



A6.1, O5: Multilateral ERASMUS Agreement



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Beneficiaries

- Aalborg University, Denmark
- Dublin City University, Ireland
- Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
- Linköping University, Sweden
- Tampereen Korkeakoulusäätiö sr, Finland
- Hamburg University of Technology, Germany
- Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
- University of Stavanger, Norway
- Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy
- Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse, France
- University of Twente, The Netherlands

1 Objectives and effects of the Multilateral Agreement

From the 2019 Application Text to European Universities: “[ECIU University will] implement a multilateral inter-institutional agreement under the ERASMUS programme for SMS, SMP, STA and STT activities in the subject areas most relevant to SDG 11.”

The ECIU University alliance sought to encourage increased individual student and staff mobility according to the dominant ERASMUS student and staff exchange scheme by introducing a multilateral ERASMUS agreement covering all subject areas towards increasing current accumulated ERASMUS mobility flows of SMS (student mobility for studies abroad), SMP (student mobility of placement), STA (staff mobility for teaching) and STT (staff mobility for training)) among the ECIU Universities by 20% in 2022.

According to the Multilateral Agreement, which was signed by all ECIU Universities in early 2020, (Including each of the 7 INSA Group Universities) “the parties to the present Interinstitutional agreement agree to cooperate in student and staff mobility in **any** of the education fields (broad, narrow and detailed) defined in the ISCED FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2013 (ISCED-F 2013).”

The agreement corresponds to the open doors policy that ECIU University adopts in relation to student and staff mobility and enjoys the full support of the ECIU Board. At the level of implementation, it was necessary in any case to monitor the bilateral relations, since most Faculties are only able to organise their Erasmus+ Mobility on the basis of bilateral arrangements. For that purpose, the Heads and Representatives of International Relations Office set up a TEAMS channel to develop a matrix of bilateral relations and to help the Faculties to understand the meaning and reach of the Multilateral Agreement. Moreover, since it is not possible to implement a Multilateral Agreement through the “ERASMUS without Papers” initiative, the strength of the multilateral agreement signed by the ECIU University members lies in the way it upholds the Alliance’s open doors policy by greatly facilitating the bilateral relations between partners.

Finally, it is relevant to be aware of the impediment that the COVID 19 sanitary crisis caused for physical mobility under ERASMUS+, a situation which seriously interrupted discussions at faculty level regarding mobility flows. Despite that, as can be noted in other deliverables in this WP6, several alternative ways of organising mobility (virtual, blended, short-term) were explored and developed, with particular success noted in the context of ECIU Challenges.

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