



ERASMUS+
PROPOSAL (PART B)

**Erasmus: Key action 1: Erasmus
Charter for Higher Education**

EACEA-03-2020 ECHE-LP-2020

COMMITMENT TO THE ERASMUS CHARTER PRINCIPLES

Declaration

I, undersigned, declare that if my institution is awarded with an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, my institution will undertake to:

- Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Programme.
- Ensure equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.
- Ensure full automatic recognition of all credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System – ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility.
- Charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.
- Ensure the quality of the mobility activities and of the cooperation projects throughout the application and implementation phases.
- Implement the priorities of the Programme:
 - By undertaking the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.
 - By promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.
 - By encouraging the participation of individuals with fewer opportunities in the Programme.
 - By promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project.

WHEN PARTICIPATING IN MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

Before mobility

- Ensure that selection procedures for mobility activities are fair, transparent, coherent and documented.
- Publish and regularly update the course catalogue on the website of the Institution well in advance of the mobility periods, so as to be transparent to all parties and allow mobile students to make well-informed choices about the courses they will follow.
- Publish and regularly update information on the grading system used and grade distribution tables for all study programmes. Ensure that students receive clear and transparent information on recognition and grade conversion procedures.
- Carry out mobility for the purpose of studying and teaching only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions. These agreements establish the respective

roles and responsibilities of the different parties, as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception, support and integration of mobile participants.

- Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for their activities abroad, including blended mobility, by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of linguistic proficiency and develop their intercultural competences.
- Ensure that student and staff mobility is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.
- Provide active support to incoming mobile participants throughout the process of finding accommodation.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining visas, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining insurance, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Ensure that students are aware of their rights and obligations as defined in the Erasmus Student Charter.

During mobility

- Ensure equal academic treatment and the quality of services for incoming students.
- Promote measures that ensure the safety of outgoing and incoming mobile participants.
- Integrate incoming mobile participants into the wider student community and in the Institution's everyday life. Encourage them to act as ambassadors of the programme and share their mobility experience.
- Provide appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobile participants, including for those pursuing blended mobility.
- Provide appropriate language support to incoming mobile participants.

After mobility

- Provide incoming mobile students and their sending institutions with transcripts of records containing a full, accurate and timely record of their achievements at the end of their mobility period.
- Ensure that all ECTS credits gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility are fully and automatically recognised as agreed in the learning agreement and confirmed by the transcript of records/traineeship certificate. They shall be transferred without delay into the student's records, shall be counted towards the student's degree without any additional work or assessment of the student and shall be traceable in the student's transcript of records and the Diploma Supplement.
- Ensure the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and/or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements (the Diploma Supplement).
- Encourage and support mobile participants upon return to act as ambassadors of the

programme, promote the benefits of mobility and actively engage in building alumni communities.

- Ensure that staff is given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement and in line with the institutional strategy.

WHEN PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

- Ensure that cooperation activities contribute towards the fulfilment of the institutional strategy.
- Promote the opportunities offered by the cooperation projects and provide relevant support to staff and students interested in participating in these activities throughout the application and implementation phase.
- Ensure that cooperation activities lead to sustainable outcomes and that their impact benefits all partners.
- Encourage peer-learning activities and exploit the results of the projects in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals, other participating institutions and the wider academic community.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- Ensure that the long-term institutional strategy and its relevance to the objectives and priorities of the Programme are described in the Erasmus Policy Statement.
- Ensure that the principles of the Charter are well communicated and are applied by staff at all levels of the Institution.
- Make use of the “ECHE guidelines” and of the “ECHE self-assessment” to ensure the full implementation of the principles of this Charter.
- Regularly promote activities supported by the Programme, along with their results.
- Display this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website and on all other relevant channels.

On behalf of the Institution, I acknowledge that the implementation of the Charter will be monitored by the Erasmus National Agencies and that a violation of the above principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the European Commission.

On behalf of the institution, I commit to publishing the Erasmus Policy Statement on the institution website.

