

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Participation in Erasmus+

Describe how you plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future.

Explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution.

Note: The following types of Erasmus+ activities are open to HEIs:

- Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals:
 - Mobility project for higher education students and staff
 - Student mobility for studies
 - Student mobility for traineeships
 - Staff mobility for teaching
 - Staff mobility for training
 - Blended intensive programmes
- Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:
 - Partnerships for Cooperation
 - Partnerships for Excellence - European Universities
 - Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
 - Partnerships for Innovation
 - Alliances for Innovation
- Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation.
- Jean Monnet Actions

Strategy, objectives and impact


What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme? Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue? Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.

What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution? Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Explain how it will contribute to making your institution more modern and more international. Explain how you expect the participation to contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.

Note: The objectives should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable.

Indicators

For each objective, define appropriate indicators for measuring achievement (e.g. mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects, sustainability/long-term impact of projects, etc.). Link the targets to a timeline.

 If you change your activities or objectives, please don't forget to update the EPS on your website and inform your Erasmus+ National Agency.

Participation in Erasmus+

The Romanian Academy (RA) is an autonomous institution, of national public interest, of research in the fundamental fields of science, with legal personality, of public law. The highest national forum of scientific and cultural consecration and research, the RA has a tradition of over 150 years, during which its fundamental, cultural and scientific objectives have expanded in scope and enriched in complexity.

Through its activities, performances and outstanding achievements, the RA has an important contribution to the international visibility of Romania and Romanian scientific research, to the international exchange of best practices in scientific research and doctoral studies.

The RA's international activities covers several areas simultaneously:

1) **International inter-academic relations**, with particular attention to collaboration with similar institutions around the world, participation in the actions of inter-academic bodies and involvement in joint research programmes.

The institution is a full member of representative European academic associations: All European Academies, European Academies, Science Advisory Council, InterAcademic Partnership, European Federation of National Institutions for Language, International Academic Union, and is affiliated to more than 30 international scientific and professional organisations. RA has scientific and cultural cooperation agreements and programmes with more than 50 academies and scientific organisations in Europe, Asia and America, through which researchers from RA institutes and research centres participate in international scientific events, carry out joint research projects with foreign partners and undertake research internships in academies and universities. Decades-long international inter-academic relations have contributed to the consolidation of an academic and research experience that is permanently connected and aligned with international quality standards.

2) **Cooperation programmes with international academic institutions** to fund inter-academic exchanges and research projects.

In order to maintain, strengthen and develop its international relations, the RA ensures: the conclusion of cooperation agreements and programmes, the approval and transmission of the necessary documentation for the development of research internships, the approval of the annual list of academic exchanges and the specific conditions for their development, the implementation of academic communication.

The RA has launched numerous calls for funding for joint scientific projects of researchers from Romania and abroad. In the last 5 years, 30 RA institutes have implemented projects in partnership with institutes supported by the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research and Wallonie-Bruxelles International, the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Italian National Research Council, the Polish Academy of Sciences, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, covering a wide range of research topics in various fields (chemistry, mathematics, geography,

archaeology and history, art history, ethnography and folklore, linguistics, biochemistry, information technology).

3) Dissemination of the results obtained by the researchers and doctoral and postdoctoral students of the Romanian Academy in books published by prestigious international publishers, in WoS international journals, at international conferences.

The outstanding performance and achievements of its researchers in terms of the number of scientific publications and their quality have led to its being ranked first in Romania in the Scimago 2022 ranking. This is in addition to the individual performance of the institutes and centres in specific research areas.

The European and international consecration and recognition of the high academic and scientific research expertise justifies the request and presence of the representatives of the RA and its research institutes and centres in forums/committees/expert groups providing advice and support to national governmental institutions and various European and international fora, demonstrating their active involvement in the life of society.

