



DECLARACIÓN DE POLÍTICA EUROPEA (DPE) / ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) ERASMUS+ - ECHE 2021-2027

The University of La Rioja is a modern and socially responsible University in which excellence and quality criteria are present in all its activities. As part of its strategic plan, internationalization is one of its priorities and the Erasmus+ programme has been and continues to be one of the main tools for achieving the modernization and the internationalization of the University.

The University of La Rioja has a large number of European and non-European partners which facilitate the participation in mobility and cooperation projects.

In order to make further progress in the internationalization of the institution, individuals and research and teaching activities, the University of La Rioja has identified a series of priority lines of action which it intends to achieve with the help of the Erasmus+ programme. The policy objectives for 2021-2027 are the following:

- To contribute towards the European Education Area through student mobility, so that graduates of the University of La Rioja may accredit academic training in a foreign University, the knowledge of a second language as well as reinforce their identity as European citizens.
- To significantly increase the number of graduates who have benefited from a mobility experience as part of their university studies. Nowadays, around 20 per cent of the graduates have participated in international mobility, however this value differs among the different Bachelor's degrees, being very high in some of them while others barely get 10 per cent, so we would also like to achieve:
- To homogenise and increase student mobility so that values close to 20 per cent of graduates with mobility experience are reached for all the Bachelor's degrees of the University.
- To consolidate the mobility actions established with non European partners and extend the mobility projects with countries and partners with a strategic interest for the University of La Rioja.
- To promote student mobility for traineeships.
- To promote student mobility for master and doctoral degrees.
- To support and promote academic staff mobility and to encourage them to participate in research and innovation cooperation projects.

- To support and promote administrative staff mobility as a key element for the modernization of the University's management.
- To participate in the European Universities initiative by establishing a network of partnerships which share a common strategy based on excellence, social inclusion and European values.
- To implement double and joint degrees through EMJMD projects.
- To increase the participation of the University of La Rioja in European projects such as partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices, partnerships for innovation and support to policy development and cooperation.
- To take advantage of the singularity of La Rioja as a world reference in the Spanish language to participate in research and innovation projects.
- To contribute to the international visibility of La Rioja and the University by attracting researchers from Universities and research centers specialized in the wine sector.
- To promote the participation of the University of La Rioja in development cooperation projects in those areas in which the University can share its experience. Knowledge transfer and technical assistance are the best contributions of the University to the development cooperation.

Since the University of La Rioja is a comprehensive University, partnerships are selected according to their suitability to specific objectives. Nevertheless, in addition to Europe, the University of La Rioja has identified some geographical areas of interest for international activities: Latinamerica, because of the similarities in culture and language; United States, Canada, South Korea and Australia for student mobility; Russia and Eastern Europe countries; Malaysia, Taiwan and Philippines for projects related with the Spanish language and North-African countries for development and cooperation projects.

Student and staff mobility are the basis for the modernization of the University. This kind of mobility has beneficial outcomes for the development of the intercultural skills of the participants which have a direct impact on the construction of a united Europe and a strong, collaborative and well-established EHEA.

By participating in the Erasmus+ programme, the University of La Rioja commits to work towards modernizing the University, contributing to build the European Education Area and the fulfilment of the policy objectives of its institutional strategy. This way, the University of La Rioja intends to implement the following Erasmus activities:

- Key action 1: Student and staff mobility with European and non-European countries
- Key action 2: Strategic partnerships; Capacity building; European Universities; EMJMD
- Key action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation

KA1 is a key element for achieving the objectives set out in the institutional strategy. The University of La Rioja has a broad experience in mobility management, but the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 brings important changes such as the digitalization of the programme. This has to be seen as an opportunity for the University to modernise the administrative processes and all the agents involved must know the new tools to implement digital mobility management, specifically Erasmus EWP Dashboard and the Online Learning Agreement (OLA+) platform.

Student mobility plays a major role in building the HEEA and preparing young people for their future employability. It is the responsibility of the University to guarantee the inclusion of all individuals in mobility activities, specifically those with fewer opportunities.

In order to increase the number of graduates who have participated in international mobility activities during their university studies, it is necessary to extend the number of inter-institutional agreements for those Bachelor degrees with less mobility participation. The International Office is in charge of managing the inter-institutional agreements at the academic coordinators' proposal. It will also extend the inter-institutional agreements for Master and Doctoral degrees to increase the mobility of these students. The management of the new agreements will be done by means of the Inter-institutional Agreement Manager available through EWP Dashboard.

The results achieved so far about student mobility for traineeships show the need to sign agreements with strategic companies for all Bachelor degrees. The University of La Rioja will be in charge of searching these companies with the help of the academic coordinators for traineeships.

Staff mobility will remain a priority during 2021-2027. Administrative staff mobility helps to modernise the management of the University, whereas academic staff mobility allow, among other things, to get to know new approaches about the teaching and learning processes as well as to assess the suitability of student mobility. In both cases, learning about other university systems has a positive impact on the improvement of the University, the mutual recognition of credits and the participation in collaborative projects.



International credit mobility (KA107) is an opportunity to expand and explore new collaborative projects. During 2021-2027, it is expected to maintain the partnerships established so far and start new collaborations which will help to achieve the policy objectives. The proposal of new partnerships can be institutional or fulfil academic interests. The International Office will be in charge of maintaining constant contact with the Universities to guarantee the quality criteria and the enforcement of the Erasmus+ principles by non-European Universities. As far as possible, preparatory visits will be organized before the implementation of student mobility.