Legal representative of the institution

ANTÓNIO DE SOUSA PEREIRA, RECTOR

Signature of the legal representative



UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO
António de Sousa Pereira
Reitor/Rector

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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

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): 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).

Desde os finais da década de 80 que o Programa Erasmus+ e os seus antecessores assumem uma importância fundamental na estratégia institucional de internacionalização da Universidade do Porto, a qual é também pensada de forma alinhada com as oportunidades e prioridades que a Comissão Europeia estabelece. Numa perspetiva institucional, a participação nestes programas potenciou o desenvolvimento de ações verdadeiramente transformadoras e pioneiras, numa abordagem reflexiva transversal a toda a comunidade académica e que permitiu a harmonização e a convergência das 14 faculdades que compõem a U.Porto no que diz respeito aos objetivos de internacionalização traçados. Através da implementação de programas de mobilidade de estudantes, docentes e técnicos em Instituições de Ensino Superior estrangeiras prestigiadas, a U.Porto consolidou parcerias estratégicas que permitiram a formação de novas oportunidades desenvolvidas no quadro do Programa Erasmus mas também de outros Programas europeus e internacionais, nomeadamente a cooperação para o desenvolvimento, o apoio à investigação e ações com vista ao reforço da inclusão, conferindo assim uma perspetiva mais integrada do seu processo de internacionalização. Beneficiando das muitas sinergias criadas e da complementaridade dinâmica estabelecida com os seus parceiros mais estratégicos ao longo destes mais de 30 anos, a U.Porto pretende agora com o novo Programa Erasmus reforçar e desenvolver a sua atividade formativa e colaborativa com o objetivo de contribuir de forma ainda mais significativa para uma sociedade inovadora, inclusiva, multicultural, pautada pelos

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

valores europeus. Com efeito, são hoje vários os bons exemplos que a U.Porto se pode orgulhar de partilhar ao nível de iniciativas e resultados que convergem para a prossecução dos objetivos comunitários.

Por meio da interação com os seus pares, a U.Porto beneficia de uma oportunidade ímpar de melhoria contínua através da estreita monitorização das inúmeras atividades implementadas, o que por sua vez permite desenvolver e otimizar os quadros de referência para a garantia da qualidade do ensino e formação e do apoio providenciado. Neste processo contínuo de aprendizagem, a U.Porto pretende continuar a envolver ativamente importantes *stakeholders* internos (estudantes, docentes, investigadores e técnicos da U.Porto) e também externos (IES parceiras, empresas e organizações de relevo), o que permitirá responder aos desafios trazidos pelo novo quadro de financiamento, nos quais a U.Porto se revê, e que proativamente adota na sua estratégia institucional, como sejam a desmaterialização de processos e o incremento da mobilidade através da implementação, por exemplo, da *blended mobility*. Aliás, no âmbito da KA3 e, mais recentemente, no âmbito da convocatória Connecting Europe Facility, a U.Porto está empenhada em dar um contributo relevante na implementação do projeto Erasmus sem Papel e no desenvolvimento do EU Student eCard, num esforço concertado com vista à otimização dos serviços de apoio disponibilizados aos estudantes e numa aposta forte na redução significativa da carga administrativa associada à gestão da mobilidade internacional.

Importa ainda referir que o Programa Erasmus+ constitui atualmente o principal instrumento de financiamento para as atividades de mobilidade internacional de estudantes e staff da U.Porto. No último quadro de financiamento, entre 2014 e 2020, a U.Porto participou em todas as Ações-Chave do Programa, tendo implementado até à data, como IES coordenadora ou parceira, 138 projetos, correspondendo a um total de cerca de 93 milhões de euros, dos quais aproximadamente 31 milhões de euros foram geridos diretamente pela Universidade. Pretende-se que no contexto do novo Programa, a participação da U.Porto seja igualmente, ou ainda mais, notória.

