



Excerpt from the European Policy Statement (EPS) of EUSD 2021-2027

For over 190 years, the Eberswalde campuses have been committed to sustainable research and teaching. The university was founded in 1830 as a Forestry College. Since its reopening in 1992, it has focused on future industries and key areas such as nature conservation, forestry, organic farming, adaptation to climate change, sustainable business, wood technology and sustainable tourism management.

With around 2,200 students and 59 professors, EUSD is the smallest university in Brandenburg. However, with its now almost 20 innovative and in some cases unique degree programmes in the fields of sustainable natural sciences and engineering, economics and agricultural, forestry and nutritional sciences, it offers a wide range of practice-oriented degree programmes that are in high demand and focus on the employability of graduates. Three degree programmes are taught exclusively in English and two degree programmes are taught bilingually. Two further English-language degree programmes and a Master's degree programme are currently being planned and are expected to be added to the portfolio from the 2020/21 winter semester and the 2021/22 winter semester. [...]

With its clear sustainability profile, it also specifically promotes the transfer of sustainable development issues to society in both a regional and national as well as an international context. In doing so, EUSD strives to explore or develop options for sustainable development across regions, cultures and socio-ecological systems together with its various academic and non-academic partners.

By combining locally, regionally and globally oriented teaching and research with international knowledge building and exchange, EUSD aims to contribute to solving societal problems such as demographic change or skills shortages and to develop strategies to respond to global crises including climate change and ecosystem degradation. Internationalisation is a very important strategic tool of higher education development at EUSD. [...] Participation in the previous Erasmus programmes promoted both the internationalisation of EUSD itself and the further development of EUSD's internationalisation strategy. [...] Through further participation in Erasmus+, the following measures are to be implemented or established and expanded in the course of internationalisation and modernisation:

Mobilities: The number of mobilities of students and staff who complete an exchange semester at EUSD or at a partner university/institution should be increased through participation in ERASMUS+. All student and staff mobilities (outgoing and incoming) should also be implemented in a high quality. [...]

Internationalisation of the administration: The internationalisation of the administration is to be expanded by further involving the administrative staff in the internationalisation process with the help of the Erasmus+ programme. This enables the further expansion and deepening of international cooperation in research and teaching as well as enhances the competences of EUSD administrative staff relevant for further internationalisation (intercultural competences as well as language competences, among others). [...]

Digitalisation of administrative services: In order to be able to implement more mobilities, use existing personnel capacities effectively and offer applicants an optimised procedure, [...] all related internal university processes will be reviewed. [...]

European Student Card: [...] The integration of the ESC into the already existing EUSD Greencard [...] can only be done at EUSD in connection with the [planned] implementation of a new campus management system and the modernisation of the booking software of the university library. [...]

Teaching, internationalisation and digitalisation: The IT Commission [...], the digital teaching Officer together with the teaching Quality Manager are in charge of expanding online teaching at EUSD. [...] Just as at other universities, the need for increased online teaching at EUSD has led to the practical testing of already developed online modules, the development and expansion of the necessary technology and the adoption of a supportive framework for online teaching. The Erasmus+ programme also provides important impetus for the continuous development of digital teaching (especially in key actions 1 and 2).

EUSD is currently pursuing various teaching concepts: Depending on what is relevant for the respective field of study and the respective learning objectives to be achieved, practice-oriented face-to-face events take place in addition to the application of online teaching or blended learning concepts. However, the classroom events have less of a mere lecture character, but are strongly characterised by interactive and competence-oriented methods. This is always met with great interest by our Erasmus + guests (students and staff). [...]

In-depth digital skills are now often expected of prospective graduates in practice and are therefore also taught accordingly at EUSD. [...]

Cooperation and collaborations: Through the Erasmus+ programme, it was possible to expand the interdisciplinary cooperation aimed for within the internationalisation strategy, for example through the mobility programme with programme countries (KA 103) and partner countries (KA 107) but also through participation in/ management of KA 2 projects. This also led to the successful establishment of interdisciplinary cooperation between EUSD departments by using synergies and by jointly applying for international projects such as the HAW international programme of DAAD. This development should also be further promoted by continued participation in the ERASMUS+ programme.

Despite its partly very specialised study programmes, EUSD has identified first mobility partners with whom a curricular- adapted exchange of students and staff is possible due to content overlaps, and with whom a strategic expansion of the cooperation is reasonable. This development should be promoted and further developed through continued participation in the Erasmus+ programme. [...] For EUSD, the regional perspective is of equal importance as the international perspective, since they are both equally relevant for the implementation of sustainable development. In doing so, EUSD draws on a large pool of regional partners as well as international partners and cooperation. This will be utilised and expanded for the further development of Erasmus+ Key Actions 1 and 2. [...]