Research is the main pathway for the production of new relevant knowledge, RA being the main promoter of encouraging the transfer of knowledge and the results of scientific research in education and training processes, as a fundamental tool for generating new solutions to the challenges facing contemporary society and economy, for educating doctoral students as future professionals and citizens. Coordinating and concerting these actions in the European area, through joint actions, including those of the Erasmus+ (E+) type, contributes to facilitating the process of transferring research results into the training process and into society and the real economy, with academia responding more effectively to societal challenges.

The basic and applied research system of the Romanian Academy comprises 14 scientific sections, under the coordination of which there are 57 research institutes with legal personality and has 3 territorial branches in Cluj-Napoca (North-West region), Iasi (North-East region) and Timisoara (West region), with 11 subordinate research units. Through its organisation, the RA provides a unique environment favourable to scientific research with a wide coverage of research fields and a space conducive to the promotion of inter- and trans-disciplinarity, as well as the territory of Romania.

The scientific research institutes and centres of the Romanian Academy have concluded numerous international collaboration

agreements, are actively involved in international projects and organise or participate as co-organising partners in numerous international scientific events. Researchers from the institutes and centres of the Romanian Academy benefit from important opportunities, on the basis of the InterAcademic Exchange Agreements, to participate in large-scale international scientific events, to carry out joint research projects with partners abroad and to do research internships in prestigious academies and universities abroad, to receive visiting professors or scientific researchers from these universities in research internships and to organise conferences and workshops in Romania, with their participation.

Involvement in E+ actions would bring substantial added value to the traditional partnerships of the RA and its component entities and open up new opportunities for collaboration.

4) International mobility placements for doctoral and postdoctoral students and staff involved in the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies. RA is an institution organising doctoral studies with a decades-long tradition, the fundamental objective of doctoral studies, organised within 10 doctoral schools (mathematical sciences and computer science; chemical sciences; geonomic sciences; life sciences; philology and cultural studies; history and archaeology; philosophy and psychology; economics; sociology and legal sciences; and engineering, mechanical and computer sciences), training highly qualified, elite specialists for academic scientific research, university teaching and administrative and managerial fields.

In its activity, the School of Advanced Studies of the Romanian Academy (SCOSAAR) has placed an important emphasis on the internationalization of doctoral students. Both the RA and its subordinate institutes and centres have won through competition and carried out doctoral and postdoctoral research projects, through which students have benefited from logistical and financial support for participation in mobility internships in European Union (EU) member states and/or international scientific events, have facilitated the presence of guest professors from prestigious universities in the country and abroad to give lectures on various topics. SCOSAAR supports doctoral students in applying for mobility grants and funding participation in scientific events.

RA provides a unique environment for doctoral studies in Romania, during the doctoral training periods students are integrated into the research teams of its research institutes and centres, participating directly in the development and implementation of research projects.

Through the quasi-permanent relationship, both the doctoral supervisors and the members of the supervision committees and research teams in which the doctoral students carry out their scientific work are constant sensors of the needs and the general level of satisfaction of the doctoral students with the doctoral programme.

Institutes and centres in the RA have won through competition and carried out, in partnership with universities in the country and abroad, E+ projects, Key Action 2 Cooperation between organisations and institutions, through which objectives such as: increasing the quality of education and training, employment of young people in Europe and beyond; combining high levels of excellence and attractiveness with increased opportunities for all; education, training and youth systems better adapted to the needs and opportunities offered by the labour market and in closer relationship with business and community; providing and improving the assessment of basic and transversal competences, in particular entrepreneurship, social, civic, intercultural and language competences, critical thinking, digital competences and media literacy.

This vision has enabled a significant number of academics, doctoral supervisors, research scientists, doctoral and post-doctoral students to become active in the European education and research area, thus diversifying and improving international mobility programmes and contributing to supporting the priorities of the "Agenda for the modernisation of higher education systems in Europe". Exchanges of researchers and doctoral and post-doctoral students have also led to an international learning environment based on non-discrimination, understanding and tolerance of ethnic and cultural differences, and the E+ instruments have contributed to the modernisation and compatibility of the academic curriculum, the increase in the quality of education, research and innovation by extending the recognition of diplomas and increasing the mobility of students and teaching and administrative staff, as well as the implementation of other projects.

