

### **Regarding institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy**

The objective of the Hellenic Fire Academy (HFA), is to promote and transmit knowledge through research and teaching of fire fighting science and technology, as well as through coherent theoretical and technological sciences. It aims to the development of ethos in the frame of forming officers characterized of being conscientious, properly educated and also socially and culturally equipped, providing them all necessary background in order for them to be capable leaders with both professional and scientific training. "We are also interested in cooperations regarding scientific research in fields of interest such as firefighting and civil protection.

As a long term strategy Academy plans to organize by itself or in cooperation with other academic institutions more postgraduate studying programs. Apart from the exchange of good practices Academy is aiming in training other countries' officers, through bilateral agreements. The main objective of the pursued partnerships in the framework of bilateral agreements is to help countries which do not have the needed infrastructure for training purposes, to develop the Hellenic perception of fire training and to promote the European attitude towards common safety policy.

In general the choice of the partners the Academy is going to cooperate with, is being made depending on the ability of participating, the contributing outcomes that are expected and it does not depend on geographical region. It is important for the HFA to participate in international training programs, either inside EU or with non-EU countries, in order to adopt new practical methods of training and to promote international cooperation. Priority is given to universities wishing collaboration for both students and teachers. Partners are usually chosen after proposals from academic departments-organizations and are rectified after the final approval of the Academy's Erasmus Committee. The Academy maintains a policy of diversifying its collaborations under the Erasmus Programme, as long as a common ground on offered academic programs of study exists.

Partner universities can come from various European/non European areas. Of special importance to that, is the participation in European training programs to help fulfilling the aim of common safety policy in EU. For that reason the Academy is trying to participate actively, as we go through the second year that ECTS units are applied, in the procedures of Erasmus, Highest priority is given on student and placement mobility of first cycle students, followed by teacher and staff mobility.

In short we intend to pursue

- a. Collaborations in research projects (cooperation with enterprises)
- b. Collaborations in the development of new programs of study, especially at first cycle and in the use of state-of-the-art technologies in teaching and learning.
- c. Collaborations for mobility of students, faculty and administrative staff
- d. Collaborations for participation in training programs and linking and interacting with business
- e. Collaborations for the development and participation of short/intensive programs

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### **Regarding institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.**

The training of young officers is of high priority for the Hellenic Fire Academy as it is since 1968 the only Greek institution appointed by the Greek state to carry out all the needed education for fire fighters, officers or not. The participation and the expansion of inter-university partnerships and relations can contribute effectively in developing new scientific training methods. It is also important for students of all levels to be able to participate in programs regarding undergraduate studies, in order to do the same in longer lasting programs in the future both in undergraduate but also in postgraduate programs.

For this purpose it is essential for administrative and training personnel to take part consistently in European educational programs. The actions above are capable of bringing great outcomes in educational procedure, but most of all, they are going to promote substantially a new common framework of officers' training in EU.

Main strategy point is to develop, share and transfer best practices and innovative approaches in the fields of education and training in firefighting and civil protection.

In general we aim at improving the quality and relevance of higher education, strengthen quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation enhance international cooperation, international relations, develop new co operations and also develop new innovative curricula if needed, update educational methods, develop training courses so as to provide

expertise on technological innovation and evolution. Our Institution plans to enhance strategic partnerships with eu/non eu countries between universities public, private, and non-governmental organisations aiming to strengthen cooperation and networking between organisations, to promote the development, testing, and implementation of innovative practices, promote the recognition and validation of knowledge, skills, and competences, to promote cooperation between regional authorities to develop new systems for education, training, to support education and training professionals to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in learning.

Furthermore we intend to built Knowledge Alliances in order to promote innovation capacity or foster innovation in higher education and business by organising joint continuing educational programmes and activities with and within companies or jointly develop solutions for issues with common interest such as forest fighting prediction modules or even fire extinguishing materials. Stimulate the flow and exchange of knowledge between higher education and enterprises especially by embedding in the curriculum, common good practices, recognised and credited study fields of interest such as civil protection measures or even involve staff in teaching or research.

