

## Erasmus Policy Statement

Modern higher educational processes require the international cooperation of NTUA with other educational institutions of European countries and the rest of the world, in order to promote scientific research and expertise, improve the educational operations at all levels - undergraduate, postgraduate, postdoctoral - and to disseminate the cultural heritage between the countries.

The NTUA adopted a strategy for the development of inter-university cooperation that will be determined by high quality standards of the partner institutions, concerning the students the staff and the educational and research infrastructures. It is intended by NTUA to play a leading role at the development of inter-university cooperation at all subjects of technical engineering science, basic sciences, as well as economics and humanities.

Particularly in the research field, NTUA will investigate the possibility of cooperation with recognized international institutions for the establishment of research infrastructures, which can improve the modern research capabilities of NTUA, incorporate innovative applications for life improvement.

The utilization of the high level human resources of NTUA and the exceptional level of infrastructure are the key elements for the achievement of the objective of inter-university cooperation.

The important role of NTUA not only in European, Balkan and Mediterranean countries but also in those of Middle East, Asia, Africa and American continents, can and must be emerged through rational planning and targeted strategy steps.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERUNIVERSITY COOPERATION

Education is the most important priority for NTUA along with research, that is to maintain the exceptional tradition that have been achieved so far, as well as to improve, with the collaboration, the exchange and the introduction of new methods and procedures into the educational scene.

The participation and the enhancement of inter-universities relations along with the cultivation of joint educational and research programs multiplies the potential for developing new common scientific methods of education and research.

The central priority of the inter-university cooperation is to enable the students of all levels to study for one or more semesters at an equivalent institution or to do their practice, elaborate a part or the whole of their under-graduate/postgraduate final project/thesis at a collaborating foreign Institution or research institution of international excellence. The above procedure is already utilized by some students together with the personal contribution of their professors through the exchange programs. It is required, though, to cultivate a more systematic perception from professors and students about the need to increase mobility and internationalization of education in favor of our graduates and the excellence of the institution.

This experience in an institution with high standards in education and excellent organization as well as the integration in a multicultural educational environment will bring many benefits to students and immeasurable benefits for the institution. It will be a motivation, yet the smooth transition of our graduates at universities abroad for the possible continuation of their studies.

### GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY

#### 1.EUROPEAN UNION

For the universities of all European countries and those of the agreement of the EU:

- There are already active partnerships through programs Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus etc.
- International cooperation programs with common objective international organizations
- Excellence networks in which EU is participating
- Cooperation in an European level with countries of other continents

#### 2.NON EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

The cooperation with non European countries is looking forward to:

Creating demand for educational partnerships with countries in need for educational partnerships as already shown with their demands to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The demand for transfer of technology, know-how, research and development at the framework of development assistance to other countries

The cooperation with economically emerging but of high technological level countries in a specialized framework

The cooperation with countries having developed know-how and of international prestige. Through such cooperation it is pursued orientation to developed areas for participation to international excellence networks

#### 3.MEDITERRANEAN AREA

NTUA can have a decisive and leading role in the development of inter-university cooperation with all the Mediterranean countries. Especially in the Balkan countries area there are already exist many collaborations that can be further enhanced and in a more systematic way, having in mind that NTUA can offer a bridge of trust, friendship, scientific and technological competence for the development of inter-universities cooperation: Balkan countries, Middle East, North Africa, Black Sea countries.

The NTUA will investigate the possibility of new collaborations with institutions of abroad for the development of new infrastructures, which lead to innovative applications and to the improvement of modern research possibilities in the NTUA. The exploitation of high human potential and the exceptional level of infrastructures in the academic installations are the basic element for the realization of objectives of inter-university collaborations.

Research: The research constitutes the integral piece of education, essential for the renewal of knowledge and the upgrade of content of study. The exploitation of research programs of Greece and EU, with the attendance of students in the educational research programs, as well as the exchange of scientific potential between the collaborating institutions will strengthen more the high level of research in NTUA.

International and European Organizations of Research and Education: The NTUA participates already, in International and European organizations, and in many international collaboration via the European and other networks of research. The experience and practice with organizations as: CERN, SEFI, CESAER, UNESCO, EAU, ETALS, FEANI, WPEA etc. for many decades, can guide our process of attendance in other international organizations.

The Transfer of Technology and Know-How and Innovation, via the participation of NTUA in joint international research and educational programs, are the continuation and conclusion the educational and research process, on benefit of academic and the industrial area, constituting from each other interconnection.

Growth and Employment: The growth, or as transfer of know-how, or as growth of innovation, or as support of local growth, or as collaboration with developmental institutions, is the subject of also objective and of inter-university collaborations for employment of young persons of graduates. The growth encourages also the search of professional recognition of new researchers.

The expected impact will determine new decisions and actions:

1.Increasing attainment levels and strengthening the social dimension of HE Increasing the number of graduates, attracting a broader part of society in HE and reducing the numbers of students' dropout can be expected by:

-Taking into consideration prior learning by using EQF, mainly at graduate/ master levels and enhancing lifelong learning.

-Work on social dimension of HE: the under-represented groups, children from unemployed families, immigrants, disabled, traditional-cultural-religion factors influencing studies. Incentives will be applied to low incomes, such as financial support and Mentoring.

-Dropout&legislation: Statistics show 10-15% dropout due to lack of support measures for unemployed&poor people. A new law must introduce targeted interruption plus a part-time duration of studies equivalent to the full time.

2.Improving the quality and relevance of HE, including through cooperation between HE and labor market

To improve the quality and relevance of HE, so that curricula meet the needs of individuals, of labor market and of careers of the future, and stimulate &reward excellence in teaching:

-An adapted education by adding real projects in curricula and thesis, in a project-based-learning. Curricula become adapted to industry demands: to research into this topic jointly with Technical Chamber of Greece. Then, attracting specialized staff to teach emerging disciplines.

-The use of ICT by new open academic courses, digital teaching materials and libraries, distances learning.

-To recognize excellence in academic teaching; to establish a culture of teaching of excellence; joint-degree Erasmus programs could be an instrument.

3.Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

NTUA will provide opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad and to encourage cross-border co-operation to increase higher education quality: Erasmus Masters can be developed in modular programs, with efficient recognition of studies abroad, improved employability and involving non-European institutions. Cross-links with other universities are expected to reconfirm and capitalize.

4.Knowledge Alliances

Will support Knowledge Alliances bringing together businesses & HE, to develop innovation potential, joint activities involving new teaching methods, design of new multidisciplinary curricula, innovative courses and entrepreneurship. The employability of graduates will increase. We will involve and train researchers in projects for future employment in industries.

5.Improving governance and funding

Will ensure that funding is efficient, free up HE governance and invest in quality education to match labour market needs.

Will support activities that develop the strategic capacities of NTUA, enhancing the autonomy and accountability of institution; and increase the capacity to draw in funding from diverse sources and manage resources efficiently.