



# Our institution is part of the Erasmus+



## What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. It supports international mobility and cooperation across Europe and beyond, enabling participants to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad. With a focus on fostering inclusion, sustainability, and innovation, **Erasmus+** opens doors to opportunities that empower individuals and strengthen institutions.

## Why is Erasmus+ Important for Us?

Becoming part of the Erasmus+ programme is a milestone for the **European Forensic Institute**. It aligns with our mission to provide high-quality education and international exposure, offering our students and staff opportunities to connect, grow, and excel globally.

Participation in Erasmus+ allows us to:

- Promote **academic and professional mobility** for our students and staff.
- Build strong partnerships with institutions and organisations across Europe.
- Enhance the quality and relevance of our academic programmes through international collaboration.
- Support innovation, diversity, and sustainability in forensic education and research.



By being part of Erasmus+, we elevate our standing as a **globally connected institution**, committed to excellence and lifelong learning.



## Opportunities for Our Students

Through Erasmus+, our students gain access to:

### 1. **Student Mobility:**

- Study abroad opportunities at partner universities, allowing students to experience new cultures, gain international perspectives, and enhance their academic journey.
- Automatic recognition of credits (ECTS) earned during study or traineeship abroad, ensuring seamless integration into their programme at EFI.

### 2. **Traineeships Abroad:**

- Hands-on experience in real-world settings, developing practical skills and building professional networks.

### 3. **Cultural Exchange:**

- Opportunities to immerse themselves in different languages, traditions, and ways of life, fostering personal growth and global citizenship.

## Opportunities for Our Staff

Erasmus+ also provides enriching experiences for our academic and administrative staff:

### • **Teaching and Training Abroad:**

- Faculty members can engage in knowledge exchange and professional development by teaching at partner institutions.

### • **Networking and Collaboration:**

- Staff mobility fosters connections with peers, leading to innovative approaches in teaching and administration.

# ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

## Participation in Erasmus+

The European Forensic Institute aims to participate in Erasmus+ activities progressively, starting from Key Actions 1 and 2 and then further expanding to Key Action 3.

**Under KA1, EFI will focus on the mobility of students and staff**, promoting exchanges and training opportunities across Europe to begin with. For outgoing student mobility, EFI will ensure fully automatic recognition of all credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a study period or traineeship abroad.

The ECTS gained will be incorporated into the student's programmes at EFI, for example through the Final Dissertation or Practical Work Experience modules in the bachelor's degree programmes. For incoming student mobility, participants will join our student body and follow all internal policies and procedures for students. ECTS will be awarded in line with pre-agreed Learning Agreements and all required documentation including Transcripts of Records and Diploma Supplement will be provided.

Staff mobility will be an expansion of our initiatives under KA1 and would eventually improve the institution's quality and the academic level of our programmes.

**For KA2**, collaboration with other organisations and institutions will be key. Since our inception, a strong focus has been given to collaboration with other organisations and institutions. EFI already has strong working relationships with several higher education institutions across Europe and national police agencies, including of course the Malta Police Force. Opportunities presented within Erasmus+ will help enhance our collaborative capacity, further supporting our strategic goal.

Implementation of Erasmus+ at EFI will be in a progressive and balanced manner taking into account our commitment to ensure all participants are able to fully benefit from the mobility actions. Outgoing and incoming students will be supported by our Academic Office which will

provide students with information, guidance and all required policy, procedures and documentation. Staff mobility will be supported by our HR department to ensure mobility actions support their wider career goals within the institute.

Collaboration with other organisations will be led by the Head of Institution with support from Programme Leaders at EFI and target collaborations and partnerships where there are common grounds for innovation, research and education in mutually beneficial partnerships with shared resources and exchange of knowledge and expertise.

### **Strategic Goal:**

Our strategic goal is to create a hub for education, training, networking and research and innovation in forensic and investigative sciences, becoming one of the primary reference points in the industry. To achieve our strategic goal, we have set the following institutional objectives.

