

B.1. Erasmus+ activities included in your EPS

In order to facilitate the evaluation of your current application form, please tick those Erasmus+ activities that are part of your current Erasmus Policy Statement

Erasmus + Key Action 1 (KA1):

Study between Programme Countries:

Programme Countries - Student incoming mobility

☒

Programme Countries - Staff Incoming mobility

☒

Programme Countries - Student outbound mobility

☒

Programme Countries - Staff outbound mobility

☒

Partner countries - Study between Partner Countries:

Partner countries - Student incoming mobility

☐

Partner countries - Staff Incoming mobility

☐

Partner countries - Student outbound mobility

☐

Partner countries - Staff outbound mobility

☐

Traineeships:

Traineeships - Student incoming mobility

☐

Traineeships - Staff Incoming mobility

☐

Traineeships - Student outbound mobility

☐

Traineeships - Staff outbound mobility

☐

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

☐**Erasmus + Key Action 2 (KA2):**

Strategic Partnerships

☒

Knowledge Alliances

☐

Capacity Building Projects

☒**Erasmus + Key Action 3 (KA3):**

KA3 Projects

☐**Jean Monnet Activities**

Jean Monnet projects

☐**B.2. Erasmus Policy Statement: your strategy**

Please be aware that your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect your intended involvement in Erasmus+. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future you will have to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your respective National Agency accordingly.

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts of the Part B) on its website within one month after reception of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education from the EACEA. ☒

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees:

Original language [EN]

Work on the Internationalization strategy (Strategy) of Educons University with all the priorities and key development directions have been defined. International cooperation and development is one of the four pillars of the University developmental strategy, next to the development of teaching, development of science and collaboration with industry. Recognizing the necessity for the full implementation of the Bologna process, the University Educons has initiated the organization of higher education institution under the name "The Alliance of Central-Eastern European Universities" (ACEU). Partnership and cooperation within the Alliance is one of the key segments in internationalization process development.

ACEU was founded in Octobre 2009. in Sremska Kamenica, as an effective and superior alliance of universities, service providers and other key stakeholders in CE region, with the basic aim to create new values through partnership in higher education and research in order to contribute to the development of innovative, knowledge-based economy.

The general objective of the ACEU is to foster collaboration, provide opportunity for global experience and to facilitate the advancement of knowledge on the basis of reciprocity, best efforts and practice, mutual benefit and frequent interactions.

The participating universities agreed that the detailed terms and conditions that guide each activity identified above (technical description of the proposed activities, financial arrangements, bodies responsible for their implementation, etc.) will be separately determined and agreed upon by the Statute of the Alliance. Members of ACEU are: Medical University Reaviz, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, University of Agribusiness and Rural Development Plovdiv from Bulgaria, Educons University, Kaposvár University from Hungary, FON University Skopje from FYROM, Spiru Haret University from Romania, University of Presov in Presov Slovakia, Univerzitet Donja Gorica from Montenegro, Apeiron University from Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina, University "Luigj Gurakuqi" of Shkodra from Albania, Hellenic American University from Athens Greece. Within the ACEU, Educons University has founded a joint master programme Green Economy. The Green MBA, positions one to become a leader in this exciting transformation of the way business is being conducted around the world. It can help those who are driven to achieve make this world a better place while they help their enterprises turn a long term sustainable profit.

Realizing the importance and perspective, internationalization is one of the basic priorities of Educons development, within the timeline of period 2016-2020. In order to facilitate internationalization process, major investments have been realized by building and opening first private student dormitory in Serbia, in October 2015, and sports Center in October 2017. Thanks to that, University Educons has become an international University campus in Western Balkan region. The main objectives of the internationalization strategy are going to be adopted in near future: larger number of study programs in English will be accredited, foreign students' enrollment will be initiated, mobility of students and staff will be increased, efforts for the development of joint study programs and participation in international scientific research projects will be motivated. As up to now, the University Educons remains focused on building partnerships in education, innovation and research.

Erasmus+ staff and student mobility are prioritized in internationalization strategy also. Both types of mobility are equally important for University Educons and they are marked as important objectives for future development. Core study, scientific and research fields at University Educons are Economics, Business Administration, Environmental protection and Ecological Agriculture. Reason for development in these areas is because capacities and resources of Educons University are the strongest in those research field. At this moment, these fields are priority for students (first and second cycles) and staff mobility. When a system in these areas is established, we can easily include other study and research fields.

The exchange of students and staff will provide the exchange of information on teaching, learning materials, publications and other literature relevant to the educational and research programs. Therefore, it will strongly contribute to the quality of current teaching programs in the area of environmental sciences and agriculture which is also a strategic goal of high education in Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and The Republic of Serbia.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain:

Original language [EN]

Currently, study programmes in business economics, environmental protection and ecological agriculture are accredited in English at all three levels of study. To broaden its academic offer and attract more international students, Educons will strive to widen the scope of its English-language courses. On the other hand, there is a need to include elements of international participation in the existing curriculums, and to work on the professional development of lecturers and students.

Educons shows an unequivocal dedication to this objective with the building of an international university campus. A university campus with a variety of activities and facilities provides a realistic basis for attracting international students. Understanding the seriousness of this task, it is imperative to invest effort in the development of institutional and organizational frameworks. Further requirements include:

- Provide international students with complete study support at Educons.
- Training of administrative staff for work with international students
- Keeping record of international students
- Providing accommodation at the Educons student hall
- Providing study visas for foreign nationals
- Helping students get health insurance coverage in Serbia
- Realization of student mobility and the mobility of academic and administrative staff

The task of Educons in realizing this goal is to ensure better possibilities for student and staff exchange. Mobility schemes provide conditions for completing a study period abroad, both for incoming and outgoing students and staff. An increase in the number of these international mobility programmes is imperative. This can be achieved by aligning the study programmes of partner universities based on the ECTS system of credit accumulation and transfer. By 2020, the goal is to significantly increase the student mobility rates, and provide the necessary conditions for the advancement of international mobility schemes. Educons aims to develop and improve the process of academic exchange for the teaching staff, by taking steps to find adequate partner institutions and establish an active cooperation. A rise in mobility will add to the professional skills and quality of the teaching process and study modules.