Social and civil society competence: Through the targeted practical and employability-oriented education of EUSD special topics such as forests, forestry, agriculture, wood technology, nature conservation and sustainable economy, EUSD makes a valuable contribution to securing skilled labour and also aims to release its alumni into the labour market as sustainability ambassadors. [...] Through its mobility programmes, the Erasmus+ programme has led our partners in programme and partner countries, but also EUSD itself, to be able to arrange internships for students worldwide. [...] In addition, the Career Service, the Centre for Continuing Education and the Start-up Centre as well as the InnoSupport Transfer Centre offer contacts and interfaces to the professional world, to career entries and to self-employment, as well as promoting the acquisition of additional key qualifications. [...] Transfer has long been established at EUSD as a third pillar alongside teaching and research. As a modern transfer centre the InnoSupport at EUSD offers comprehensive advice a) on research, incl. application advice, strategic advice and project management (incl. EU projects e.g. Horizon), b) on self-employment and setting up c) companies with the start-up centre and c) promotes

transfer for arrangement of cooperation between EUSD and companies. The transfer office also has a branch office in Schwedt/Oder, which serves as an instrument of knowledge transfer in rural areas and areas remote from universities and as a gateway to stronger academic cooperation with the Polish neighbours. [...]

At EUSD, various projects have been and are being implemented that aim at social-civil society competence and the development of cities and regions. [...] In addition, a wide variety of student or university-related initiatives and associations [...] offer the opportunity to participate in civil society outside of the university or alongside studies. Erasmus+ students are also introduced to these opportunities to get actively involved in their free time at the beginning of their stay and they can also get to know them in some cases as part of practical or project modules.

The project "Studium Hoch E" at EUSD, in cooperation with the Eberswalde Volunteer Agency and with the support of EUSD's Buddy Programme, aims to develop offers that will integrate international students better into Eberswalde's society and make their presence more visible. Erasmus+ students are also deliberately addressed in this context. [...]

Alumni and career access: Interested employers and partners worldwide can find out about the content and qualification goals of the degree programmes via the Alumni Network and specifically recruit suitable specialists and managers among EUSD alumni. Like students, EUSD alumni can make use of the services offered by the Start-up Centre and the Career Service. The Alumni Network and the

Career Service offer a regional job portal to counteract the brain drain from the North Brandenburg region, a newsletter on worldwide job offers for EUSD alumni and organise events to bring students and alumni in contact. Erasmus students and the university can both benefit from each other in this area. These synergies should be analysed and used in a more targeted way in the future.

Doctorate/PhD: Although universities of applied sciences have not had the right to award doctorates in the state of Brandenburg up to now, EUSD promotes doctorates by cooperating with universities that have the right to award doctorates, e.g. within the framework of graduate colleges [...]. The offer of the graduate college with the Leuphana University of Lüneburg - including its advanced training courses and the model of cooperative doctoral studies - are in principle open to interested students from all over the world. [...] Researchers from our partners frequently offer doctoral topics on which they would like to collaborate with EUSD staff. The Erasmus+ programme enables EUSD to remain competitive worldwide and to promote doctoral opportunities at EUSD.

Fair, sustainable & diverse: EUSD is not only committed to sustainability by name. The goals of Green Erasmus fit into the sustainability principles and university development goals of EUSD and at the same time support the further development of EUSD in this area. The implementation of these targets is constantly being reviewed and expanded. EUSD's highly requested range of courses addresses sustainability in all its aspects. Moreover, the EU's plan to recognise school and university degrees throughout the EU not only supports the creation of a European Higher Education Area, but also provides guidelines for fair cooperation within the EU. This is of particular benefit to universities of applied sciences and small universities, which, due to their limited resources, have less opportunity to check the documents of all international applications for equivalence themselves.

In addition to a regional network, EUSD benefits from an already existing worldwide network [...] of international partners. Its current activities worldwide are to be consolidated and expanded through the continuation of the ECHE. This includes the development of joint modules and curricula, inter- and transdisciplinary exchange as well as specific methodological-didactical exchange and the development of joint research and transfer projects. The mobility projects of the Erasmus+ programme also enable the expansion and deepening of further partnerships worldwide. [...]

The processes for the application of ERASMUS+ projects in KA 1 and KA 2 and for the successful implementation of KA 103 and KA 107 mobilities form the basis for ensuring high-quality implementation of individual mobilities and further project objectives in compliance with the ERASMUS+ principles and for promoting the further internationalisation of EUSD in a systematic manner. Those processes include already tested transparent application and selection procedures as well as regular feedback rounds. [...] They are therefore to be further optimised in a continuous improvement process. [...]

Thus, also in the sense of EUSD's internationalisation strategy, it can be examined whether the optimised processes and other quality-enhancing measures

1. lead to successful ERASMUS+ mobilities with added value for as many participants as possible,
2. the envisaged increase in quality and number of mobilities is achieved,
3. the intended deepening of cooperation with partner universities is achieved, and
4. lead to the further digitalisation of mobility and funding management. [...]

By the end of the [...] charter period, EUSD aims to have defined and implemented concrete annual mobility figures for students with all departments. This is part of the planned implementation of the internationalisation strategy for each individual department. The focus should thereby lay on the qualitative implementation of the mobilities, but should also be reflected in the increase of the mobility figures. For each degree programme, the departments will individually examine the extent to which mobility windows for ERASMUS+ mobility can be scheduled or better utilised. In accordance with the EUSD's strong specialisation within the study programme and its small size, approximately 5-10 more mobilities per year should initially be implemented, with the exception of the staff mobilities of the incoming students in the KA 107 programme. Currently, more than 40 staff mobilities per year are implemented, therefore the aim here is to maintain this number for the time being [...].