



Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

International engagement is a key educational strategy to improving the quality of teaching and research at European University Cyprus (EUC), in turn enhancing the university's overall reputation.

Since 2007 EUC has advanced its status as the Cyprus' European university and developed a network of international partnerships/networks with EU and non-EU states.

Partnerships/networks have been chosen on

- (a) proven innovative operability,
- (b) confirmed efficacies of knowledge and experience,
- (c) demonstrated commitment to the 'quality service' for students and society,
- (d) the significant competence and skills they bring to the overall workforce and
- (e) pursue excellence in line with their academic mission and strategic priorities.

At the beginning of 2010 the EUC approved the Strategic Plan, which had been developed over the previous year following consultations with academic staff, students, the senior management team and members of the University Council. Based on the founding principle of being an open university, EUC promotes internationalization in accordance with its distinctive qualities.

Moreover, EUC has accomplished international cooperation agreements with EU, Mediterranean, Pacific Rim and Eurasia regions that are at the front of Cyprus' international strategy. Meanwhile, EUC promotes internationalization within local communities by taking advantage of the state's geographical location (East Mediterranean). The Office of Vice Rector for Research and International Relations - in a straight line with the Committee on International Relations, Programs and Mobility - drives EUC's internationalization strategy fostering network memberships and partnerships and promoting international mobility for students and staff. More specific, part of the EUC's Internationalization Strategy is to offer its staff and students a strong platform for international recognition, research collaboration and joint transdisciplinary programs, workshops and student opportunities in Europe and overseas. It does this through membership/partnership with principal institutions which, consequently, have an immense range of target groups.

EUC internationalization strategy places seven key drivers of quality, yet comprehensible objectives for the institution to continue to be amongst the region's leading universities:

- (1) Embed internationalization into EUC core activities,
- (2) Create sustainable recruitment of high quality international staff and students,
- (3) Attract the best students, academics and researchers and developing new forms of cross-border synergy,
- (4) Increase and sustain high quality strategic academic and professional partnerships/networks,
- (5) Build learning and teaching mobility more systematically into curricula,
- (6) Continue to internationalize the curriculum,

(7) Cultivate our international alumni to develop a strong network of EUC graduates around the world contributing to and benefitting from their close connection with our university. There is a remarkable diversity of international partnerships at present in place across the University. The aim is to develop at least three prominent international partnerships per year. These will be expanded at a number of educational levels and wrap a mixture of research, learning and teaching.

As the global research and innovation scene is changing rapidly, EUC has adopted a strategy aiming at:

- (a) the escalation of a knowledge triangle (education, research and society /business),
- (b) efficient mechanisms for supporting excellence.

Synergy with EU and non-EU countries is reflected through a number of major university memoranda. Special weight is given to the joint activities important for development of new programs, particularly on graduate level. A relatively high number of projects on bilateral and multilateral basis, including some EU funded projects (European Social Survey (ESS), Comenius, 7th Framework Program etc.), identifies EUC as an internationally acclaimed institution both in teaching and researching.

While working to comprehend teaching and training, EUC strategy for the organization and implementation of international synergy projects focuses on:

- 1) Instructive development cooperation model so as to meet regional needs.
- 2) Educational synergy generated by the academic community to meet the needs of the EU and non-EU.
- 3) Training for lecturers and professionals from the EU and non-EU countries.
- 4) Carrying out cutting-edge joint teaching programs with organizations, research groups and researchers.

EUC strategy places exceptional emphasis on promoting development joint interdisciplinary programs. EUC has been maintaining excellent relations with domestic and international academic institutions and established regular cooperative mechanisms for personnel exchanges and/or running joint projects that perform innovative education projects. The faculty members have accumulated rich international experiences by paying visits to or teaching in foreign universities or teaching in joint programs or participating in international conferences. In addition, every year EUC sends a certain number of undergraduate and graduate students abroad. A vast number of distinguished scholars, domestically and internationally, serve as honorary, visiting or guest professors in EUC.

Under internationalization strategy and, primarily, within the “Modernization Agenda”, EUC persistently expands chief multilateral projects through mobility and cross-border synergies. As synergies outline levels of excellence, they also link research, teaching and learning programs with business. Meanwhile, they provide staff and students with scenes for a dynamic contribution in multidisciplinary projects both at regional and international basis. Consequently EUC, by adopting the priorities of the “Modernization Agenda”, has a well-built regional and strong international impact on the operated networks/partnerships programs offered in all disciplines.

Such a successful cross organizational synergy has been materialized through, inter alia:

- (a) incentives for multidisciplinary, and
- b) reduction of regulatory and administrative barriers to affiliations between EUC and public-private stakeholders.

However as more need to maximize the contribution of Europe's higher education systems to innovative, sustainable and inclusive growth, modernization of the policy objectives is needed. Thus, EUC has adopted the five priorities of the “Modernization Agenda” so as to remain an attractive institution and partner of choice.

Additionally, EUC governance fosters efficient and up to date methods of management based on an accurate appraisal of the educational environment in which universities are placed in Cyprus and abroad. Besides to the expected impact, we observed certain datum and accordingly we intend to continuously accomplish positive transformation as a result of the “Modernization Agenda”:

- (1) In strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border, some matters are put forward while others occur organically,
- (2) The systems by which Faculties accomplish specific goals differ noticeably. Some issues, for instance, of the “Modernization Agenda” seem more uncomplicated than others. Most often, when issues procedures are looked at in isolation, the procedures appear quite logical in acting to accomplish the priorities. It is in the interaction between the actors that complexities arise. Some of these interactions hide divergences in the priorities of different actors,
- (3) One essential cause that the knowledge triangle is of pressing concern for today’s symbiosis is the perpetuation of a severe economic crisis. Despite the fact that the triangle promises many benefits for improving quality and efficiency, its strategic execution can be very convoluted, particularly to business actors due to cost difficulties.

EUC will continue to expand and enhance priorities within the “Modernization Agenda” to further

- (a) advance and improve international exchange and cooperative arrangements,
- (b) promote internationalization jointly with the ‘knowledge triangle’
- (c) carry out cutting-edge joint research with EU and non-EU organizations, groups and researchers,
- (d) accept first-class students and faculty,
- (e) integrate international perspectives into all study and research programs and administrative support manners.