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**Erasmus 2021-2027: Policy Statement der EHB**

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The Protestant University of Applied Sciences Berlin (EHB) sees itself as an internationally oriented educational institution that networks both academically and professionally with universities and institutions in Europe and worldwide in order to make a relevant contribution to society by raising awareness of diversity and internationality among all members of the EHB.

It is committed to the goals of European education and to the priorities of the European education agenda. The Erasmus program represents for a small university with about 1500 students and limited resources a central tool and integrative component for the implementation of these goals.

By participating in the Erasmus program and the offering mobilities through the Erasmus program, the EHB ensures that students and staff will acquire competencies through international professional exchange, expansion of language skills as well as the experience of intercultural challenges. The integration of theory and practice is advanced with the help of international partners, which is vital for a university for social work, health, educational sciences and religion like the EHB. Recognition of achievements abroad will be ensured through a transparent process and the achievements and attended courses for each student will be indicated in the Diploma Supplement.

Practicing intercultural competencies by dealing with foreign situations makes a significant contribution to the education of qualified students and the further training of staff in teaching and administration. It complements an “internationalization at home” that is not only to be promoted on campus but is also experienced through integrating degree programs with the diverse and multifaceted society of Berlin. In this regard, the EHB promotes expansion of linguistic competencies and the examination of one's own unique and a European identity.

In the program generation 2021-2027, the EHB aims to increase the number of students and staff in teaching and administration who have an international experience abroad or in the context of blended mobilities.

Guiding criteria for the selection of international partners from higher education and practice are the professional proximity and the quality of scientific and/or practice-related offers. A focus on strategic cooperation, in order to make a university-specific profile recognizable, makes the EHB attractive for applicants from Germany and abroad.

Geographical focus is based on existing contacts and proven partnerships in Northern, Eastern and Western Europe as well as in Southern Africa. In addition, there are contacts with Palestine and Israel, as well as Argentine, Indonesia, Ghana and South Korea.

The expanding recognition of degrees and international networking at the EHB should enable graduates to find employment opportunities nationally and internationally. International students can expand their specialist knowledge at the EHB in a targeted manner and use it profitably in their home countries or in Germany. In this way, the EHB contributes to alleviating the shortage of skilled workers, especially in nursing professions, and at the same time supports further capacity development in program countries.

Close exchange with the EHB's university and practice partners also promotes capacity development and creates closely networked structures for professional exchange at eye level.

The goals of the new program generation are observed at the EHB and will be stringently pursued in the coming years:

Inclusion and diversity are an integral part of the internationalization strategy and are actively lived out in access to the Erasmus+ program, as well as through the implementation and supervision of all participants. Furthermore, anti-discrimination is already a cross-cutting issue in all study programs and thus interaction is part

of everyday practice for teachers and students. As a confessional university, the EHB also sees itself as a promoter of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Diversity is the central subject of our “Management-Education-Diversity” master’s program whose expertise can be incorporated into the advancement of students and staff by jointly developing formats tailored to their needs.

Digitization offers the opportunity to rethink and restructure administrative processes and make them lean and transparent. At a small university like the EHB, this opportunity is readily seized in order to use resources as profitably as possible. For this reason, the EHB is specifically committed to the goals and implementation schedule of the European Student Card Initiative and Erasmus without Papers.

Digitalization also offers the opportunity to make mobilities more sustainable by using more virtual formats for networking.

By incorporating the internationalization strategy with the Third Mission section, which is very active at EHB, it should be ensured that civic engagement from students and staff is promoted and becomes noticeable and visible outside the university.

In order to implement the goals of the internationalization strategy, the university will apply Key Action 1: Mobility of students and staff in the EU.

Target groups for mobilities are students of all bachelor’s and master’s programs as well as teachers and staff of the EHB. Through the establishment of mobility windows, study semesters and/or compulsory internships abroad can be included by students in all bachelor’s degree programs and are actively supported by EHB. Conversely, members of the partner universities are offered excellent opportunities for studying, internships and teaching at EHB and in cooperation with practice partners.

The implementation of international topics in teaching and administration is seen as a cross-sectional task. Therefore, the mobility of teachers and university staff in administration is widely encouraged.

For Key Action 2, the EHB is already participating as a partner in the Baby Buddy Forward Project and the Empathy in Health Project in the midwifery degree program. The aim is to continue to promote international networking in further study programs in academic and professional terms in the program generation 2021-2027 and to develop strategic partnerships in a targeted manner.

Through the participation of Key Actions 1 and 2, the academization of the education, social and health care sectors is being developed and advanced both qualitatively and quantitatively. In particular, the study programs Nursing, Childhood Education and Midwifery are still in the early stages of scientification and nationwide establishment in Germany. In these areas, the EHB can extract the experience and expertise of foreign partner universities and together adjust new and yet already proven elements to its own needs and those in Germany.

Health and social professions have become increasingly more academic. Therefore, the relevance for a university education in these fields where one was previously educated through a practical apprenticeship has greatly increased. In order to ensure demand-based and practice-related courses of study, continual exchange with practicing institutions at the national and international level is an important prerequisite and can be specifically promoted through participation in Key Actions 1 and 2.