Mais recentemente, respondendo ao repto da Comissão Europeia, a U.Porto envolveu-se ativamente numa candidatura Erasmus+ para as European Universities Alliances e viu aprovada uma Aliança pioneira na área da Saúde Global, a EUGLOH, a qual já está a permitir redesenhar as prioridades e linhas de ação a nível da estratégia institucional para os próximos anos, com enormes benefícios para toda a sua comunidade académica e científica. Com a implementação desta Aliança, a U.Porto pretende dar um contributo significativo na continuidade da construção da Área Europeia de Educação através da promoção de múltiplas atividades conjuntas envolvendo os diferentes níveis de formação (primeiro, segundo e terceiro ciclos), incluindo também programas de curta duração, programas conjuntos ou duplos, formações interdisciplinares e doutoramentos em co-tutela, entre outros. Um dos seus principais objetivos é a implementação de um programa de mobilidade – física, *blended* e virtual – cujo reconhecimento integral das formações realizadas no seio da Aliança é assegurado. Estas iniciativas conjuntas permitirão a partilha de valores europeus, consolidando ambientes multidisciplinares e multilinguísticos, a maior aproximação da comunidade académica da U.Porto às suas congéneres europeias, o desenvolvimento de ferramentas e métodos pedagógicos inovadores e o reforço da projeção do ensino superior europeu no Mundo, contribuindo assim de forma inequívoca para os objetivos estabelecidos pela Comissão Europeia. Tais objetivos listam-se também entre os que a Universidade tem no contexto da participação no novo Programa Erasmus.

No conjunto das suas ações-chave, o Programa Erasmus+ tem tido um papel fundamental nos níveis de internacionalização da U.Porto, influenciando favoravelmente o posicionamento da Universidade nos mais importantes rankings internacionais. Considerando a experiência adquirida no passado recente (particularmente nos últimos 10 anos) é possível constatar que, por via de um envolvimento alargado nas várias ações dos Programas Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus+, e outros, a U.Porto tem melhorado o seu desempenho no contexto nacional e internacional, posicionando-se hoje como uma Universidade internacionalmente muito ativa, bem organizada e uma referência entre IES europeias e de todo o mundo. Assim, a U.Porto tem assumido como um dos objetivos estratégicos o incremento do processo de internacionalização das atividades de formação e de investigação concretizado por meio da intensificação da participação (como instituição parceira mas também como coordenadora) em ações de cooperação internacional no quadro dos Programas de Financiamento Europeus, nomeadamente o novo Programa Erasmus.

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Since the late 80s, the Erasmus+ Programme and its predecessors play a vital role in the institutional strategy regarding the internationalisation of the University of Porto, which is thoroughly designed according to the opportunities and priorities established by the European Commission. From an institutional perspective, the participation in these programmes maximized the development of truly transforming and pioneering actions, in a reflective, comprehensive and crosswise approach within the academic community and enabled the harmonisation and convergence of the 14 faculties that compose the U.Porto regarding the outlined objectives of internationalisation. Through the implementation of mobility programmes for students, teachers and staff in prestigious foreign Higher Education Institutions, the U.Porto was able to build strategic partnerships. Such partnerships generated new opportunities developed within the framework of the Erasmus Programme but also within other European and international Programmes, namely the cooperation for development, the support of research and actions in order to strengthen inclusion. These new opportunities granted a more integrated perspective of the University's internationalization process. Taking advantage of the multiple synergies and the dynamic complementarity established, throughout these more than 30 years, with its most strategic partners, by participating in the new Erasmus Programme the U.Porto aims to increase its academic and collaborative activity with the purpose of continuing to contribute, even more significantly, to an innovative, multicultural and inclusive society, built on European values. There are several good examples that the U.Porto is proud to share, at the level of initiatives and results, which contribute to the pursuit of the EU's objectives.

Through the interaction with its peers, the U.Porto benefits from a unique opportunity for continuous improvement. By way of a close monitoring of the several implemented activities, the U.Porto was able to develop and optimize the reference frameworks for the assurance of the quality of education and training and of the provided support. In this continuous learning process, the U.Porto intends to keep actively involving important internal stakeholders (students, teachers, researchers and staff of the U.Porto) and also external (partner HEIs, relevant companies and organizations), which will enable the U.Porto to respond to the challenges brought by the new financial framework. The U.Porto identifies itself with the EU's agenda for Higher Education, which is being proactively applied in its institutional strategy,

namely in terms of the dematerialization of processes and the increase of the mobility through the implementation of blended mobility. In fact, within the framework of KA3 and, more recently, within the framework of the Connecting Europe Facility call for applications, the U.Porto is fully committed in giving relevant contributions in the implementation of the project Erasmus without Paper and in the development of the EU Student eCard. In a joint effort to optimize the support services provided to the students and to reduce significantly the administrative load associated to the management of international mobility, the U.Porto is paving the way for the new Erasmus Programme.