The "Strategy for the development of the international activity of the **Romanian Academy for the period 2023-2027**" has as strategic objectives:

1) Internationalization through fostering academic mobility - developing an enabling and conducive environment for staff and student mobility, including through partnerships and participation in competitions for Horizon, E+ etc. funding;

2) Internationalisation through the academic curriculum - adherence to and use of the international qualifications framework and

taking the necessary steps for international accreditation; international accreditation for researchers and international accreditation for institutes and centres, including in the field of quality management, giving a high degree of confidence in the quality of the activities carried out.

3) Internationalization through research-development-innovation - high quality scientific results are an important pull factor for international collaboration opportunities through joint research development, implementation of research projects, exchange of best practices, organization of international scientific events, etc.

4) Internationalisation through partnerships and taking advantage of the opportunities offered by membership in prestigious international and European organisations, increasing participation in actions organised by the academic associations to which it is affiliated and reviewing bilateral agreements in order to diversify and intensify forms of cooperation in cotutelle. The RA aims to promote a model of inter-institutional cooperation based on the strengthening of global academic dialogue, research and social responsibility. Particular emphasis will be placed on national and international partnerships with academia, by building on the experience gained through joint research projects with universities, for the development of human capital or the development of administrative capacity.

5) Internationalisation through joint doctoral and postdoctoral research and training programmes - an international environment conducive to learning and exchange of experience and best practice.

6) Attracting scientific personalities of high international recognition to give lectures in doctoral schools and international events organised by RA and its network institutes/centres.

7) Establishment of prizes/distinctions for outstanding contributions to the process of developing the international activity of the Romanian Academy.

8) International marketing based on an adapted knowledge of what is of high value in international exchanges and relations and identification of best practices in marketing strategies.

9) Increase the speed of dissemination of outstanding results; update and continuously distribute materials presenting the outstanding work and results of the RA and institutes/centres, in international languages, in online, digital format.

10) An optimal capitalization of the valuable book/publication collection and inventory of the cultural heritage of the Romanian

Academy and of the institutes and centres in its network, including through its digitalization and financial support for the editing/publication/dissemination of the Romanian Academy's own journals based on quality criteria.

11) Efficient exploitation of the facilities for joint research in laboratories with international level equipment, in research departments in the institutes and centres of the RA network, as well as of the **accommodation opportunities** offered by the RA heritage buildings in Bucharest and in the territory.

12) Encouraging activities such as exchange of good practice, in the framework of mobilities and inter-university visits.

13) Creation of a platform for electronic submission and management, following the European model, of any kind of application, including for inter-academic exchange requests and submission of bilateral projects.

The priorities pursued by the RA Erasmus+ Office in the implementation of the Internationalisation Strategy are: internationalisation of study programmes, including the development of new doctoral programmes in languages of international circulation; internationalisation of research and dissemination of high-level academic results with international impact; development and implementation of evidence-based teaching methods that meet the needs of international students; updating the institutional website with information for *incoming* students and faculty, etc.; increasing the number of study/placement mobility for students, teaching/training mobility for teaching staff and training mobility for administrative staff; academic and social integration of *incoming* E+ students as well as international students into the RA community; creating a diverse student community in terms of country of origin and an inclusive student culture; developing the capacity to promote and manage E+ mobility programmes; promoting green practices, civic engagement and active citizenship for all students and staff involved.

From this perspective, the E+ Programme has been and continues to be a source of new opportunities in the framework of the internationalisation strategy. In order to achieve the proposed objectives, it is envisaged to attract funds for the development of E+ mobilities, as well as financial support from its own sources, participation in Horizon 2020-type calls for projects and in international research networks.

