

**EUROPEAN POLICY STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND**  
**FOR THE YEARS 2014 - 2020**

The University of Eastern Finland, UEF, is a multidisciplinary public research university with 15,000 students and four faculties: the Philosophical Faculty, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies. UEF was established in January 2010 as the result of the merger of the University of Joensuu and the University of Kuopio. UEF has campuses in Joensuu, Kuopio and Savonlinna. The special areas of expertise of UEF are research and teaching relating to forests and the environment, health and well-being, and new technologies and materials. Evolving areas of expertise include certain areas of Teacher Training, as well as research and teaching relating to Russia and Border Studies.

Internationalisation is one of the cornerstones of UEF in its institutional Strategy and Internationalisation Policy. Through internationalisation, UEF seeks to achieve the highest international standards in research and teaching. It is the aim of UEF to enable its students to compete successfully in today's global employment market. UEF considers Europe as its main strategic area of cooperation. UEF's other strategic areas of cooperation are North America and the BRICS countries, and other emerging economies. In international cooperation, UEF gives preference to distinguished research universities with expertise complementing UEF's special areas of expertise. UEF has concluded bilateral and Erasmus agreements of cooperation with more than 450 universities all over the world. During the year 2013, UEF reviews all its partnerships and defines its Strategic and Key Partners, as well as Partners. To fulfil its global responsibility, UEF also works with universities in developing and Neighbourhood countries. The EPS sets objectives and priorities for UEF's participation in the Erasmus Programme for 2014-2020.

Erasmus student, trainee, teaching staff and staff training mobility shall continue to be developed on the basis of bilateral agreements, primarily with Strategic and Key Partners, and with other well-established partner institutions based both in EU and non-EU countries. Global mobility shall also be developed within Erasmus Mundus Action 2 and Action 1 projects, of which UEF has recognised experience. In addition, mobility of students, teaching staff and other staff shall be realised under the Capacity Building Action of the Erasmus Programme, within projects to be carried out with universities in the EU's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood countries, as well as in Enlargement countries.

Through international mobility, UEF aims at offering an internationalisation experience to all participating students and staff members, to enhance tolerance and understanding of different cultures, and to enhance the quality of teaching through constant exposure to peer reviews. UEF is convinced that as teaching staff learns to know their partner institutions better it will be easier for students to have their studies abroad recognised within the framework of the ECTS system, to which all faculties of UEF are committed. UEF also aims at improving the employability of students by encouraging them to look for Erasmus placements related to their studies at enterprises or organisations abroad, with the support of their faculties. Placements completed abroad shall also be recognised as part of

the students' degree studies. Students not participating in mobility will be able to benefit from the multicultural environment created on their home campuses through the presence of international Erasmus students and staff.

Efforts shall be made to enhance reciprocity in all mobility and exchanges. In accordance with the Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and with UEF's Plan for Equality, UEF is committed to offering female and male students and staff, as well as students and staff with special needs and backgrounds, equal opportunities to participate in Erasmus mobility. Erasmus agreements with partner universities shall be prepared by the International Relations Office, IRO. Services for incoming and outgoing Erasmus students and outgoing staff shall be provided by UEF's International Mobility Services. Services for incoming teaching and administrative staff shall be provided by the academic departments concerned, with the support of UEF's International Staff Coordinator. Language preparation for both students and staff is offered by the Language Centre, in accordance with UEF's Language Policy. Evaluation of mobility activities shall be realised on the basis of written reports required of all participants.

To raise the quality of educational cooperation to a new level, UEF participates actively in a variety of curriculum development projects, drawing from its experience in the Erasmus Mundus programme. Special emphasis is placed on the implementation of double and joint degree programmes, at both Master's and doctoral levels, with Strategic and Key Partners in both EU and non-EU countries.

UEF considers the new Erasmus Programme as key to educational cooperation with its EU and non-EU partners. Complementary funding for projects shall be provided by the faculties and departments concerned. The IRO informs the International Relations Coordinators of faculties and departments about calls for applications. Faculties and departments are responsible for the realisation of projects. Good practices in financial administration and evaluation of projects are assured by financial officers of faculties guided by UEF's Financial Office.

Under "Strategic Partnerships", UEF will realise Erasmus Intensive Programmes and Curriculum Development Projects, e.g. joint and double degree programmes, with its EU and non-EU Strategic and Key Partner universities, and with enterprises. Non-EU partners bringing added value to projects are invited to join consortia. Innovative cooperation with enterprises shall mean developing new types of internships for students both in EU and non-EU countries, e.g. in China, Russia, other BRICS countries, and in North America. In order to promote Europe's innovation capacity, UEF will play an active role in Erasmus "Knowledge Alliances", e.g. in the fields of Educational Technology and ICT for Development. Based on its experience with Tempus projects, UEF will participate in the "Capacity Building" Action of the Erasmus Programme with universities in the Enlargement Countries and in EU's Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood Countries. Student and staff mobility with these countries shall be realised within Joint and Structural projects. UEF will also carry out Joint and Structural projects with universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

UEF will contribute to the global marketing of European universities by participating in projects "Promoting Attractiveness of European Higher Education". In addition, UEF will

share its know-how on evaluation and quality assurance of higher education within projects to be realised with EU-partners and ENQA.

In accordance with the Higher Education Modernisation Agenda of the European Union, UEF aims at considerably increasing the number of its graduates by 2020. As a participant in the new Erasmus Programme, all faculties of UEF are committed to the use of the ECTS system in order to guarantee full recognition of studies and work placements completed by Erasmus students and trainees abroad. The number of international graduates is also expected to increase, since, as earlier experience has shown, many of the students who came on an exchange at UEF will be returning to complete a Master's or Doctor's degree at UEF later on.

By giving priority to realising Erasmus exchanges of teaching and research staff with Strategic and Key Partner institutions, UEF will enable its staff to equip students and graduates with new knowledge and core transferable competencies which they will need to succeed in high-skill occupations offered by today's global employment market. By increasing exchanges of teaching and research staff, the quality of teaching will be improved.

By participating in the new Erasmus Programme, UEF will be able to offer its students opportunities to improve their higher education performance and to gain additional skills while completing placements at enterprises abroad. Within the capacity building projects of the Erasmus Programme, UEF's students and staff will have opportunities to familiarize themselves with cross-border cooperation with the Neighbourhood Countries of the EU. UEF's constant dialogue with enterprises will strengthen the Knowledge Triangle in Europe. UEF will also continue to provide placements to incoming Erasmus trainees in cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce of the region.

In accordance with its Human Resources Policy, UEF will strongly encourage its staff and students to participate in the new Erasmus Programme. Participation in Erasmus projects is considered as part of the management and leadership training for the university's personnel. UEF's participation in the new Erasmus Programme will also further enhance the competence of the university's financial administration in the management of EU funding.

This European Policy Statement was approved by Professor Perttu Vartiainen, Rector of the University of Eastern Finland, on May 3, 2013.