative staff.
- Creating targeted scholarships/grant schemes and establishing targets for mobility in this cohort.
- Developing case studies to highlight success stories and to set and manage expectations around challenges and the facilitation options available.

**Please explain what measures your institution will put in place to implement the European Student Card Initiative, and promote the use of the programme's Erasmus+ mobile App to students. Please refer to the timeline indicated on the European Student Card Initiative website<sup>2</sup>.**

Uppsala University is committed to digitise Erasmus mobility, and acknowledges the time and efficiency gains from this. Uppsala University will implement EWP through its internationalisation management system (IMS). In order to prepare and build capacity internally in the spring of 2020 Uppsala University has taken part in an EWP pilot by the IMS developer as well as having tested the IIA manager. The launch and promotion of the Online Learning Agreement, OLA, and the E+ app to students will be made via information on the web and other relevant information channels (such as social media, information/pre-departure meetings).

**The timeline for Uppsala University's implementation of Erasmus Without Paper,** which will be adjusted, based on the European Student Card timeline:

Spring 2020: Testing period, building capacity within the Division for internationalisation

Summer – autumn 2020: Renewing of the Erasmus agreements digitally.

Autumn 2020: Identify and train pilot department(s).

Spring 2021: Pilot the Online Learning Agreement, OLA, and the E+ app for a certain group of students – evaluate the process.

Autumn 2021: Launch the OLA and promote the E+ app to all outgoing Erasmus students. Train staff members in online nomination procedures.

Spring 2022: Launch online nomination of students (for the coming semester). Evaluation of functionality and process.

Autumn of 2022 – Spring 2023: ensure possibility to exchange transcript of records, look into the interconnection of the regular student administration system and Erasmus Without Paper. Set a timeline and process for exchanging of transcripts of records. Train staff.

Autumn of 2023: Launch exchanging of transcript of records.

Partners of ENLIGHT include Ghent University, one of the founders of Erasmus Without Paper, and University of Tartu, that had a leading role in the development of e-Estonia. Hence, the creation of common standards and infrastructure of the ENLIGHT will integrate the principles of the European Student Card Initiative (ESCI), EMREX, the Groningen Declaration and the e-Estonia and hence meets the priorities of the Renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education (Brussels, 30 May 2017). It will further contribute to the development of a digital infrastructure that can be made available to partners beyond ENLIGHT, as such contributing to the European Education Area. By participating in ENLIGHT Uppsala University will gain useful experience, skills and knowledge which can be applied to all processes, through out the university.

**Please explain how your institutions will implement and promote environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ programme.**

Uppsala University launched a small-scale initiative in late 2018, awarding a small grant to outgoing Erasmus students who are choosing to travel to their study destinations with train (or alternative land/water travels if trains were unavailable). The initiative has been funded via the so-called Organisational Support of the Erasmus programme, and gives student

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en)

choosing to travel with train an extra grant of 190 EUR. The initiative seems to be the first of its kind and has inspired many HEIs in Sweden and Europe to start similar initiatives. Uppsala University has been promoting and informing about the initiative nationally as well as internationally. The initiative has been well received by outgoing students. Many students state that via travelling by train their feeling of a European identity has been strengthened and that they have had time to mentally prepare for their semester/year abroad. This provides evidence that a positive side effect of this green mobility initiative is enhanced quality of the mobility period abroad. Uppsala University is planning to continue and expand this initiative within the new programme period.

ENLIGHT is eager to present ways of engaging in international mobility without carbon footprint, by introducing a holistic approach, which integrates the physical movement from one place to another as well as the actual physical stay abroad, in order to develop tools that other universities across the globe can use.

**With regards to Green Mobility ENLIGHT will:**

- Introduce easy-to-follow guidelines and incentives for sustainable mobility.
- Use a skilled team of counsellors for online services about alternatives to emission-intensive modes of transport.
- Embark on a sustainable reforestation and forest protection programme by working closely with partners in areas densely covered by forests to off-set emissions produced by unavoidable air travel.
- Develop and promote a carbon calculator where students/staff can find ways to offset emissions generated by mobility through alternative lifestyle choices.

**In order to encourage Sustainable Living in the host city ENLIGHT will:**

- Develop a catalogue for each host town on sustainable living.
- Work on sustainable living solutions.

Moreover, ENLIGHT will be working on digital solutions, further enhancing the promotion of environmentally friendly international learning experiences.

**Please explain how you will promote civic engagement and active citizenship amongst your outgoing and incoming students before, after and during mobility.**

Uppsala University has for several years recruited so called “study abroad ambassadors” - former exchange students and/or Erasmus trainees who are actively promoting the benefits of studying abroad and marketing study abroad options available. Many students going abroad are also writing exchange reports, which are published so that potential exchange students can read and get inspired by these reports.

Several departments and/or student associations are arranging “buddy programmes” where an Uppsala student serves as a buddy for an incoming/new student. The new web page will contain links to different initiatives where students can get involved, such as buddy programmes and other activities arranged by the student associations, like the student unions and nations.

ENLIGHT will promote and embed global engagement in the learning outcomes of all its’ programmes to empower learners with the ability to address challenges from different perspectives, with global citizenship skills and with autonomy and responsibility to apply what they have learned in their local and global context. ENLIGHT will further establish a framework for structural cooperation with local stakeholders and for European and global outreach to maximize impact.

