

ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2021-2027

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in our EPS

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:

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): our strategy

CEU San Pablo University receives around 600 international students from all over the world every year and sends almost 400 students to study abroad. With more than 350 agreements, USPCEU has a consolidated collaborative relationship with different universities in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia. For several years, USPCEU has been strengthening its cooperation with Africa through different projects in Makeni, Sierra Leone, which has been included in the KA107 actions undertaken by the university. In the framework of the KA2 action, USPCEU has participated in various projects related to Architecture, Nutrition and social work, learning methods and has as main target to increase its participation in KA2 actions as coordinator institution. In addition, USPCEU has experience in Jean Monnet's modules and action networks and plans to deepen its activities in this area.



The USPCEU facilities include 8 research centers and 11 main research centers, which total an area of 3400 m² dedicated to research. The university has 52 research groups. During the last five years, USPCEU has participated in more than 60 research and training programmes with funds from regional, national and European competitive calls. Currently, the university participates in 36 competitive research projects, with a budget of 3.2 million euros and participates in 4 awarded H2020 projects.

Taking into account the above, USPCEU is working hard to promote collaboration between universities beyond the traditional mobility of students and staff, seeking to implement different forms of exchanges, promoting international mobility with credit recognition and strategic collaboration in areas of specialization, like digitization.

CEU San Pablo University's New Erasmus Statement is based on reshaping the internationalization of the University from an holistic point of view, adding additional activities in the future, to optimize Erasmus' benefits over our students, professors, staff and trainees, in order to re-skill mainly students as the workforce of the future in an increasing competitive context at higher educational institutions (HEIs). In this sense, the University's strategy is linked to a close collaboration with partner universities that meet the quality and internationalization requirements USPCEU chases.

It is known that students/staff/professors who participate in international mobility are better prepared to face the current and future world. It is already known that the labour of the future will be more global than ever. Therefore, the new statement has been designed to increase CEU's community mobility, its inclusion and social commitment, as well as its concern about environment. In this sense, the use of the Erasmus Without Papers network is included in the agenda of our institution. USPCEU is adapting its digital management to achieve the following milestones established by the European Commission:

2021 - to manage inter-agency agreements and online learning agreements

2022 - to send and receive nominations and acceptances of students

2023 - to exchange transcripts of records related to student mobility

2025 - all students in Europe should be able to enjoy the benefits of the European Student Card Initiative

CEU San Pablo's Erasmus Statement is designed and aligned with the seven flagships of the EU 2020 strategy, in order to promote, not only youth mobilities, but also the re-skilling of Europeans, the connection with industries, the promotion of inclusivity, eco-friendly university processes, and the increase of competitiveness of USPCEU in a global context. Hence, USP-CEU will take advantage of the benefits of new disruptive technologies in the development of many of the new Erasmus activities.

TARGETS. We propose (overall objectives):

1. **To improve the existing Erasmus mobility performance of CEU San Pablo University (USPCEU) community and to promote EU values.** The aim of our mobility activities has been the academic and professional enrichment of our students, professors, researchers, staff and trainees. Every year, our strategic aims look to improve the quality and diversity of these experiences, as well as to increase

the total volume of mobilities, through new and relevant agreements. The final objective of these mobility activities should be the continuous improvement of our procedures, and ultimately the impact of our graduates on society and the promotion of EU values, thanks to their experiences in CEU San Pablo.

2. **To improve societal engagement, non-discrimination and inclusivity of the Erasmus Performance of USPCEU community.** USP-CEU will ensure equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds, paying attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities. It will also increase the participation of beneficiaries of Erasmus activities in civic and social engagement projects.
3. **To challenge CEU San Pablo University community “statu quo” and its internationalization in order to become one the universities of the future (green campus), taking part in new Erasmus activities in the future.** The new Statement will promote new activities, that will improve digital the role model capacity of USP-CEU as a high-quality institution, and the environmental concern of the direct and indirect participants.
4. **To reshape CEU San Pablo University community in order to impact society through a unique, inclusive and innovative approach, using digital technologies, from a human and ecofriendly perspective, that includes new Erasmus digital activities in the future.** For instance, new digital degrees programs, student’s hubs & innovative labs, collaborative online international learning (COIL) experiences, virtual mobilities and other activities will use new disruptive technologies for a better world.

EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA

The USPCEU proposal is aligned with the objectives established by the European Union for the development of the European Education Area. USPCEU is very concerned about the need of enabling all young people to benefit from the best education and training, and to find employment across Europe. Several measures are defined to achieve these goals:

- **Knowing two languages** (Spanish and English) in addition to one’s mother tongue:
 - Alexa skill: we will develop the Alexa skill for language learning and training, with a multilingual option so that any student can use it in their own home with flexible schedules and adapted to the communication and learning channels of their generation.
 - EMI: we will develop actions to promote English as Medium of Instruction (EMI). It is not only about learning the language, but communicative skills to use it effectively with students.
 - Spanish courses for incoming students
- **Degrees taught in English:** as part of that internationalization, USPCEU has increased the implementation of degrees in a common language (English) which allows students to study in a language different from their mother tongue. It also has

to be with the English as a Medium of Instruction Strategy delivering innovative learning and teaching methodologies.

