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| **TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY – SOFIA**  **ERASMUS ID CODE: BG SOFIA16**  **Erasmus Charter for higher education-Ref. Ares (2021)1523364-27/02/2021** |

**Erasmus+ Programme (2021-2027)**

**ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)**

For the program period of 2021 — 2027, the TU-Sofia was granted the ERASMUS UNIVERSITY CHARTER (EUC), which provides a common framework for realization of European cooperation in higher education. TUS internationalization strategy, which is integrated into the Strategic Development Plan of a University adopted by the Academic Council in 2019

(<https://tu-sofia.bg/kcfinder-master/upload/files/%D0%A1%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%B8%D1%8F%20%D0%A2%D0%A3-%D0%A1%D0%BE%D1%84%D0%B8%D1%8F%202019-23.pdf>)

set the main priorities and vision for improving the scientific and educational potential, improving the results of international cooperation and actively expanding the geographic regions of the partners. Priority activity in the internationalization strategy of TU-Sofia is the international cooperation with universities from the European Union and other regions of the world. The University is among the first in the Republic of Bulgaria to have joined the Erasmus as yearly as 1999-2000 academic year. For a 20-year period of participation in the Erasmus program, over 3,500 participants have been registered. Erasmus+ ICM is rapidly expanding. For the period 2015 – 2020 academic year 6 projects have been awarded. Technical University of Sofia has rich experience in handling national, EU, and international projects. In particular, the University has been participating as a leader and partner, in numerous Life-long Learning projects and programs. It presents strong capabilities in participating, handling, and managing ERASMUS projects such as ERASMUS Mobility and ERASMUS+ Strategic partnership projects. In addition, TU-Sofia has the experience of participating in COMENIUS and ERASMUS+ Credit Mobility projects. Furthermore, it has a strong background and expertise in managing, coordinating, and organizing mobile seminars, courses, and lectures.

Erasmus+ finances students' mobility for study and/or internship in a foreign university/company, as well as activities connected with transnational mobility of academic and administrative staff and various projects. Erasmus+ is a leading program for education, study and internship in EU, comprising mobility of students, lecturers and administrative staff, regulating the European partnership among universities and other key partners from publiс and private sectors. The program encourages the establishment of a united European educational space for common research activities, innovations, economic growth, labour market and intercultural dialog. Technical University of Sofia will continue to stimulate and encourage аll the participants in the Erasmus+ program and to pursue its goals related to the acquisition of new knowledge, raising the qualification of both students and faculty staff, strengthening cooperation with partner universities, estabishing new contacts with universities, companies, enterprises, etc.

The goals of the University is to be one of the leading Universities for education, study and internship in EU, comprising mobility of students, lecturers and administrative staff, regulating the European partnership among universities and other key partners from the public and the private sectors. TU-Sofia will encourage the establishment of a united European educational space for common research activities, innovations, economic growth, labour market and intercultural dialog. TU-Sofia will support the agenda of the modernization of Europe's higher education systems to boost growths and jobs. TU-Sofia develops the mobility programs as crucial factor for internationalization of curriculum and syllabi, and focuses on HEIs, which keep stable flow of incoming and outgoing students;

The strategy of the University is defined as to foster an exchange of knowledge, staff and expertise with employers who provide traineeships for students and for the staff. The university management stimulates participation in international events for exchange of experience and knowledge transfer, especially in emerging disciplines.

Students acquire new knowledge and skills, improve their language proficiency, get familiar with European values and way of life in the EU, and study the opportunity for work abroad. TU-Sofia is focused on Language Training, IТТ, development of skills for entrepreneurship, selfdependence, creativity, etc. Teachers and staff are given the opportunity for professional development and training of language skills, familiarization with modern technologies and European educational standards, curricula and educational materials upgrade, etc. This reflects to a great extent the desire of institutions to continuously accept students for training and practice as well as invite faculty members and staff for joint activities such as workshops, international weeks for exchange of experience, etc. as a result of the conducted mobility. TU-Sofia is a reliabe partner in solving important issues in education and training at lосаl, national, European and international level both in the professional and social area. Thematic discussions are being held on harmful emissions reduction, green technologies development, waste recycling, large-scale IСТ introduction in education, renewable energy sources, decrease of economic sectors imbalances, etc. TU-Sofia is an important participant also in the discussions on demographic issues, unemployment, European values formation, etc. Many of the TU-Sofia participants are invited again for expansion of cooperation, job offers and development of joint projects. TU-Sofia aspires to contribute significantly to the EU initiatives by launching innovative international education programmes, developing of new learning/teaching methods and cooperation between institutions. Students and staff will have the opportunity to evolve their skills in a transnational environment established in European Union. The Erasmus+ program at TU-Sofia is will contribute at lосal, regional, national and European levels by producing highly educated professionals.