The following actions are initiated to implement the new internationalisation strategy of the RA:

1) Proactive approach, through actions to promote internationally the scientific fields of the RA and its institutes with excellent results (increasing the degree of integration in networks and involvement in international research projects with the aim of attracting international funding and concluding new international partnerships, actions aimed at attracting researchers and professors of international prestige; concerting the actions of those involved in the field of internationalisation through exchanges of best practices and the shaping of future actions);

2) Modernisation of the academic curriculum, through the implementation of new study programmes in international languages in compliance with current European standards and practices (online platforms to facilitate the distance learning-delivery process, including *blended learning* mobility; implementation of double degree and *joint degree* programmes; mechanisms to facilitate automatic and full recognition of qualifications and E+ study/placement mobility periods);

3) Intensive promotion of E+ mobilities dedicated to doctoral students, but also to doctoral supervisors, researchers, teaching and administrative staff, with priority for people belonging to disadvantaged groups and respecting the principles of non-discrimination; dissemination of the results of mobility projects and other international projects, international events through the RA website and the E+ Office; organisation of language proficiency courses; organisation of academic and social events for *incoming* E+ students with a view to their integration into the RA community; regular organisation of events for doctoral students to inform them about mobility opportunities abroad; actions to familiarise participants with the culture and traditions of the host country;

4) New actions to intensify exchanges of doctoral students, research scientists, teachers and administrative and support staff and participation in the development of joint training programmes at European level;

5) Identify new partner universities with compatible study programmes with a view to concluding partnership agreements for exchanges and mobility (E+ and other types of agreements);

6) To improve the effectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation tools for European and international mobility and cooperation activities carried out by the RA in order to improve international performance;

7) Promoting good practice in scientific research and doctoral studies in an international environment and participating in inter-institutional networks for the exchange of good practice in the field of E+;

8) Development of online teaching and research infrastructure.

The results obtained through the implementation of the E+ Programme in RA have an important potential to become multipliers of academic innovation in other national and international universities, as well as sources of best practices for national authorities and public institutions in other European and international countries.

Strategy, objectives and impact

The Romanian Academy (RA) is applying for Erasmus+ (E+) accreditation and this initiative is further evidence of the commitment of the new RA leadership to increase the degree of internationalisation, an important component of **Strategic Objective 3**, out of the nine, of the **RA Presidential Office's Management Programme**, entitled "**Romanian Academy - A New Stage of Development. Objectives and actions for the period 2022-2026**".

Through its internationalisation strategy, which it aims to implement in the form of multiple mobility projects for researchers, academics and doctoral students and cooperation projects for innovation and exchange of best practices, the RA aims to strengthen its position as a provider of excellent education, research and consultancy.

From this point of view, accessing all the actions offered by the Erasmus+ programme is a priority.

In this application we aim to participate in the following activities:

Key Action 1: Erasmus (KA1) - Mobility for Learning:

Mobility of students and staff in higher education

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

Partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices

Partnerships for Excellence - European Universities

Partnerships for excellence - Erasmus Mundus joint masters degrees

Partnerships for innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support for policy development and cooperation.

The proposal for the establishment of the Erasmus+ Office within SCOSSAR was made in September 2023, through the "Strategy for the internationalization of the activity of the Romanian Academy for the period 2023-2027".

In terms of the administrative-institutional framework, the E+ Office was established based on the provisions of the Order of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research no. 4238/17.06.2015 on the functioning of ERASMUS+ Offices within accredited higher education institutions and the establishment of their tasks, as well as on the guidelines issued by the National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Vocational Training (ANPCDEFP), being directly subordinated to the RA Vice President, Coordinator of the International Relations Department and SCOSAAR.

The "Regulation on the organisation, conduct and recognition of mobility under the Erasmus+ Programme" of January 2024 proposes that at the level of each doctoral school/coordinating institute within SCOSAAR there should be an Erasmus+ coordinator, appointed by decision of the Council of the Doctoral School or by decision of the Director of the coordinating institute of doctoral studies, subordinate to the Erasmus+ institutional coordinator.