- **Adoption of the best practice model for automatic credit recognition of European university alliances:** this model will be adopted, in a first phase, through automatic recognition by the EUniversiTECH alliance members in complete synchrony with the Bologna aims, achieving a European transnational educational system. The USPCEU leads a project of the "European Universities" call, the project (EUniversiTECH), aimed at reaching unreached levels of collaboration between higher education institutions in the areas of digitization and internationalization. This project is presented in conjunction with seven other partner universities, covering all geographic regions of the project. The mission of the EUniversiTECH alliance is to develop a shared, open and inclusive network for sustainable learning, research and innovation, to end the digital divide in higher education institutions (HEIs), in the public and private sector and in the whole society. Likewise we will join with the secure electronic system for the storage and retrieval of academic diplomas to facilitate verification of authenticity through blockchain technology as has been in place since 2018 at San Pablo Foundation (FUSP-CEU). Within the alliance, mutual recognition will be achieved through joint/double degree proposals, shared degrees and general learning agreements in order to allow students move freely throughout the continent.
- **Credit recognition between USP-CEU partners and an increase in shared experiences:** USPCEU will foster the recognition of subjects in order to development of joint/dual degrees proposals, COIL activities and other high-quality educational experiences among partners.
- **Interaction of Vocational Training and the University:** the link between VET and the university will be promoted through Erasmus actions. As an example, the K108 consortium of internships requested in 2020 and linked to the Alliance of European Universities, in which the VET centers of the CEU San Pablo University Foundation participate.
- **European Student Card:** its use will allow the universal recognition of student status and identity. During the mobility the students will receive easy access to services without the need to request a new student card at the receiving institution. This will improve the student' experience with the Erasmus+ program in general. Among others, the main utilities will be the recognition of student status and identity, easier transfer of students records, direct access to campus or controlled spaces, such as libraries or gymnasiums, or access to payment services in common facilities (development of electronic wallet on some campuses).
- Following the **EU Digital Action Plan** and the **European Education Area**, and closely related with the aim of the project, we include different actions to support technology use and the development of digital skills in education. In this sense, the mission of the EUniversiTECH alliance is to develop a shared, open and inclusive network for sustainable learning, research and innovation, to end the digital divide in higher education institutions (HEIs), in the public and private sector and in the whole of the society.

SYSTEMIC, STRUCTURAL AND SUSTAINABLE IMPACT IN THE NEW STRATEGY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CEU SAN PABLO UNIVERSITY

- **Systemic impact:** From a systemic structural point of view, we foresee a major change in the academic programs in order to facilitate transfers of credits among academic programs. This new shift will mean to unbundle and rebundle higher education teaching & learning model at USPCEU.
- **Structural impact:** We expect a change of the traditional models of internationalisation behaviour. USP-CEU collaborative model with other HEIs and associated partners will be based on the aim of collaborating with different partners (e.g. K107, K203, etc.) in order to be a role model at Erasmus level policy.
- **Sustainable impact:** USP-CEU role model for the long-term will mean an increase of the competitiveness, sustainability, and effectiveness of the university and CEU Educational Group.

In order to get it, USP-CEU has given its first steps:

- The first step towards the new strategy of internationalisation of USP-CEU has been the transformation of the Vice rectorate for International Relations into the **new Vice Rectorate for Internationalisation and Digital Transformation** in the academic year 2019-2020. In a second phase, it is planned to adopt a transversal perspective of digital, holistic transformation, at University level, with its own and differentiated service, within the framework of the University's modernization and updating strategy, which will enhance other dimensions of virtual internationalization (logistic, academic, financial, etc.).
- The next step has been leading an application for the **European universities' alliance call 2020** by CEU San Pablo Foundation (CEU-FUSP), whom USP-CEU university belongs to. The alliance (acronym **EUniversiTECH**) is based on new teaching and learning processes that include new technologies that develops new common academic rules -academic automatic recognition, virtual mobilities, unbundle education model, shared services, etc.-)
- Moreover, the **crisis of COVID-19** has been a challenge for the full digitalisation of USP-CEU, that has successfully been achieved in a few days/weeks. It has opened the door to virtual mobilities (for the existing incoming students in 2019-2020 academic year), to virtual management of mobilities by the staff and to virtual teaching and learning processes. Hence it will be easier to accelerate future virtual mobilities or strategies such as Erasmus without papers, in order to be eco-friendlier.