

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff x

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices x

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities x

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees x

Partnerships for Innovation x

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation: x

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

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 Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Since the beginning of the Erasmus programme the Universitat de València (UV henceforth) has been deeply involved in it and all these years the mobility experience and the participation in cooperation projects have been increasing. In fact, UV nowadays has a leading position in receiving and sending Erasmus students. This shows both the degree of internationalization and the implementation of the Erasmus programme in the institution. In present days the UV has the vision, according to its legal and statute framework, of training competent professionals at European Professional Standard and to encourage prestigious research with international implications that will contribute to the development of our society and evidently this implies strengthening the internationalization dimension.

That is why, after the award of the ECHE, the UV, considering the new circumstances created by the COVID 19 pandemia, intends to carry out a deeper implementation of the Erasmus programme by effectively disseminate Erasmus actions and promoting new types of mobilities (virtual, blended) not only among graduate and postgraduate students, but also among teaching and non-teaching staff in order to increase the percentage of the participation of the whole university community.

Clearly, all this will imply to open new strategic areas and, consequently, to update and make new agreements with partners. The UV has wide experience in choosing partner universities to do international mobility because of the running international mobility programmes and the satisfactory relations in joint research activities. All these institutions are widely spread around the world, but traditionally the UV has cooperated with two main geographical areas: EU partner countries and Latin America, since they were considered strategic areas to achieve the internationalization objective. Other geographical areas such as the United States, Russia or East Asian countries have also had priority for the UV owing to the well consolidated mobility and research experience and the enormous potential in the High Education area of the developing countries. All the above agreements in the frame of the ECHE will set up a working framework to develop more cooperation projects with both other EU partners and non-EU partners based on identified needs and following geographical and subject priorities of the internationalisation strategy.

Participation in the Erasmus Programme will imply to expand the internationalization strategy of the UV. These exceptional times demand new approaches to internationalization and the Erasmus programme is an excellent tool to achieve it. In fact, the UV, both deeply rooted in its surrounding territory and permanently in the move of widening its borders, generates knowledge, educate individuals and shares scientific and technological advances in order to improve the living conditions of the entire population. Traditionally, its internationalization strategy has been based on its capacity to attract students and staff from other countries and the external projection of their research progress. In the last decades the participation in European programmes such as Socrates, Lifelong Learning Programme and Erasmus+ (over 30 years) have greatly influenced in the concept of internationalization, but in this 21st century context, the internationalization of the UV has a multidisciplinary and transversal dimension where factors such as the development of information and communication technologies, the awareness of climate change, the need to preserve the environment and the ethical commitment to fight inequalities of all kinds need to be taken into account.

European University networks are an effective tool for taking concrete steps towards a European Education Area and the UV acts as a partner in a European University Alliance, FORTHEM, (Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility) whose leading principle is to develop a Transnational Higher Education Strategy. Being a committed member of FORTHEM Alliance allows our University to develop innovative new teaching content by pooling of expertise, to launch new physical and virtual forms of student and staff mobility, to enhance our societal involvement, to promote the civic engagement of students and to transfer research-based knowledge into society. Together with our FORTHEM partner universities and our other key partners within Erasmus we will be able to educate active and skilled European citizens and to give a strong contribution to creating a more competitive, more innovative European Education Area.

The participation of the UV in the Erasmus programme through all three key actions perfectly fits into its above mentioned modernization and internationalization strategy, because both share the same above objectives: (1) the increase of the staff and student mobility to improve training, (2) the participation in European and international cooperation projects for innovation and research, (3) the enhancement of linguistic and intercultural competences of all members of the University

¹ 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

and (4) the development of integrated and transnational teaching activities (joint courses, modules, joint degrees and so on) to consolidate the University participation in the main international area and (5) reaching the democratization of knowledge and global social progress. Thus, the UV will enhance the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience and will focus on degrees with international content in international faculties and centres on virtual or physical campus, language skills and awareness of multiculturalism, recognition, international governance policies and strategies.