It is also important to mention that the Erasmus+ Programme is currently the main financing instrument to support the international mobility activities of U.Porto's students and staff. In the previous funding framework, between 2014 and 2020, the U.Porto participated in all Key Actions of the Programme. As of today, the U.Porto participates in 138 projects, as coordinating institution or partner, corresponding to about 93 million euros, of which around 31 million were directly managed by the U.Porto. In the context of the new Programme, the main goal is that the U.Porto's participation is equally or even more substantial.

More recently, answering to the challenge launched by the European Commission, the U.Porto has actively been involved in a successful Erasmus+ application for European Universities Alliances. EUGLOH is a pioneer Alliance in the area of Global Health, and it is already redesigning the priorities and lines of action regarding the institutional strategy for the next years, with enormous benefits for all the academic and scientific community. With the implementation of this Alliance, the U.Porto intends to contribute in a significant way to the creation of the European Education Area, through the promotion of multiple joint activities involving the different education levels (first, second and third cycles), including as well short-duration programmes, joint or double degrees, interdisciplinary training, cotutelles, among other collaborative initiatives. One of the main goals of this Alliance is the implementation of a mobility programme – physical, blended and virtual – in which the mutual academic recognition is ensured. These joint initiatives will allow the sharing of the European values and the consolidation of multidisciplinary and multilingual environments already present at the U.Porto. Additionally, they will also enable the U.Porto's academic community to converge towards its peers in Europe, the development of innovative pedagogical tools and methods, as well as the reinforcement of the visibility of the European Higher Education in the world, thus indisputably contributing to the objectives established by the European Commission. These objectives are also listed among the ones settled by the U.Porto regarding the participation in the new Erasmus Programme.

Within its Key-Actions, the Erasmus+ Programme has played a fundamental role in the U.Porto's levels of internationalization, favourably influencing its position in the most important international rankings. Considering the acquired experience in the past (particularly in the last 10 years) through an extended involvement in the several actions promoted by the Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus+ and other Programmes, the U.Porto has improved its performance in both national and international contexts. Nowadays, the University has positioning itself as an internationally very active, well organized higher education institution and a reference among European HEIs and HEIs all around the world. The U.Porto has highlighted, as one of its strategic goals, the reinforcement of the internationalization process at the level of education, training and research activities. Such goal can only be attained through the strengthening of the academic community participation (not only as partner but also as coordinating institution) in international cooperation actions within the framework of European Funding Programmes, namely the new Erasmus Programme is key.

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.

A participação ativa da comunidade académica da U.Porto em todas as Ações-Chave do Programa, sobretudo ao longo dos últimos anos, com uma experiência acumulada e know-how, estabelece boas perspetivas quanto ao interesse em participar das oportunidades oferecidas no novo quadro de financiamento europeu. Novos projetos, com distintos objetivos e propósitos, seja no quadro da EUGLOH, ou da mobilidade de pessoas num plano mais vasto, seja a capacitação de instituições de países parceiros ou ainda o estabelecimento e reforço de relações estratégicas desenvolvidas no quadro Europeu, facilitarão e potenciarão ações que comportam um valor acrescentado que em muito beneficia a comunidade académica.