## 2.2 When participating in Mobility Activities - After mobility

**Please demonstrate your commitment to implement full automatic recognition in your Higher Education Institution.**

**Please describe the concrete steps you will take to ensure the full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during a mobility period abroad/ a blended mobility, according to the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition<sup>3</sup>.**

Two key areas for facilitating automatic recognition are in giving students adequate information before planning their courses, and in completing as much of the process as possible in advance of the student's application for credit transfer.

With regard to the first point, Uppsala University has developed a model whereby institution specific information about credit transfer is published in the internationalisation management system (IMS) and accessible for all students. The information is quality assured by the University's graduations office before publication. This is currently being rolled out for all partner universities.

With regard to the second point, a model has been developed and implemented at the Department of Business. Course offerings at partner universities are discussed on an individual basis with participating mobile students, and a pre-recognition document is established. This model is currently being rolled out across the University, to allow a quicker and safer credit transfer process for all mobile students.

Automatic recognition is an essential part within ENLIGHT European University System. While paving the way for vertical mobility, automatic recognition will also allow for flexibility of learning paths and recognition of various kinds of learning. It will enable learners to combine and accumulate the outcomes of multiple learning opportunities: short-/long-term, formal/informal/non-formal, all validated in learner records (micro-credentials).

The establishment of an interconnected course catalogue will create the technical condition for this automatic recognition. It will provide teachers with up-to-date descriptions of learning outcomes, and a digital and transportable portfolio for firm registration will allow graduates to present their achievements in a transparent way to facilitate wide acceptance. The creation of an interconnected course catalogue will be made possible by establishing a commonly agreed ENLIGHT Quality Approach, assuring comparable quality, mutually accepted institutional practices and similar "degree and learning path value" for all nine partner universities. These are all essential to achieve reciprocal recognition of study periods, in line with the EU Council Recommendation on Automatic Recognition (26 November 2018) and the concept of the European Statute. ENLIGHT will be setting up a certification system for individual courses/modules in line with the concepts underlying the European Qualification Passport and conceptual work regarding the development of digital (micro)credentials, facilitated by the principles of the European Student Card Initiative.

Uppsala University will gain useful experience in automatic recognition by taking part in ENLIGHT. This will provide Uppsala University with experience, knowledge and tools how automatic recognition may be applied and implemented university wide for all mobile participants.

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<sup>3</sup> The text of the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition may be found at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210(01))

**Please describe your institution's measures to support, promote and recognise staff mobility:**

In 2019, the Division for Internationalisation developed and adopted its first Communication Strategy of outgoing Erasmus staff and PhD mobility. The strategy is divided into different parts, such as measures to improve the information on the intra web for potential participants, service and support in applying for funding, identifying staff ambassadors and implementing travel reports in order to promote the possibilities, services and support to international coordinators on departmental level and coordination with other relevant units/divisions. The strategy has worked well in increasing the service and support to outbound mobility participants as well as to promote the possibilities of Erasmus staff mobility. Stronger emphasis will be put on ensuring recognition of Erasmus staff mobility within the upcoming programme period. Coordination with other divisions/units/roles is identified as a key priority.

Within ENLIGHT many teachers and academic staff will be trained, and a Competence Framework will be developed including for example a framework of micro-credentials to open up for lifelong learners, that could be applied to staff mobility within and beyond ENLIGHT in order to ensure recognition.

### 2.3 For the Purposes of Visibility

**Please provide the web link where you will host the Erasmus Policy statement in the future. Please reflect on how you plan to regularly promote the activities supported by the Programme.**

The Erasmus Policy Statement of the programme 2014 – 2020 is published on the external web of Uppsala University: <https://www.uu.se/en/students/study-abroad/erasmus/erasmus-study-grant/>

This may change as Uppsala University is at the moment changing the structure and information of its external webpages, in order to present the information in accordance with the EU directive (2016/212) on Web Accessibility and the directive of implementation thereof.

Uppsala University will regularly promote the activities supported by the Erasmus programme by different information channels such press releases, the internal and external web, social media accounts, in-personal and digital meetings – such as information meetings, workshops, project launches etc. Moreover, former participants, Erasmus alumni/ambassadors, are seen as important everyday source of inspiration on campus and in the wider society.

**Please describe how you will ensure that the principles of this Charter will be well communicated and applied by staff at all levels of the institution.**

The charter along with the Erasmus Policy Statement will be published on the intra web, along with more detailed information/instructions on how these will be applied in practice at Uppsala University. This information will be disseminated in different channels of internal communication to ensure all staff members and managers working with implementing these principles become aware of Uppsala University's commitment to comply with the principles of the Charter.

At each department at Uppsala University there's an international coordinator responsible for the administration of the Erasmus agreements, these international coordinators are key actors in ensuring that the principles will be applied on departmental level, so special attention will be paid to train/prepare them, especially when it comes to the new principles. Uppsala University is developing a training programme of different levels; ranging from a

basic training for new staff members to an advanced training for experienced staff members, for international coordinators. The Erasmus programme being essential to the internationalisation and modernisation of Uppsala University will naturally be part of these trainings. The training is supposed to give staff members recognition in the form of micro credentials.

The Institutional Erasmus Coordinator will also follow up that the principles, and especially the new ones, are applied throughout the institution.