The participation of the UV in Erasmus will surely contribute towards its own modernization process, because it will mean a step beyond in the internationalization plan. As already mentioned, the UV has participated in the Erasmus programme from the very beginning and has occupied leading positions among European universities in terms of student mobility. The next step is to fully achieve modernization and internationalisation by fostering other types of mobilities also addressed to more target groups, especially individuals with fewer opportunities, also by developing more cooperation activities through the participation in international alliances such as the above mentioned FORTHEM European University initiative and by pursuing policy towards the fully digitalization of administrative processes that will be more environmentally friendly.

The Erasmus programme has been part of the strategy for modernization and internationalisation of the University, because the programme, as a tool, was in line with the objectives of the institution. Consequently, the UV is in line with the goals of a European Education Area laid down in the communication on “Strengthening European Identity through Education ...” (17 November 2017) that underlines the need of developing education and culture as drivers for job creation, economic growth and social cohesion as means to experience European identity in all its diversity. These goals will be achieved by spending time abroad for studying and learning purposes and, consequently, obtaining higher education qualification recognition across the EU. Evidently, knowing two languages in addition to one’s mother tongue will be an asset and providing equal access to high quality education, irrespective of their socio economic background, will be a need.

The strategy and policy of the UV includes the efficient implementation of the Erasmus programme by allocating responsibilities to individuals at all levels of the institution, from senior management to the heads of departments, schools and faculties, to academic and administrative staff. Actually, in the central level the Principal and the Vice Principal for Internationalization and Cooperation acting by delegation are in charge of designing the implementation plan that sets out explicitly the financial and human resources available and takes decision for the efficient implementation of the programme. The office for Internationalization is responsible for the overall administration of the programme such as the signature of the Inter-Institutional Agreements, the nomination of the incoming students and the selection of outgoing students and staff. The academic staff from faculties and departments is also responsible for acting as Erasmus+ coordinators; they are the contact persons for all academic related questions under Erasmus programme such as opening windows for mobilities in new strategic areas and the formal academic recognition.

Mobility is important to the development of the institution as a whole as well as for the individual participants. Therefore, the UV has traditionally made mobility and international cooperation a central element in its institutional policies, and explicitly and consistently has promoted and supported student and staff mobility in many ways such as providing co-funding or recognizing the mobility periods. Non-discrimination policies and further emphasis on the promotion of mobility for under-represented groups form an integral part of the institutional support structures and this is a point where further emphasis will be placed under the new programme.

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.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The UV will take part in all three key actions of the Erasmus+ programme: learning mobility (KA1), cooperation among organisations and institutions (KA2) and support to policy development and cooperation (KA3) as a way of contributing to achieve the five above objectives of the UV.

The high participation in mobility of UV students and staff (KA1), already on leading positions, will be underpinned by high quality mobility in cooperation with its Erasmus partners, over 400 partners from partner and third countries (International Credit Mobility action) at present, and other strategic partners such as enterprises and regional authorities, so that students get familiarized themselves with Europe’s different regions. At this point, implementing the three key missions, Mobility Mission, Labs Mission and Outreach Mission, of the FORTHEM Alliance seeks to institutionalize an environment of permanent and deeper academic cooperation and to build up a joint campus, allowing seamless physical, virtual and blended mobility and joint teaching. Since student and staff mobilities are an essential part of FORTHEM activities, a growing part of our university’s learning mobility activities (KA1) will be implemented in connection with KA2, in the European University –framework.

The Partnerships for Cooperation and Exchanges of practices and for Innovation (KA2), will continue to be promoted. At this moment, the UV is taking part in ten partnerships and is leading five of them. The goal is to increase this type of collaboration and the latest 2020 proposals submission confirms this tendency. Concerning Partnerships for Excellence-

Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees, the UV is now leading a Joint Master Degree in Work, Organizational and Personnel Psychology and taking part in another one in Theoretical Chemistry and Computational Modelling. The aim is to strongly reinforce this international programmes and, again, the European University project and all this joint actions will be a way to develop this.