Particularmente no que diz respeito às expectativas veiculadas por estudantes e staff, o destaque é naturalmente dado às várias oportunidades de mobilidade (KA103 e KA107) cujo impacto ao nível individual é inquestionável. Estas ações permitem que os participantes adquiram ou reforcem capacidades individuais, vivenciem diferentes ambientes, desenvolvam competências multiculturais ou globais e, muitas vezes, saiam da sua zona de conforto, alargando assim os seus horizontes e contribuindo, muito significativamente, para a afirmação e defesa dos valores Europeus e para a diminuição de posições de intolerância e discriminatórias, um imperativo num mundo cada vez mais global. As mobilidades de indivíduos, muito especialmente dos estudantes, contribuem igual e diretamente para a internacionalização da Universidade, quer por via dos que realizam mobilidades *outgoing* (abrindo-lhes horizontes multiculturais fundamentais), quer por via dos que realizam mobilidades *incoming*, que conferem uma dimensão internacional à sala de aula, partilhando conhecimentos e experiências distintas.

Considerando a imprescindibilidade de recursos financeiros para suportar a mobilidade de indivíduos, a constância do Programa Erasmus permite o estabelecimento de confiança institucional e a consolidação de parcerias estratégicas sólidas que possibilitam o alargamento do âmbito da colaboração para projetos diversificados, incluindo parcerias para a inovação, cooperação e partilha de boas práticas ou ainda o reforço de redes de excelência com IES parceiras – como já o prova a EUGLOH – e outros *stakeholders* relevantes, sobretudo no âmbito de projetos KA2 e KA3.

A experiência acumulada da U.Porto em projetos anteriores, quer como coordenadora, quer como parceira, de forma individual ou, sobretudo, em consórcios, permitiu adquirir uma capacidade competitiva e de colaboração institucional alargada, concretizando várias ações do seu plano estratégico. Continuar, por isso, este esforço através, por exemplo, de projetos desenvolvidos no âmbito do Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree – e, expectavelmente, outros condutores a diplomas europeus – permitirá dar continuidade à promoção do reconhecimento de qualidade da oferta formativa da U.Porto a nível internacional, à intensificação das competências linguísticas e digitais dos seus docentes

e técnicos, mas também ao reforço da oferta integrada de programas ou de componentes formativas em línguas estrangeiras. Através da participação em programas de formação conjuntos, nomeadamente no seio da Aliança de Universidades Europeias EUGLOH, conseguir-se-á atingir novos patamares de excelência académica e promover um conjunto de oportunidades que reforçarão múltiplas dimensões da cultura europeia, com impactos significativos quer a nível dos indivíduos, quer a nível institucional, nacional e internacional.

O Programa Erasmus constitui, pois, um instrumento fundamental para o fortalecimento da internacionalização no seio da Universidade, de forma global e transversal, seja ao nível do incremento da mobilidade nas suas múltiplas formas, do desenvolvimento de curricula inovadores com reconhecimento e orientação internacionais, seja ao nível do aumento de acordos/programas conjuntos, e do desenvolvimento de mecanismos de apoio à empregabilidade em contexto internacional

Em simultâneo, a situação verdadeiramente excecional que se gerou à escala global, com a propagação da pandemia Covid-19, obriga a repensar os meios para atingir os objetivos estratégicos das IES. No caso da U.Porto, relativamente aos movimentos internacionais de influxo e efluxo de estudantes e tendo ainda em consideração os desafios trazidos pela Aliança EUGLOH, é de extrema importância a dinamização e o desenvolvimento mais célere dos mecanismos associados à implementação efetiva da mobilidade com uma forte componente virtual. Esperando-se que o novo Programa Erasmus+ impulsione a *blended mobility*, criando novas oportunidades para muitos estudantes, tirar-se-á mais rapidamente proveito das experiências inesperadas e antecipadas, decorrentes das medidas de contenção que permitiram combinar as mobilidades iniciadas fisicamente com uma conclusão em regime virtual, à distância. Também esta situação excecional veio imprimir maior abertura e até um caráter de necessidade e maior urgência relativamente à crescente desmaterialização dos processos de mobilidade física dos bolseiros Erasmus+, e até mesmo na gestão de projetos de outras ações.

Assim, e como já referido, o reforço da participação no Programa Erasmus+ é absolutamente fundamental na estratégia institucional da U.Porto na medida em que é motor de inovação e fator de transformação no domínio da Educação e da Formação.

