Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy of EMUNI University

The Euro-Mediterranean University was established as a resilient network of collaborating higher education institutions from across the Mediterranean as well as a platform for inter-cultural dialogue and science diplomacy, therefore the principles of equality and inclusiveness are part of its core values.

However, the Euro-Mediterranean University understands not all people can benefit equally from these opportunities because they face various barriers, discretely or visibly. Inclusion of people facing access barriers or having fewer opportunities in education, training and youth work is a key objective of the EU and Euro-Mediterranean University's vision as well.

The principles of equality and inclusiveness are part of the core values of the Euro-Mediterranean University and are embedded in its structure. The European Pillar of Social rights states that "everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning" and the Euro-Mediterranean University believes that education should be accessible for all, regardless of the barriers people may face.

Aims of the Strategy

This strategy aims to help create equitable opportunities of access for everyone interested in the Erasmus+ programme mobilities. This should be achieved by addressing the barriers and coming forward. The Euro-Mediterranean University's Education Department and the Erasmus+ Coordinator are committed to ensure extra help to students with fewer opportunities before, during and after the mobilities.

The strategy aims to achieve this by:

- Establishing a common understanding of those who may be considered people with fewer opportunities;
- Increasing commitment to inclusion and diversity from all actors involved in the programme;
- Supporting beneficiary organisations in establishing more quality projects involving people with fewer opportunities;
- Reducing barriers to participation in the programmes for people with fewer opportunities and helping applicants and potential applicants to overcome these barriers;
- Fostering the recognition of the experience and competences developed by people with fewer opportunities in the programmes and by the people working with them;
- Ensuring that the focus on inclusion and diversity is taken into account at all stages of the programmes' management and project life-cycle;
- Increase the visibility of inclusion and diversity and its role in the high-quality implementation of the Erasmus+ Programmes.

Target groups

- Disabilities (physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments);
- Health problems (health issues including severe illnesses, chronic diseases, or any other physical or mental health-related situation);
- Barriers linked to education and training systems;
- Cultural differences;
- Social barriers;
- Economic barriers ;
- Barriers linked to discrimination (gender identity, gender expression, age, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, or intersectional factors);
- Geographical barriers.

Diversity in the context of this strategy refers to differences of all kinds. Both inclusion and diversity are part of the selection criteria to select applications for funding and allocate financial support.