The UV already takes part in networks and policy support measures (KA3) such as Securing the Best Interest of the Child in Educational School Administration (SEBI) (612177-EPP-1-2019-1-CY-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN) and Social Inclusion and Common Values: the contribution in the field of education, training and youth

The UV Strategic Plan (PEUV 2020-2023) maintains a four-strategy plan which corresponds to our Universitat's activity fields; namely: teaching; research; campus life and participation; transference and innovation. One of the transversal goals of the plan is boosting the international dimension of the UV through different actions that correspond to the Erasmus+ actions: firstly, internationalization of grades and postgrades through mobility actions (KA1) among others, staff mobility proportion as an integral part of the UV staff's professional development and participation in international cooperation projects (KA2), seen as a central aspect in the UV Strategic Plan, because it will lead to the further development of the UV international involvement. This means to fully promote as support research and innovation networks that will work towards outcomes on Erasmus priorities and topics. Finally, the UV plan also contains strategic lines to support policy development and cooperation that will be promoted through actions such as KA3 actions of the Erasmus programme.

The following concrete actions of the three FORTHEM missions will strengthen the institutional capacity to achieve the strategic aims of the UV institutional strategy:

- Implementing new innovative forms of long-term and short-term student and staff mobility, including an increase in virtual and blended mobility
- Launching FORTHEM Campus –concept with jointly organised semester-long programmes on rotating hosting campuses for students from all seven universities
- Developing new English-medium modules in fields of special expertise and new joint degree programmes in relevant topics
- Increasing students' internship opportunities and volunteer work projects
- Developing digital competences of academics with jointly implemented training
- Encouraging the sharing of good practices related to innovative pedagogy
- Strengthening the linkage between education and research with the help of FORTHEM Labs

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.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Erasmus programme has been providing over these years opportunities for learners and practitioners to gain skills and undergo personal, socio-educational and professional development through study, training, work experience or volunteering abroad. Erasmus actively builds positive attitudes towards the EU and contributes to the development of a European identity across all funded activities.

The UV students and staff who studied, taught or trained abroad (KA1) not only gained knowledge in specific disciplines, but also strengthened key transversal skills, which are highly valued by employers. Interviews before and after exchange periods abroad were done (UV job insertion centre) and these revealed that Erasmus students show higher social values and become more entrepreneurial, because Erasmus improves career prospects, and offers students broader horizons and social links.

Moreover, the ESN survey 2019 (on Active Citizenship and Student Exchange in Light of the European Elections) shows that students with an exchange experience are far more engaged in civil society organisations than the average European youth. They have a higher interest in voting on an EU level, but are less likely to do so on exchange due to difficulties in accessing their voting rights. Given this context, there is a clear opportunity to create added value by actively promoting and organising activities that allow mobile participants to be civically engaged, develop their skills beyond the formal

education setting, volunteer and take active part in their local society. The activities to be carried out within FORTHEM alliance are being designed in this direction and they are planned to have a long-term impact; generated outputs and best practices can be replicated in other higher education institutions. The mobilities, training modules and projects will have impact on the personal and professional careers of UV students, staff and non-university partners. Additionally, working out innovative solutions in FORTHEM Labs will have impact on the regional and national levels and improve mutual understanding and citizen development in very different parts of Europe. That is, the regional anchoring of the FORTHEM Alliance gives the capacity to spread the values of a multicultural Europe within the surrounding areas and to “enrich lives and open minds” beyond university campuses. Furthermore, the collected global partnerships of the FORTHEM-alliance will extend the collaboration possibilities of individual FORTHEM-universities to new regions outside Europe.

The UV academic staff in workshops and info days at the UV regarded staff mobility effective for international cooperation and observed beneficial effects on the quality of teaching and on multi-disciplinary and cross-organisational cooperation in teaching. This will lead to further development of the European Higher Education Area, in general, and the UV's international involvement, in particular.

As above seen, cooperation activities such as strategic strategy partnerships are integrated in the UV's modernization. They encourage peer-learning activities, improve learning provision, create new materials and develop new approaches. However, staff from enterprises and other institutions also collaborate in cooperation projects and the impact is immediately seen in the i) cooperation between the institution and enterprises and ii) improving students' understanding of the mind-set and challenges of enterprises. An important indicator for assessing the potential for further Erasmus projects is the success rate: the relationship between project applications/proposals, on the one hand, and the share of projects granted on the other. In 2019 Call the UV took part in the submission of 49 proposals approximately and at the present is leading and acting as a partner in 18 projects.