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The active participation of U.Porto's academic community in all Key-Actions of the Programme, especially throughout the last years, with an accumulated experience and know-how, creates good perspectives regarding their interest in participating in opportunities offered within the new European funding framework. New projects, with different objectives and purposes, whether it is within the framework of EUGLOH, or the mobility of people, in a wider perspective, or the capacitation of institutions from partner countries or even the establishment and reinforcement of strategic relations developed within the European framework, will ease and potentiate actions that bring an increased value and benefits to the entire academic community.

Particularly concerning the expectations shared by students and staff, the emphasis is naturally given to various mobility opportunities (KA103 and KA107) whose impact at individual level is unquestionable. These actions allow the participants to acquire or enhance individual capacities, experience different environments, develop multicultural and global competences and, often, leave their comfort zone, broadening their horizons and contributing, very significantly, to the affirmation and protection of the European values and to the decrease of intolerant and discriminatory positions, an imperative in an increasingly globalised world. Also, the mobility of individuals, specially students, contribute to the internationalization of the University, through those who go on a outgoing mobility (opening new and fundamental horizons), as well as those who come for an *incoming* mobility as they add an international dimension to the classroom and share knowledge and different experiences. Financial resources are an imperative for the implementation and support of the individual mobility. Therefore, the constancy and reliability of the Erasmus Programme over these more than 30 years, allowed the establishment of institutional trust and the consolidation of strong strategic academic partnerships. These enable the widening of collaboration towards more diversified projects, including partnerships for innovation, cooperation and sharing of best practices or even the reinforcement of networks of excellence with partner HEIs – as it is the case of EUGLOH - and other relevant stakeholders, especially within the framework of the KA2 and KA3 projects.

The U.Porto's accumulated experience in previous projects, whether as coordinating institution, whether as partner, individually or, especially, in consortiums, support the achievement of an extended and highly competitive institutional cooperation capacity, thus fulfilling various actions of its strategic plan. Hence, continuing this effort through, for example, Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree projects – and hopefully other European diplomas - will contribute to the consolidation of the international recognition of the quality of U.Porto's academic offer, alongside with the intensification of the linguistic and digital competences of its teachers and staff, and the reinforcement of the integrated offer of programmes or courses in foreign languages. Through the participation in joint training programs, namely within the EUGLOH Alliance, it will be possible to reach new levels of academic excellence and promote a set of opportunities which will reinforce the multiple dimensions of the European culture, with significant impacts not only at an individual level, but also at institutional, national and international levels.

Therefore, the Erasmus Programme constitutes a vital instrument for the strengthening of the internationalization levels within the University in a global and transversal way, whether it is through the increase of mobility, in its multiple dimensions, the development of innovative curricula with international recognition and orientation, or through new joint agreements/programs and the development of mechanisms that support employability in an international context.

Simultaneously, the truly exceptional situation generated at a global scale, with the propagation of the Covid-19 pandemic, forced HEIs to rethink the means to fulfil their strategic goals. In the U.Porto's case, regarding the international inflow and outflow of students and taking into account the challenges brought by the EUGLOH Alliance, it is of utmost importance the swift development of the necessary mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation mobility with a strong virtual component. Hopefully, the new Erasmus+ Programme will boost the blended mobility, thus creating new opportunities for many students, and benefitting from the experiences somewhat unexpected and anticipated caused by the confinement measures throughout Europe, which exceptionally allowed the combination of the physically initiated mobility flows with a "virtual" conclusion. This unique situation brought a new opening and highlighted the need and urgency of the dematerialization of the Erasmus+ grant holders' paper based administrative processes and in the management of projects within the framework of other actions.

Therefore and as already mentioned, the reinforcement of the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is fundamental in the U.Porto's institutional strategy to the extent that it is a motor of innovation and a transformation tool in the dimensions of Education and Training.

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.

Considerando a experiência consolidada por meio da participação ativa nos vários Programas Europeus de apoio à Educação e Formação, é seguro afirmar que, da participação da U.Porto nas várias ações Erasmus, são esperados numerosos benefícios geradores de efeitos multiplicadores perceptíveis a vários níveis e que estarão direta e intrinsecamente relacionados com os objetivos de cada ação e, mais particularmente, com os objetivos específicos de cada projeto.