The institutional construction for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme in the RA is one of the important pillars of the steps to increase the degree of internationalization of the activity in the RA, its subordinated institutes and centres, the Erasmus+ Office having among its important legal tasks the following: informing potential beneficiaries and project promoters about funding opportunities for SCOSAAR, students, researchers and teaching staff through the Erasmus+ programme; creating and constantly updating a database of projects of the RA and its subordinate institutes funded by Erasmus+; preparing and submitting applications for institutional mobility projects on an annual basis; organising the selection process of Erasmus+ mobility beneficiaries; organising meetings with selected doctoral students prior to their mobility; organising language training for mobility participants, where appropriate; facilitating the recognition of learning outcomes from student mobility and the equivalence of study/placement periods abroad; supporting the reintegration of student beneficiaries on their return from mobility; management of funding contracts concluded

with the Agency for the implementation of student and staff mobility; continuous updating of the *Mobility-Tool database*; supporting the Agency in the implementation of the European strategy for the dissemination and exploitation of project results by identifying examples of good practice, innovative methods and transferable professional results and by transmitting this information to the Agency and promoting it locally; advising beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of mobility grants; reporting to the Ministry, the Agency and other relevant institutions on Erasmus+ projects taking place within the higher education institution; collaborating with members of other support networks in the field of higher education in order to exchange good practice, ensure coherence of actions and successful implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme, etc.

The whole process of organising, carrying out and recognising mobility under the Erasmus+ Programme is strictly regulated in the Erasmus+ Regulation of the RA, which stipulates the carrying out of phased activities (before mobility, during mobility and after mobility), in compliance with the institutional agreements concluded with the partner universities (roles, responsibilities, quality criteria, etc.).

The RA's doctoral schools and component institutes have an important role in identifying potential geographical areas, universities and research entities compatible with the RA's vision, values and quality standards. The Erasmus+ Office has an important role in identifying potential partners, it can propose eligible candidates and, after analysing them in relation to the criteria included in the Erasmus+ Regulation, broker international agreements.

Through the participation of the RA in the actions of the Erasmus+ programme, in its efforts to contribute to the consolidation and development of the European Educational Area and the European Research Area, the implementation of its internationalisation strategy will benefit from the progress made towards achieving its objectives:

- a) Supporting the modernisation and increased international performance of the RA by increasing opportunities for cross-border cooperation with EU higher education institutions and companies;
- b) to improve the quality of doctoral study programmes through a new, European approach focused on promoting efficiency and combating social inequalities;
- c) supporting the recognition of academic qualifications acquired through doctoral studies and mobility placements throughout the EU;

d) to promote international mobility of doctoral supervisors, scientific researchers, administrative staff involved in doctoral studies and doctoral students, giving them the opportunity to learn, teach and participate in internships in other countries, regardless of their social, economic and cultural background;

e) supporting doctoral supervisors, research scientists, administrative staff involved in doctoral studies and doctoral students in acquiring key competences in lifelong learning and relevant informal learning through mobility;

f) to improve the employment opportunities and prospects of doctoral students, supporting them to become highly trained professionals through the acquisition of additional professional, social and intercultural skills;

h) contributions to a greater sense of European identity by promoting tolerance, respect and increased social participation for active citizenship;

i) encouraging the development of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation by promoting new learning methods in cooperation with universities and companies in other countries;

i) improving the language skills of staff involved in the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies and of doctoral students;

j) improving digital competences and developing ICT-based content, services and teaching methods;

k) Promoting principles that support the development of environmentally friendly activities based on the principles of sustainable development in RA.

Indicators

The participation of the Romanian Academy (RA) in the Erasmus+ (E+) Programme will substantially contribute to the increase of the degree of internationalization of the Romanian Academy's activity and of its component institutes, to the increase of their international scientific prestige.

The impact of participation in the E+ programme actions will be felt at least on the following levels: increasing the degree of internationalisation of the RA and its subordinate institutes; strengthening the institutional capacity of the RA and its subordinate institutes; increasing the scientific performance of human resources and the degree of internationalisation of study programmes and

modernising doctoral studies, scientific research and innovation and support services.