It has also been noticed that the numbers of non-mobile staff and students also benefit from the international experiences of others. In fact, as part of the monitoring and evaluation processes, the UV considers the impact which can be specifically made on non mobile staff and students, giving them “internationalisation at home experiences”. This includes building international competences, cultural awareness, virtual mobility opportunities, inviting international lecturers and embedding student projects with an international focus into the curricula, and providing opportunities for local students to work together with incoming mobile participants in e.g. project work, to ensure that local students benefit from the presence of mobile students at their institution. Examples of these practices at the UV are the Entreiguals buddy Program for the cooperation between local and incoming students, the European Theatre Project of the Universitat de València (Escena Erasmus) to encourage students' creativity and their participation in the local culture (the idea has already been successfully implemented at the universities in Marburg (Germany), Padua (Italy) and Cagliari (Italy)), Tastallengues, a Valencian and multicultural dinner where International and local students are invited to bring along food and drinks typical for their countries and the Speed Cafenet, a meeting and chatting activity to meet students and practise EU languages.

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.

By signing the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, the UV agrees to respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff as set out in the Programme, which means that all individuals or groups will be treated equally, irrespective of their characteristics in accordance with Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, there should be no discrimination "based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation".

All this can be seen in the fact that the UV does not charge any type of fees to incoming mobility students for the tuition, registration or examination or for their access to laboratory, library and other facilities offered to local students. Mobile students are only required to pay small fees for insurance and student card on the same basis as these are charged to local students and they are made aware of these extra costs before the start of mobility via institutional web page.

All students and staff (incoming and outgoing) are treated equally in all academic and service matters in accordance with equal access and opportunities. Incoming mobile participants are provided with full access to the same services and facilities available to local students and staff. Furthermore, guidance and counselling are offered for support to newcomers.

At the UV an online tool manages the application procedure in the entire study period. This online tool simplifies and reduces the time for setting up and approving the Learning Agreement, and the recognition of credits upon return. It allows the needs of different target groups to be met from students with special needs to part time students, and to have a successful mobility experience. The tool ensures transparent, consistent procedures for all the mobile students, and thus prevents unequal treatment. Finally, every student can check the state of the procedures and the steps to be taken at any time.

Furthermore, the UV is the leading university in Spain to send disadvantaged students to partner universities within the Erasmus+ programme. Actually, it has a dedicated 'Service for Students with Special Needs' that supports the participation of disadvantaged students in study mobilities and placements through a number of measures such as guidance, counselling, mentoring and exam adjustments. Erasmus+ additional funding for disadvantaged mobile students are also available and the UV own policy for the promotion of mobilities among disadvantaged students also includes additional funding from own resources.

Additional and complementary funding is dedicated to Erasmus students with fewer opportunities to remove obstacles for participation in international mobility. Again, the European Alliance FORTHEM is playing an important role in the coming Erasmus period, since one of its goals is meant to research on removing barriers to mobility. The FORTHEM universities firmly believe that diversity is of yet unexplored and unexposed potential, which will provide students with deeper learning success, if managed correctly. The FORTHEM Alliance has begun to gather information on the ways to promote the mobility activities of disadvantaged and underrepresented student groups (for example students with special needs and/or fewer opportunities). Our Steering Committee will discuss this information at the highest level of the Alliance. At the same time, we are analysing existing diversity strategies and approaches from all universities in order to work towards dismantling the barriers for participation in higher education. FORTHEM has already set up an expert group with participants from all seven FORTHEM universities. The first video conference will be held in 2020.

