

POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027

The **Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens (AEAA)** is a higher Education Institution of Greece. The AEAA has two main departments: Department of Pastoral Studies and Department of Management of Ecclesiastical Heritage Objects. The AEAA was granted with Erasmus Charter in 2017 for the first time. The Erasmus+ Programme contributed to the maximum to the modernisation and internationalisation of AEAA, which are the basic principles of the Programme and were its primary goals from its participation in the Programme.

With this proposal for the Erasmus Charter (ECHE) 2021-2027, the AEAA, as part of its Policy for Further Modernisation and Internationalisation, aims to:

1. High Quality Agreements, Collaborations and Contacts with Higher Education Institutions abroad (pre-existing and new) on courses, topics and subjects that represent AEAA (Systematic Theology, Interpretation of Old and New Testament, Patrology, Psychology, Liturgical, Ecclesiastical History, Christian Ethics, Ancient and Byzantine Philosophy, Ecclesiastical Administration and Organisation, Christian and Byzantine Archeology and Art, Preservation of Ecclesiastical Heritage Objects, Museology, Iconology, Teaching), as well as collaborations with other strategic Partners, such as Institutions (Holy Metropolises of the Ecumenical Patriarchate abroad, as well as the Church of Greece) and Organisations (PanEuropean Christian Bodies, National Research Institutes, Research Institutes, Byzantine Theological and Interpretive Theology Companies).
2. Outgoing Mobilities for Training for the majority of the Academic and Administrative Staff of AEAA. Many outgoing trainings have already taken place (indicatively, we are mentioning the Academic Staff Trainings in Byzantine Music, in Preservation, in matters of Ecumenical Movement and evolution of the dialogue between the Churches and the Mission, and the Administrative Staff Trainings in English, in digitisation, and in management practices, as AEAA has been self-governing for the last two years only).
3. Outgoing Mobilities (for the majority of AEAA Academic Staff) for Teaching, as well as incoming Mobilities of Academic Staff from other Institutions, for the purpose of acquiring, transmitting and exchanging knowledge on courses and academic subjects, as well as subjects concerning educational systems, programs and good practices. Indicatively, we are mentioning the successful cooperation of AEAA with the University of Ku Leuven, Belgium, as both a Professor from Ku Leuven and a Professor from AEAA respectively, carried out Teaching on Systematic Theology.
4. Mobilities of outgoing and incoming students for Studies and Internships. As for all mobilities, AEAA is committed to selecting all participants through fair and transparent procedures, without discrimination on matters of gender, race, age, origin, sexual preferences. (As only Christian Orthodox persons are required to attend AEAA, religion is not mentioned). There will also be special treatment for the participation in the Programme as well as support of people belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (people with special needs, with underlying diseases, with learning difficulties, with social / economic problems, etc.). The Erasmus Office of AEAA is also committed to informing, motivating and encouraging in every possible way everyone that belongs to the Academy, regardless of her socio-economic background, to participate in the Mobilities offered by the Erasmus+ Programme, so that, according to the goal of building a European Education Area, they can get the benefits of moving abroad: Studies, knowledge, experience, learning foreign

languages, internship, mutual recognition of acquired qualifications, integration into the local community, active social participation, knowledge of Europe's cultural heritage and diversity, strong sense of identity as a European citizen.