All KA1 projects will be assessed by the participants' reports to improve their quality.

Staff participation in KA2 projects has institutional support. The Vice-chancellorship, through the International Office, promotes participation in these projects by organizing courses taught by external experts on finding partnerships, how to write a proposal and how to manage a KA2 project. Once the projects are approved, the International Office provides technical support and oversees the budget management.

A major challenge for 2021-2027 is to participate in the European Universities initiative, with the aim of promoting European values and excellence in Higher Education through European partnerships which share a common strategy. For this, it will be necessary to identify the European regions that can add value to the partnership network. The commitment of regional entities and companies which are willing to contribute to consolidating the consortium by accepting students for internships or collaborating in the visibility of the project will also be necessary.

As part of its institutional strategy, the University of La Rioja is firmly committed to the implementation of double and joint degrees, particularly related with wine making studies, by applying to EMJMD calls. The Rioja region is a worldwide reference in the wine sector and the University of La Rioja has a consolidated experience in advanced training in technology, management and wine innovation. In addition, the University maintains close relationships with the Rioja Regulatory Council, the Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences and wineries and companies in the region. The International Office will provide support in finding partnerships, writing the proposal, and management the project once approved. The consortium will share a joint selection process and will guarantee that graduates get the Diploma Supplement with the entire content of the Master programme.

KA3 activities to support policy development in education, training and youth aim to meet the objectives of European agendas and are implemented by Executive Agency calls. Participation in these projects has institutional support and count on the International Office to help in the dissemination of the calls and in the technical support for the approved projects.

All Erasmus+ projects in which the University of La Rioja participates will be accompanied by a dissemination plan designed with the help of the Communications Office. This communication plan will allow to disseminate the results of the projects through local media, social networks and the University web page translated into English.

The Erasmus+ programme has an overall impact not only on the University and individuals but also on the local and regional socio-economic environment. The direct impact is an improvement of the institutional reputation and on the international projection.

Student mobility helps to create global citizens, ready to face the challenges ahead and contributes to enhancing a sense of European citizens. Students develop intercultural communication skills and acquire other competences such as mastering a second language, which allow them to increase their employability. No less important is the opportunity to learn on site about the society and the culture of the host country and the friendship with people from different cultures. After an Erasmus experience, most participants are more motivated to study, work or enrol in social volunteering abroad, which is highly appreciated in the labour market.

International students at the University of La Rioja help to increase diversity in classrooms, promote global values and ensure the internationalization at home, which is especially important for those students who are not able to benefit from an Erasmus experience.

Academic staff mobility strengthens partnerships and allows the development of new initiatives such as KA2 projects. This type of mobility is also important to sign new agreements for student mobility.

Administrative staff mobility contributes to the modernisation of the University management through the exchanges of practices and the improvement of the language skills of the participants.

Thanks to student mobility, local and regional companies may take advantage of highly qualified University graduates. Mobility programmes at University level have also a high influence in high school students because these programmes are part of the presentation day of the University of La Rioja for prospective students.

Erasmus+ activities foster international relationships with people all over the world, which facilitate commercial relationships and promote tourism.

I.1 Indicators for student mobility (Global values and individual values for each Bachelor degree per academic year)

- I.1.1 Students applying for an international mobility over the total of students. Expected value: 10 %
- I.1.2 Student mobility for studies over the total of applications submitted. Expected value: 75 %
- I.1.3 Student mobility for studies or traineeships over the total of students. Expected value: 10 %
- I.1.4 Student mobility for traineeships. Expected value: 25 per academic year
- I.1.5 Student mobility (2nd cycle). Expected value: 10 per academic year
- I.1.6 Student mobility (3rd cycle). Expected value: 15 per academic year
- I.1.7 Graduates who have participated in mobility. Expected value: 20%
- I.1.8 Inter-institutional agreements for each Bachelor degree. Expected value: A 30% increase in all Bachelor degrees with a percentage of graduates who have participated in mobility less than 10%
- I.1.9 Students who felt that the knowledge of a second language improved. Expected value: 100%
- I.1.10 Students who felt that their prospective employability improved. Expected value 100%
- I.1.11 Students who felt that their sense of European citizens improved (only for mobility in programme countries). Expected value: 100%

I.2 Indicators for staff mobility

- I.2.1 Staff mobility (academic staff). Expected value: 30 per academic year
- I.2.2 Staff mobility (administrative staff). Expected value: 25 per academic year
- I.2.3 Participants who felt that the knowledge of a second language improved: Expected
- I.2.4 Participants who felt that mobility was beneficial for their job. Estimated value: 75%

- I.2.5 Inter-institutional agreements for teaching. Expected value: A 20% increase over the existing agreements.

I.3 Quality of the implementation

- I.3.1 Degree of satisfaction with the dissemination of the Calls for applications.
- I.3.2 Degree of satisfaction with the support provided by the International Office.
- I.3.3 Degree of satisfaction with the support provided by the host University
- I.3.4 Degree of satisfaction with the recognition after mobility

I.4 Participation in KA2 projects

- I.4.1 KA2 projects in which the University of La Rioja participates. Expected value: 10 for the entire period 2021-2027
- I.4.2 Training courses on proposals writing and project management. Expected value: 2 per academic year.
- I.4.3 Staff attendance to KA2 courses: Expected value: 15 per course.
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Indicative timeline for achieving the targets: 2022: 30% of the indicators; 2025: 50% of the indicators; 2027: 100% of the indicators.