Common diversity goals will be part of FORTHEM's Transnational Higher Education Strategy in 2022. Developing more diverse mobility opportunities, service opportunities, IT tools, accommodation equipment etc. will help motivate students with special needs, improve their experience as a student, and will reduce the attainment gap. By further developing the digital learning and administrative environment, FORTHEM will reframe teaching and learning to be more inclusive. Diversity-sensitive digital environments are helpful for integrating users with different needs (student and staff), particularly those who either cannot attend conventional, campus-based programmes or who have other learning preferences.

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 website².

Nowadays, the UV student card issued to all Erasmus and non-Erasmus students recognizes the student status and identity. It allows students to get access to student services such as libraries and sport centres. It works as an E-identifier with authenticated personal data and it also includes the possibility for e-payment. This first step will allow the UV to easily replace it for the new "European Students Card" in the coming Erasmus programme.

The UV also offers the whole university community an official application for mobile devices (UVapp) that provides direct access to the Virtual Campus, university e-mail address, timetables, qualifications and the UV card viewing. It also offers information to any user, regardless their link with the UV, on UV agenda, official studies, library resources, UV television, radio and networks, geolocation of all UV buildings and contact to the main units of the UV. This application works in a similar way to the new initiative of the Erasmus program: Erasmus+ App. The UV aims to make this tool widely used by participants in the Erasmus programme by disseminating both the general information sessions on the Erasmus programme and the particular information to students to promote Erasmus mobilities. The new application will allow participants to configure their study contract, consult information about the host city, or carry out the language tests linked to Erasmus stays, as well as the language courses that the European Union makes available to participants. The aim is to link the application with the proper application of mobility management available at the UV. And, finally, to link both applications with the new project "Erasmuswithoutpaper".

The FORTHEM Alliance is currently collecting detailed information on administrative mobility processes from all the seven universities and will align the processes wherever possible. Furthermore, we will work closely with the local and national student unions in moving towards adopting the European Student Card. The card is expected to facilitate seamless student mobility in making university-level enrolment process easier and will be introduced by 03/2022 in all seven universities. Already beginning in 2020, the FORTHEM universities will start testing the various EWP functionalities in their internal mobility activities. In October 2020, the FORTHEM Alliance will organize an EWP seminar with the European University Foundation to discuss the development and implementation of the action in the Alliance universities. During this seminar we will make sure that all the FORTHEM institutions are on track with the ESC initiative's timeline.

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

Educating citizens about more sustainable ways of life and raising awareness of environmental issues is a major concern for the UV and this mission at the UV is managed by a central body, the Vice-Rectorate for Equality, Diversity and Sustainability, whose duty is based on five strategic areas: healthy university, environment (reduction of plastics, carbon footprint), education and research (curricula sustainability), university and society (sustainability campus) and sustainable networks.

The UV is also involved in the UN 17 Sustainable Government goals comprised in 2030 Agenda. This statement is meant to involve universities as key drivers for change in order to reconsider university governance, management and culture. UV is really in the process of integrating these goals in the university community, because this is considered to be an excellent opportunity to improve our own internal and external procedures related to environment protection, universal accessibility, promotion of peace culture and protection of human rights.

As far as environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ programme is concerned, the UV is focused on energy consumption, recycling, waste management and sustainable mobility. Raising awareness about these among the whole university community, Erasmus students and staff included, was one of the first steps taken in the UV. It was necessary to increase awareness by sharing information on the social media. The second measure already initiated was working on the idea of including sustainability perspective in curricula design. The third measure (2011-2018) is carrying out analysis of the university community and their impact on time consuming factors and carbon footprint.

The UV strategy on sustainability connected with the concept of mobility and internationalization is based on good practices, the way some info services are offered to users: personal guidance related to support sustainable means of travel to reduce the negative impact of mobility on the environment and accommodation, for instance. The promotion of projects related to sustainability topics is also a UV target; these go from the food waste problem related to consumer education, climate literacy or healthy issues (2019-1-ES01-KA204-064037, No Rumour Health).