- **Quality Education:** Ensure our curriculum is current, relevant, and adheres to high standards set by the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and the standards and guidelines for quality assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).
- Professional Network: Foster close connections between students and professionals to provide practical insights and applications of theoretical knowledge and better serve the needs of our professional community by ensuring future practitioners acquire appropriate real-world skills and competencies.
- Centers of Excellence: Create dedicated areas for collaborative research and innovation in forensic and investigative sciences and facilitate the exchange of information and best practices through professional associations like the European Association of Crime Analysts (EACA) and various events.
- Diversity and Inclusion: Create an inclusive educational environment that values and respects diversity among students and staff and promotes equal opportunities for all, regardless of their circumstances.
- Social Impact: Emphasise respect for the rule of law, promotion of democratic principles, and encouraging civic engagement and community service to develop students into responsible and engaged professionals who uphold societal values.



# Objectives of EFI's participation in Erasmus+

The Erasmus+ programme plays a key role in supporting our institutional objectives towards our strategic goal. By participating in the Erasmus+ Programme, we aim to:

- Enhance Student and Staff Mobility: We aim to significantly increase opportunities for our students and staff to engage in study, training, and teaching activities, primarily across the EHEA and partner countries. This mobility is a key factor in fostering personal and professional development and increasing the quality of our teaching and learning.
- Strengthen Collaborative Research: Through the Erasmus+ Programme, we seek to establish and strengthen partnerships with leading European institutions. These collaborations will focus on joint research initiatives, curriculum development, and exchange of best practices. It will foster building a deeper understanding of industry practices across different cultural and political contexts across Europe and the world.

Our participation in the Erasmus+ programmes is expected to have a significant impact on our institution including in the **following institutional objectives**:

- Quality Education: Through Erasmus+ mobility and partnerships, EFI will have access to diverse teaching methods, research, and practices. This will inform and enrich our curriculum, ensuring it remains current, relevant, and adheres to the high standards set by the European Qualification Framework and ESGs.
- Professional Network: Student and staff mobility under Erasmus+ will strengthen connections with industry professionals and academics. This network will provide practical insights and applications of theoretical knowledge, enhancing the employability and real-world skills of EFI graduates.

- Centers of Excellence: Collaborations built within the Erasmus+ programme will foster research and innovation in forensic and investigative sciences. These partnerships will enhance EFI's capacity for cutting-edge research and contribute to our goal of becoming one of the primary reference points in the industry.
- Diversity and inclusion: The international exposure and mobility facilitated by Erasmus+ will foster a more diverse and inclusive educational environment at EFI, specifically removing barriers linked to educational differences, culture, social, economics and geography.
- Social Impact: Engagement in the Erasmus+ Programme will reinforce EFI's commitment to societal values through culturally enriched education and exposure to different European judicial and democratic systems.

Our participation in Erasmus+ aligns with the goals of the EHEA of promoting mobility, improving quality assurance in education, and facilitating the mutual recognition of qualifications across Europe. It is a strategic step towards achieving our institutional goals, enhancing and modernising our offerings, and strengthening our international standing, all while contributing to the broader objectives of the European Education Area. The indicators to measure our achievement in the Erasmus+ programme are as follows, for each Academic Year, Student and Staff Mobility.

- Number of outgoing students: two students or more for each undergraduate (EQF Level 6) programme participating in a study period or traineeship abroad
- Number of incoming students: two or more students participating in a study period or traineeship at EFI.
- Number of outgoing staff for teaching: two or more staff participating in teaching period at a partner higher education institution abroad.
- Number of outgoing staff for training: one or more staff participating training activity abroad that is relevant to their day-to-day work in the form of training events (excluding conferences) or job shadowing and observation periods.

#### **Collaborative Research:**

- Number of collaborative research: two or more collaborative research for each programme involving two or more organisations
- Number of new memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed: two or more. A review of these key indicators will be performed three years into the commencement of our participation.

# The Future with Erasmus+

- As a participant in Erasmus+, we are committed to progressively integrating Key Actions 1, 2, and 3. From student and staff mobility to strategic partnerships, we aim to leverage the programme to its fullest potential.
- Our involvement in Erasmus+ is not just about mobility; it's about creating meaningful collaborations, enhancing educational quality, and preparing our community to thrive in an interconnected world.
- Together with Erasmus+, the European Forensic Institute is shaping the future of forensic education and research.