No que diz respeito ao impacto institucional, o Programa Erasmus+ (através das suas diferentes Ações-Chave) permitirá estreitar ou aprofundar os vínculos de cooperação existentes com vista ao desenvolvimento de colaborações sólidas e sustentáveis. Através de um contato muito próximo e permanente com parceiros de referência, com um papel preponderante dos membros da Aliança EUGLOH, a U.Porto promoverá a partilha ativa de boas práticas e de métodos de trabalho, ensino e aprendizagem inovadores que contribuirão significativamente não só para o reforço da excelência da sua formação e para o incremento da sua visibilidade internacional, mas também para o desenvolvimento de uma comunidade académica cada vez mais multicultural e aberta ao processo de internacionalização. Um outro impacto esperado prende-se com a melhoria e modernização das estruturas de gestão decorrentes da otimização de procedimentos, do desenvolvimento de instrumentos e ferramentas que permitam uma boa implementação das atividades previstas em cada uma das iniciativas Erasmus aprovadas.

Mais especificamente no que diz respeito ao impacto ao nível dos indivíduos, decursivo da participação em projetos Erasmus, em particular os estudantes, este estender-se-á muito para além das competências académicas, científicas ou até mesmo profissionais. Sendo certo que os participantes de ações de internacionalização (mobilidade e outras) ficarão mais bem preparados académica e profissionalmente para integrarem o mercado de trabalho, cada vez mais exigente em termos de competências e capacidades específicas, é igualmente expectável que da experiência internacional resulte a aquisição das *soft skills* e *transferable skills*, competências diferenciadoras que potenciam as qualidade e capacidades individuais, sendo, por isso, muito valorizadas pelos empregadores.

No caso dos docentes e técnicos, é esperado um impacto sistémico com reflexo em diferentes esferas como seja a incorporação de novas perspetivas, metodologias de trabalho e abordagens inovadoras ante desafios partilhados e a sua participação ativa e inclusiva no processo de internacionalização da Universidade. A vasta experiência anterior permite igualmente antecipar um interesse crescente da comunidade académica em empreender novos e inovadores projetos institucionais.

Algumas das metas estratégicas, com financiamento Erasmus para o período 2020-2025 são:

- 1 - Cumprir plenamente os objetivos da EUGLOH;
- 2 - Aumentar significativamente o número de projetos Erasmus, sobretudo no âmbito da KA2, que, por um lado, reforcem esta parceria e, por outro, envolvam fortemente a comunidade académica em parcerias de âmbito europeu e internacional;
- 3 – Aumentar as mobilidades dos estudantes por via das mobilidades de curta duração, o que dará oportunidades, por via do alargamento da base social, a muitos jovens que no atual modelo nunca poderiam beneficiar de uma experiência tão enriquecedora. No caso dos estudantes da U.Porto, tudo se fará para que, até 2025, 50% dos estudantes realize uma experiência de mobilidade, nomeadamente no âmbito da EUGLOH, e beneficie de uma aprendizagem (física, *blended* ou virtual) com os seus pares europeus.
- 4 – Aumentar as mobilidades dos docentes e técnicos promovendo a partilha ativa de boas práticas e de métodos de trabalho, ensino e aprendizagem, favorecendo a modernização das estruturas de gestão.
- 5 – Assegurar a qualidade do apoio prestado aos participantes de ações de mobilidade (KA103 e KA107) monitorizando o nível de satisfação de estudantes e staff *Incoming* e de estudantes e staff *Outgoing* em sede de relatório final Erasmus (percentagem mínima de satisfação: 80%);
- 6 – Desmaterializar os processos de mobilidade, por via da integração no sistema de informação da U.Porto na rede Erasmus sem Papel, particularmente no que diz respeito à articulação com os parceiros europeus com vista ao estabelecimento dos Acordos Interinstitucionais (IIAs), aos Contratos de Estudo Online (*OLA – Online Learning Agreement*), ao sistema de nomeações e ainda à emissão das Transcrições de Registo (ToRs).