FORTHEM focuses on two aspects in order to promote 'green mobility': digital mobility and promotion of environmentally

² https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en

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friendly transport. The FORTHEM Digital Academy will support a constantly growing number of both blended and virtual learning environments. Also, more and more research activities can be coordinated within the Digital Academy. Consequently, all physical exchange activities can be critically reflected on and be replaced by virtual meetings wherever possible. The models and tools developed and tested in the context of the FORTHEM Alliance are finally transferable to all other locations within Europe and worldwide. However, a face-to-face encounter will remain indispensable for certain activities, particularly for the experience of studying abroad and for the first meetings of colleagues who want to start a cooperation.

Where physical mobility is indispensable, students and staff of all of the FORTHEM universities will be provided with an information sheet presenting environmentally friendly transport options within Europe. The sheet is intended to encourage travellers to think about legitimate alternatives to airplanes, which environmentally friendly mobility options are available at the destination, etc. Last but not least, the consequent introduction of Erasmus Without Paper will also contribute to a 'greener' way of administrating and conducting each and every Erasmus stay.

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

The education of citizens who take civic responsibility and actively shape an open society is a major concern for UV and one of the cornerstones of our strategy. Consequently, the Information and Promotion Service for Students of the UV, firstly, raises awareness of the ongoing projects, proposals and ideas in progress in the university and in the city itself. Secondly, it provides training courses on volunteering issues. Thirdly, it supports students on their initiatives on volunteering projects and keeps contact with local NGOs to link them with the students' proposals. Fourthly, it provides support on the academic recognition. According to UV regulation, up to six ECTS credits can be recognized for participation in civic engagement and active citizenship activities.

The FORTHEM alliance also considers civic engagement and active citizenship as cornerstones of the transnational higher education strategy and, therefore, it aims to professionalize civic engagement projects by fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills and multicultural team-working skills. In order to ensure this, the seven universities are jointly setting up a programme that provides students with both the financial support and project management training necessary to successfully implement international projects which involve the society. FORTHEM also sets up an internship placements network in all of the seven regions of the Alliance and creates a school internship placements network which 'brings Europe into the classrooms'. With these activities, FORTHEM is dedicated to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among students. Finally, the Erasmus programme's aim to promote students' civic engagement is also perfectly in line with the FORTHEM Lab Mission, which involves researchers, students and societal partners in finding research-based solutions to societal challenges.

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 Recognition³.

Improving procedures for the mutual recognition of qualifications in EU Member States is a cornerstone of establishing a European Education Area by 2025. The implementation of the ECTS credits is a fact and full automatic recognition within Erasmus programme in the UV is being implemented and all credits gained during the period of study abroad are transferred towards the students' degree.

According to article 27 of the UV regulation on mobility the recognition procedure is as follows:

1. The subjects included in the learning agreement (for studies and traineeships) signed by the UV, the receiving HEIs / enterprise / organisation and the student, before the start of mobility shall be recognized in accordance with the official academic certificate issued by the host university, which includes all the subjects studied and the qualifications obtained.
2. The student will apply for academic recognition at his/her centre with the Transcript of Records (ToR) indicating the number of credits earned and grades achieved (for traineeships, the corresponding document is a Transcript of Work

³ 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))

/Traineeship Certificate).

3. The resolution of academic recognition must reflect the total results and respect all the qualifications obtained at the host university, including the failed and non-applied ones, according to the criteria and equivalents set out in the qualification conversion form prepared for this purpose at the UV.

4. The competence to resolve the requests for academic recognition of degree courses in study mobility corresponds to the Erasmus coordinator, whose resolution is based on a UV official conversion table of qualifications. The students are informed about this table before the mobility.

5. The responsibility for resolving academic recognition applications for master's and doctoral programs lies with the director of the master's program and the coordinator of the doctoral program.

FORTHEM Alliance aims at harmonizing student mobility processes wherever possible and to overcome, step-by-step, the financial, administrative and linguistic barriers to student mobility. Our long-term aim is to be able to include international mobility in every student's education, making European dimension an everyday practice. Collecting and analysing information on the challenges and obstacles of mobility has been among the first concrete steps in this process. The FORTHEM Barriers to Mobility report has revealed several institutional challenges in the implementation of Charter principles in student mobility, including difficulty to incorporate a semester-long mobility in study programmes without prolonging studies, the differences in academic calendars and the problems of equitable grade conversion. Based on this analysis, FORTHEM will compile strategic recommendations (FORTHEM Mobility Charter) for working to remove the detected barriers and for moving towards full recognition of credits gained abroad. The Barriers to Mobility –report has been presented to FORTHEM Steering Committee, which has representatives of the top management of each university, and also the recommendations based on the report will be confirmed by the Alliance management.