Last but not least our institution intends to get involved in Capacity-building projects in the field of higher education mainly to improve, governance-management, and strengthen relations between higher education systems and if possible contribute in modernising policies . Our major aim is to test and adapt new forms of learning and providing education and training virtual mobility, open educational resources, quality assurance at programme and institution level, new governance and management systems and structures. To do that we intend to run surveys and studies on specific reform issues, policy and expert advice ,conferences, seminars, workshops, round tables.

In conclusion HFA's strategy is to actively pursue collaborations in international projects that relate to teaching and training and reserching. Such programs are developed either under the umbrella of various Erasmus centralized and decentralized actions, or through other programmes, for example as dissemination actions in research projects the Academy intends to participate in. The Academy intends to built formal partnerships and ad-hoc collaborations with numerous academic and research organizations, governmental bodies, NGOs and businesses. These partnerships aim partly to promote multilateral teaching and training programs and promote innovation

For organization and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and learning within the framework of the Erasmus Programme, the strategy involves participation in projects relating to Intensive Programmes, joined development of joint programs of study The Academy's strategy for projects implemented under Erasmus is to initially engage in such collaborations under a partner role. With the accumulation of experience from participating in such projects, the strategy is to then engage in similar projects under an organizing role.

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**Regarding the expected impact of our participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of our institution in context with the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area\***

Taking into consideration the renewed European Union's modernisation and internationalisation agenda in HE, especially its 4 main priorities which are :

- Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development.
- Building inclusive and connected higher education systems.
- Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation.
- Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems.

**A series of actions and goals have been set as of high priority and the outcomes have been categorized as short/long term -explanatory description as below:**

The expected outcomes are both short-term and long-term such as the below listed:

The improvement of the training quality, throughout the use of new digital training methods and the use of information and communication technologies. Strategic partnerships with fire academies and other countries' academic institutions in the field of education, research but also in the framework of initiatives for developing new innovative educational methods. The accomplishment of a better and more efficient training through these partnerships. International mobility an international network of friends Funding, Academy's participation in funded projects is expected to improve the governance system of such projects and increase effectiveness.

Life skills (enhance personal development, increase working skills and meet new opportunities)

Obtain experiences abroad and renewal / expansion of the current teaching methods of the academy through EU exchanges Cultural awareness and increased motivation of young students. Develop a European way of thinking among young students aiming at European integration.

Improve the technological and scientific background both of students and administrative and training personell. Professional and personal relevance for teachers. Erasmus+ will increase their interdisciplinary knowledge and insight.

The increase of the educational level can be achieved through multicultural and multilingual exchanges both of students and teachers, as in this way the cognitive horizons of all participants will expand. The interaction between different cultures and countries will influence positively the increase in knowledge.

The main goal of the Hellenic Fire Academy is the continuous improvement of education, but also the interconnection to field and operational practice. Both education and fire fighting training constitute the main cores and basis for the future professional development of the cadets. To this end it is important that the administrative and training staff to participate in exchanges, which will help to develop further their interdisciplinary educational skills and experiences.

Through the international mobility of students and staff, there will be a direct impact on the development and improvement of education. Relations between European officers and administrative and training staff will be enhanced and strengthen. This will offer significant results and impact on the process of European integration by establishing a solid European system of interaction.

The exchange of students and administrative and training staff within the Erasmus+ program will strengthen and enhance the areas of education, research and innovation. The educational institutions will be able to exchange knowledge and experiences relevant on teaching methods, research procedures, as well as new prospects for improvement.

By participating in European training programs there will be a significant enhance of financial support to the academy as part of its operation. In the future the academy will not only dependent on state benefits and national funding, but will be eligible for an Erasmus grant and financial support, following EU standards.