



TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL MACEDONIA

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

TEI of Central Macedonia aims to achieve excellence in teaching and research and continuous progress in all academic activities. Participation in international networks and partnerships with universities and other organisations in research that promote the common interests and mutual benefits can contribute significantly in achieving excellence and continuous progress.

The strategic goal of TEI of Central Macedonia is to enhance the international perspectives and increase the impacts of its educational activities. For this, we will advance dynamically all types of international mobility, including student and staff mobility for education and international mobility for business placements, and we will seek the opportunity to develop academic collaboration that will produce joint and double degree programmes.

Emphasis is put primarily on mobility for students and teaching staff, as they are regarded as enablers of other activities and support further internationalization. The Erasmus Programme is a key tool in the internationalization efforts of TEI of Central Macedonia.

Their key objectives that enhance the international profile of TEI of Central Macedonia are the following:

- To increase the number of students and staff exchanges –both incoming and outgoing.
- To increase the international collaboration and the number of partnerships in educational and research activities.
- To develop new types of partnerships in terms of joint/double degree programmes and placements/internship.

New partnerships are generated following mostly a bottom-up approach, based on the recommendations of the departmental Erasmus coordinators and members of the academic staff. This way, new partnerships are based on and exploit existing relationships for educational and research activities and build on existing academic outcomes. In some cases a top-down approach may occur, when the management wishes to set strategic priorities in partnerships with institutions from abroad. A filtering process with the collaboration of the International Office and the departmental Erasmus coordinators follows, aiming to guarantee that the new partnerships promote the strategic objectives and respect the underlying Erasmus and institutional principles and rules.

TEI of Central Macedonia will seek new partnerships with European HEIs of the technological and the university sector in educational and research projects based on the principles of the significance of the results, the proliferation of the outputs and the reciprocity of the benefits. Existing and new partnerships are evaluated based on the outcomes they produce. TEI of Central Macedonia does not set clear geographical limitation or priorities

in partnerships. On the contrary, a diversified policy is adopted, aiming to cover a variety of geographical locations. TEI of Central Macedonia considers that there are strategic opportunities for academic and research collaborations in the area of East Balkans, Southeast Europe and Eastern European countries. In addition, China is seen a potential region for expansion, taken into account some recent national bilateral agreements in education, research and business collaboration.

With respect to incoming students, TEI of Central Macedonia will always take the best measures for the highest quality of educational and other services it provides, including accommodation, food, entertainment, facilities, etc. Every incoming student will have all the privileges of the national students without any discrimination.

Outgoing students will be motivated to participate in exchange programmes. Their selection will be based on academic merit and their potential to benefit from the exchange experience, with transparent processes according to the rules of the Programme and without any discrimination. Periods of study abroad will receive full academic recognition based on the reports of the departmental Erasmus coordinators.

Staff mobility provides significant opportunities for the personal development of the academic and administrative staff. Provided the budgetary limitations, all the staff members will have the opportunity to participate in international staff mobility, with transparent procedures and without any discrimination. Priority will be given to exchanges that can produce additional benefits and multiple effects, such as new partnerships. TEI of Central Macedonia also welcomes visiting academic staff and appreciates the multidimensional contribution they make to the improvement of the educational programmes and the curriculum.

TEI of Central Macedonia will also seek the development of academic partnerships for the development of joint or double degree programmes in bilateral and multilateral partnerships, especially for postgraduate studies at master and doctoral level.

Students are encouraged to pursue international work placements, provided they confront with the national rules for students' placement as a part of their studies. The allocation of placements will be conducted with transparent processes, based on the merit of the applicants and their potential to benefit from the exchange experience.

The participation in the next phase of the Erasmus Programme is a necessary condition for the further development of TEI of Central Macedonia and the attainment of its strategic objectives. TEI of Central Macedonia will be able to continue the internationalization process, expand the international activities, enhance the expected outcomes and improve the results. In addition, TEI of Central Macedonia will pursue the further modernization of the policies, structures and educational processes through collaboration with other HEIs, the exchange of knowledge and expertise and reciprocal learning.

With regard to the Modernization Agenda, the participation in the next phase of the Erasmus Programme will allow TEI of Central Macedonia to get improved and achieve significant outcomes in each priority. In particular:

Participation in the Erasmus Programme increases the Institution's reputation, which affects its attractiveness for new entrants and pays benefits to the graduates.

International cooperation supports sharing experiences and developing knowledge in modernizing the educational setting and improving the quality and relevance of educational and research activities. TEI of Central Macedonia will seek these outcomes through the participation in international cooperation projects with regard to education, training and research, as described in the previous paragraph. Participation in the Erasmus Programme is sometimes related to the eligibility criteria for such international cooperation projects, or else it provides recognition.

The core activities of the Erasmus Programme refer to academic mobility. Student's mobility allows for the development of skills, gaining life experiences and shaping the European culture; teacher's mobility favours sharing educational experiences and modernizing the educational processes. TEI of Central Macedonia has the objective to double the rates of academic mobility in terms of both incoming and outgoing students and teachers. In addition, other forms of mobility will be pursued, regarding joint or double degree programmes, international placements and research exchanges.

Linking education, research and business can create a virtuous cycle for the development of innovations, the progress of the science and the improved economic progress. TEI of Central Macedonia pursues the linking between education, research and business as a part of its mission. It will also participate in international cooperation programmes that support linking education, research and business.

TEI of Central Macedonia will pursue the development of effective governance and funding mechanisms through the international collaboration in projects and experience sharing networks.

Participating in international cooperation projects in teaching and training serves support the fundamental Institution's purpose of excellence and continuous academic progress. Such projects tend to foster mobility of the trainers of the teaching staff, progress the scientific research and increase the scientific capacity, provide further experiences in specific topics as well as in the management and coordination of the project activities and allows learning from the experiences and good practices of others.

TEI of Central Macedonia puts priority on projects that foster academic mobility, multilateral projects and academic networks in tertiary education, international cooperation for research activities, the modernization of academic processes with the use of ICT, structures and methods for professional training and further educational activities, motivation and skills for entrepreneurship and structures and methods for life-long learning. Such opportunities exist in specific actions of Programmes such as Erasmus, Tempus, Cordis Cooperation, Cordis People, KA-3 ICT, Leonardo Da Vinci, Erasmus for young entrepreneurs, Grundtvig, Youth, etc. Further opportunities exist in many other multilateral and territorial Programmes.

TEI of Central Macedonia sets an environment of absolute academic freedom for the development of project ideas and the participation in international cooperation projects. It encourages the staff to participate in similar projects by providing information, inspiration and technical support in the different phases of the submission of proposals and implementation of the projects. Quick, flexible and transparent processes are used to promote the best ideas and partnerships and bring the best results.