Beginning with the strategic goal of Educons University to raise the level of internationalization, the EU programme ERASMUS + holds a significant place.

The terms for student and staff mobility are approved and in-place parts of inter-institutional contracts among Educons University and international partners, which enable both incoming and outgoing students and staff to apply for financial aid within credit-bearing Erasmus+ mobility schemes. Educons plans to take maximum advantage of the possibilities offered by the Erasmus+ schemes.

In the following period, Educons intends to research all possibilities of establishing new joint study programmes within the EU and beyond. The joint programmes are important as they contribute to the quality of study programmes, teaching methods and standards. Currently, there is one English language programme, called Green Economy, in cooperation with ACEU members.

Provided that conditions are met, Educons will participate in the creation of new joint study programmes in partnership with ACEU members and other potential partners. A role in Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme is one of the crucial goals, as the EU provides a substantial support through financing the joint master degree programmes.

Educons team was involved in the preparation of the project proposal in the frame of Erasmus mundus last call. The proposal was not approved but contacts between Educons and 11 EU and 6 WB HEI were established. Some of partners were already known from the ACEU. These contacts were used as a resource for signing partnership agreement for Erasmus+ K1 exchange of student and staff. Realization of this type of projects is one of the primary ways of increasing internationalization of the University, which is also the part of the institutional, and national priority of higher education development, in order to improve the integration of Serbia into the European system of higher education. Main indicators of University Educons international orientation are four implemented partnership mobility agreements so far. University Educons took part in projects: Education of Teachers in the field of Ecological Food Production and Management-EDUECO (16964-TEMPUS-1-2011-1-NLTEMPUS-JPHES); Serbia: Striving towards Excellence in Veterinary Education-EDUVET (TEMPUS 544-270-2013), Building capacity of Serbian Agricultural Education to link with Society-CASA (TEMPUS 544072-2013) and other Erasmus+K2 projects such as Improving Academic and Professional Education Capacity in Serbia in the area of Safety & Security (by means of strategic partnership with the EU) / ImprESS (586410-EPP-1-2017-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP).

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution.

Please refer to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area* and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue:

Original language [EN]

The participation of Educons in the Erasmus+ Programme affects the modernization and approaching to the key issues for member states and higher education institutions, defined in the renewed Agenda for HE.

Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Taking part in both National and European projects, University Educons is permanently working on improvement quality both on teaching and scientific field as well investing in infrastructure for its users- as being the first private university in Serbia with campus. This all gives University great potential for further development in achieving European HEIs level of standards.

Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

Till now, Educons University has taken part in three IPA projects: HUSRB/1002/214/068 Development of an in field, ecologically safe, continuously detoxifying technology for producing bio vegetables-PHANETRI, with University of Szeged, Department of Microbiology; HUSRB/1602/41/0031 Development of soil type adapted microbiological products promoting ecological pest management- PLANTSVITA with University of Novi Sad, and HR-RS182 Implementation of cross border joint actions toward environment protection in agriculture IMPACT-ENVI with Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek. These projects contributed to the strengthening of the cooperation and investment in the cross-border area with Croatia and Hungary.

Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

Since 2010, 165 agreements on business linking between the University and public and private companies throughout Serbia have been signed.

Through developing project studies, which implies a very new level of association with companies and the formulation of long-term relationships and mutual relations - the university and business entities, by their joint action, essential support will be given to career development and raise of student interest to find a good and secure job. With the necessary student practice, study programs are now synchronized with the real business needs of companies, which in turn have the opportunity to hire students immediately after graduation.

As a result of Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development, three types of partnership have been identified in relation to the level and content of cooperation with the business sector. The importance of the most common partnerships, educational partnerships, is mainly in support of the learning process among students. The other type of partnership, development partnership, is based on the needs of partners to redefine and continually improve forms and instruments of mutual cooperation. The third type of partnerships, strategic partnerships, is based on the mission of the university and is not only included in the development perspective of the university itself, but also in the perspectives of regional development and the process of internationalization.

As mentioned earlier, in order to strenghten regional development Educons University is co-founder of association ACEU.

Improving governance and funding

Close cooperation with companies helps universities to develop curricula that are practically oriented and meet the needs of students and society. At the same time, students acquire relevant and practical skills, and adopt new ways of thinking for the labor market. The Board of Directors was established with the intention to assume part of the responsibility as well as the advisory role of the Dean of the Faculty and its vice-chancellors, in their responsibilities (<https://educons.edu.rs/o-educonsu/saveti-direktora/>). Board presents the new foundations in the management of the Faculty, in order to innovate the teaching-scientific process and the improvement of academic staff and study programs. It also provides them with the possibility of direct scholarship for their students and their training within the professional practice that students perform within these companies. The Board is designed as an organizing committee that provides support to the Deans in the academic management of faculties in order to create responsible policies for the education of the next generation of students and to create new knowledge and skills, and in that sense, they also have the responsibilities for support of the Educons University mission statement. The Board consists of the most successful examples of business firms and successful individuals. Board provides direct support to university institutional management through selected interested companies offering opportunities for employment and student practice, networking and academic consulting, as well as the formation of university funds for: 1) financing and scholarships for students, 2) development and improvement teaching staff and 3) research and development of science.

* COM (2017) 247 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0247&from=ES>)