No âmbito da promoção e garantia de qualidade dos processos e procedimentos instituídos, a U.Porto irá, através das suas Faculdades, Serviços competentes e Grupos de trabalho, monitorizar de forma ativa a qualidade das mobilidades e das atividades previstas nos diferentes projetos garantindo um apoio próximo durante todas as fases de implementação e em pleno respeito pelos princípios e compromissos determinados pela ECHE.

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In view of the consolidated experience through the active participation in numerous European funded programmes that support Education and Training, it is safe to assume strong participation of the U.Porto in the different Erasmus actions. As a result, numerous benefits, directly and intrinsically related to the specific objectives of each project, will be generated and, from those, multiplying effects will be attained and made visible at different levels.

In what concerns the institutional impact, the Erasmus+ Programme (through its different key-actions) will allow the strengthening or deepening of the existing cooperation links, thus contributing to the development of solid and sustainable collaborations. Through a close and permanent contact with strategic partners, especially those belonging to the EUGLOH Alliance, the U.Porto will promote the active exchange of good practices and innovative work, teaching and learning methods. These will significantly contribute not only to reinforce the excellence of its training/education and to increase their international visibility, but also to the development of an increasingly multicultural academic

community that is ready to embrace the internationalization process. Another expected impact relates to the improvement and modernization of management structures as a result of the optimization of procedures and the development of instruments and tools that lead to a swift implementation of the activities foreseen in each of the approved Erasmus initiatives.

Regarding to the impact at the individuals' level, as a result of the participation in Erasmus projects, particularly students, this will extend beyond the academic, scientific or even professionals skills. It is certain that the participants in internationalization actions (mobility and others) will be better prepared academically and professionally to incorporate the labour market that is increasingly demanding in terms of specific skills and abilities. It is also expected that an international experience result in the acquirement of the soft skills and transferable skills, differentiating competences that potentiate the quality and individual capacities, which are highly valued by employers. In the case of Professors and Administrative staff, it is anticipated a systemic impact with clear results visible in the different dimensions of the University, such as the incorporation of new perspectives, working methods and innovative approaches in face of shared challenges. Therefore, they will have an active and inclusive participation in the University's internationalization process. The University's vast experience also allows to anticipate an increasing interest of the academic community to embark on new and innovative institutional projects.

Some of the U.Porto's strategic goals involving Erasmus support for the 2020-2025 timeline are:

- 1 – To fully attain the objectives of EUGLOH;
- 2 – To significantly increase the number of Erasmus projects, especially under KA2, that, on one side reinforce the EUGLOH partnership and, on the other side, strongly commit and involve the academic community in partnerships of European and International dimension;
- 3 – To increase student exchange through short-term mobility providing opportunities, through the broadening of their social base, for many young people who, in the current model, could never benefit from such an enriching experience. In the case of U.Porto students, all efforts will be made so that, by 2025, 50% of its students will be able to have a mobility experience, namely within the EUGLOH Alliance, and benefit from a learning experience (physical, blended or virtual) with their European peers;
- 4 – To enhance the mobility of academic and administrative staff promoting the active sharing of best practices, work, teaching and learning methods, and also favouring the modernization of the management structures;
- 5 – To ensure the quality of the support provided to the participants in mobility activities (KA103 and KA107) monitoring the satisfaction of students and staff *Incoming* and *Outgoing* under Erasmus (minimum satisfaction percentage: 80%);
- 6 – To complete the dematerialisation of mobility processes, through the integration of U.Porto's information system in the Erasmus Without Paper network, particularly regarding the interaction with European partners so as to establish Inter-Institutional Agreements (IIAs), Online Learning Agreements (OLA), implement the online nominations' system and the automatic issuance of Transcripts of Records (ToRs).

In the context of quality assurance, the U.Porto will, through its Faculties, relevant Offices and Working Groups, actively monitor the quality of the processes and procedures, of the mobility flows and all other activities foreseen in the different projects. U.Porto will also ensure a very close support during all phases of the projects' implementation and in full respect of the principles and commitments determined by the ECHE.