From an institutional point of view, important expected results include: revision of the Strategy for the internationalisation of the RA's activity, to include the Erasmus Charter; operationalisation and development of the activity of the E+ Office in the RA to support the actions of the programme; increase in the number of applications for European and international cooperation projects; increase in the number of mobilities to and from the programme countries/ to and from the partner countries; increase in the number of study programmes run with universities in other countries; increased performance in research, development and innovation (doctoral students and research scientists); improved academic curriculum of doctoral studies; increased number of study programmes in international languages; increased number of *joint degree* and *joint* accreditation programmes and development of an online platform at RA level to facilitate the distance learning-delivery process.

Involvement in the E+ programme will also have a major impact on the target groups of the programme's actions, namely: doctoral students, doctoral supervisors, scientific researchers, teaching and administrative staff involved in the organisation and conduct of doctoral studies, bringing a positive effect in terms of improving the capacity of these categories of human resources, namely: development of general cognitive, intercultural, linguistic, socio-communicative, digital skills, etc., increasing the degree of valorisation of scientific knowledge and results, making teaching methods more efficient, etc.

The monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the E+ Programme in the RA will be based on a set of measurable indicators and clear targets for their evolution towards 2027, summarised as follows:

<i>Institutional impact</i>	<i>Expected result</i>	<i>Measurement indicator</i>	<i>Target</i>
Increasing the internationalisation of RA and its subordinate institutes	Increase in the number of interinstitutional agreements	Number of interinstitutional agreements concluded	2027: 50
	Increase the number of applications for European and international cooperation projects	Scheduled number of applications submitted	2027: 50
	Increase the number of mobilities to and from programme countries/ to	Number of <i>outgoing</i> students	2027: At least 20% of SCOSAAR doctoral students benefit from a

	and from partner countries		period of training or study abroad
		Number of doctoral supervisors, scientific researchers, <i>outgoing</i> teaching staff	2027: At least 20% of teachers participate in <i>outgoing</i> mobility
		Number of <i>outgoing</i> administrative staff	2027: At least 20% of administrative staff to participate in <i>outgoing</i> mobility
		Number of <i>incoming</i> students	2027: At least 20 <i>incoming</i> doctoral students
		Number of <i>incoming</i> teachers	2027: At least 20 <i>incoming</i> teachers
	Increase the number of study programmes run with universities in other countries	Number of study programmes run in collaboration with universities abroad	2027: At least 10 doctoral programmes in collaboration with universities abroad
Strengthening the institutional capacity of the RA and its subordinate institutes	Institutional internationalisation strategy revised to include the Erasmus Charter	Number of strategies reviewed	2024: 1 revised strategy
	Operationalise and develop the activity of the Erasmus + Office in the RA to support the actions of the programme	Number of Erasmus inter-institutional agreements concluded	2027: At least 50 Erasmus inter-institutional agreements concluded
Increasing the scientific performance of human resources	Increased performance in research, development and innovation (doctoral students and research scientists)	Degree of achievement of the number of studies/articles proposed for publication in journals of wide international recognition	2027: 100%
		Degree of achievement of planned conferences/workshops	2027: 100%
	Improving the curriculum	Degree of achievement of the proposed number of new subjects	2027: 100%
Increasing the internationalisation of study programmes and modernising doctoral studies, scientific research and innovation and support services	Increasing the number of study programmes in international languages	Number of study programmes in international languages	2027: At least 10 study programmes in international languages
	Increase the number of <i>joint degree</i> and joint accreditation programmes	Number of <i>dual degree</i> and <i>joint degree</i> programmes	2027: At least one <i>dual degree</i> and <i>joint degree</i> programmes
	Online platform at RA level to facilitate the distance learning-delivery process	Online tools for virtual teaching-learning	2027: Existence of at least one online platform for virtual teaching-learning