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

The UV participates in the Erasmus staff mobility action from 2006 through the two modalities considered in the regulation of the UV (ACGV 196/2013):

-Teaching staff mobility periods (five days) are offered to professors and researchers in order to visit a European high education institution, member of the Erasmus+ Programme, for teaching purposes.

- Non teaching staff mobility periods (five days) for training purposes in order to learn working experience and good practices from other European universities.

On regular basis, the UV promotes these types of mobilities by including them in the yearly dissemination activities. These mobility periods are recognized as training periods and leaves are authorized accordingly.

The additional measures in progress to recognize this type of mobility are in line with the work being carried out within the alliance FORTHEM at this moment. In the Mission Statement, FORTHEM Alliance states its commitment to make mobility, physical and/or virtual, a crucial part of staff activities. In addition to institutional assessment of the success in implementing Erasmus Charter principles, FORTHEM Alliance has involved its seven member universities in a joint effort to detect and remove obstacles and challenges of staff mobility. Based on the findings of a FORTHEM Barriers to Mobility –report, we have identified, for example, the difficulty to reconcile existing work obligations at the home institution and mobility periods, the additional workload of preparing new teaching materials in a foreign language and the lack of incentives & encouragement as hindrances for staff mobility. The joint commitment to remove the detected barriers of staff mobility step-by-step, defined in FORTHEM Mobility Charter, will be confirmed by FORTHEM Steering Committee. This will strengthen the institutional efforts of FORTHEM universities in moving towards better recognition of staff mobility.

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.

<http://www.uv.es/relint> is the web page where at present the Erasmus Policy Statement is hosted and this will be also the site for the future Erasmus Policy Statement. Regularly activities supported by the Programme are promoted at the UV and they are duly posted on <http://ir.uv.es/H8X2n5D> These are:

- Informative Sessions by Faculty and Degree
- International Week
- Info days on inclusive mobility and sport

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- Info days on Erasmus+ cooperation projects
- Info days on Erasmus+ traineeship mobility periods
- International Credit Mobility Week

Every year the UV plans all the activities, calls, information sessions and other events linked to the Erasmus programme in advance so that the entire university community can have the information about the opportunities for participation in the Erasmus programme. This calendar is proposed by the Vice-Principal for Internationalization and Cooperation and is supported by all the faculties.

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 UV will disseminate the principles of this Charter with the development of an effective communication strategy using the institutional channels: the press office, the audiovisual productions centre and the web and marketing unit. All these three units will release press news and broadcast radio and television programs related to Erasmus and the content of this Charter. Furthermore, the Office for Internationalization and Cooperation has a specific section within the UV website to publish the Erasmus Policy Statement and a News and Announcement section for latest Erasmus news and events. Links to social networks such as Youtube, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, etc. are also included in the web page.

Within the framework of the international initiatives to promote internationalization and the Erasmus charter, international weeks, infodays and regular meetings with students and staff at faculty level will be held. Training sessions and webinars on different topics on mobility and Erasmus will also be organized. Considering that the principles of the Charter are also transversal principles of the UV, all these communication activities will be also part of the UV agenda. Actually, the UV internet site for Transparency includes an internationalization section with UV regulation on mobility.

Seminars, work groups, colloquia will be held among academics, student associations and already existing national and international university networks, in which the UV has long membership, to promote the principles and priorities of the programme. In this sense, the already mentioned FORTHEM European University with its transnational campus composed of seven European universities will act as an international multiplier of the programme itself.

Project dissemination takes place from the very beginning of the project activities (e.g. making space available on the website for an individual project, holding presentations, posting news items etc.). The UV ensures the visibility of each Erasmus+ project implementation and outcomes, since the institutional webpage has an easily accessible page.