

European Policy Statement (EPS), 2021-2027

Mission

In our current 'Corona' era it's very difficult and complex to predict in which direction the world moves in the upcoming six years. On the other hand, there were a lot of changes already visible or in a rethinking stadium. Overwhelming attention has been given to the Sustainable goals of UNESCO, in which a lot of crucial subjects come together like: World Citizenship, Sustainable development, Intercultural communication and Human rights. The Marnix Academy (a university of applied sciences, teacher training, primary level) adopted these ideas in a new strategic plan (2018). In order to guide students in their development into social and self-aware citizens of the world who feel their social responsibility, we primarily pay increased attention to personal training. This is about personal identity. We want to prepare students in our education for professional life by ensuring they get to know themselves, gain confidence and relate to others. The purpose is to gain insight into the values that are important to them, and how they are interpreted in daily life. In a society that is part of a globalizing world, it is good to emphasize that being part of the world is bigger than the neighborhood or village in which the students grow up. We think it is important that our students have a conscious way of living, in which they not only respect others, but also take responsibility for others and society. This can be done by broadening your view during your studies by studying abroad or get acquainted with another culture. Our new position as a UNESCO university of applied sciences shows that we feel deep responsibility for society. Our university is committed to global solidarity, intercultural dialogue, entrepreneurial citizenship and sustainability. For example, we want to prepare our students for the complex interweaving of economic, social and ecological challenges of the future by inspiring them for their own future exemplary role in sustainability. The role they can have towards the children in their class and the school where they work. We can find sustainable issues in many places: in the educational vision, in the curricula, in the research, in the policy, in the participation in sustainable initiatives and in the professionalization of the employees, but also in the business operations.

Relation with Erasmus+

These notions fit perfectly in the fundamental (new) principles of the Erasmus+ program. Examples are the strategies on inclusion, non discrimination, environmentally friendly practices, active citizenship and digital developments like the Student Card Initiative.

The content of our current mission statement and the fundamental principles of the Erasmus+ program comes together in our curriculum reform and our (new) internationalization strategy. The crucial issues mentioned above are clearly visible in the learning objectives and competencies for the students. It's their job to transfer the knowledge, the attitudes and values to the children in the primary school, which is our core business.

Relation with our internationalization strategy

The international strategy reflects the ideas adopted in the strategic plan. Besides the implementation of the Sustainable goals, we strive to give every student (on all levels) the possibility to obtain an international experience. Internationalization at Home will become more and more important. In our new curriculum, which is under construction now, will be more 'flexibility'. More own choices and different types of delivery will be part of it. This fits perfectly in the strategy of inclusion. Internally, the master programs will be more part of the international strategy and externally, more 'primary school, being part of our so called 'partnerships' will take

part in international activities to transfer the SDG issues in the primary school. These goals can change depending on the development of the Corona crisis.

The international strategy leads to the following concrete steps in 2021-2027

- to implement the SDG's and the competencies (ICOMS) in the curriculum;
- to focus more on Internationalisation at Home via int. literature, internal internationals programs, guest lectures and virtual learning;
- to give every student an international experience (100% participation in international weeks);
- to increase the number of outgoing students (10% of the total student population);
- to stabilize the number of incoming students (3 international classes of 20 students);
- to stabilize the number of outgoing lecturers (10-15% of the total staff population);
- to stimulate incoming staff mobility (international week in Utrecht);
- to organize more short term incoming- and outgoing mobility (2 weeks)
- to adopt more flexibility in the international programs (humanities and special needs) via virtual mobility and blended learning;
- to increase the quality of the website and the international study portal via short videoclip and stories of students;
- to implement the Erasmus+ mobile app;
- to integrate more international aspects in the master programs;
- to initiate joint projects with primary schools;
- to develop new international programs under KA2 (social entrepreneurship).

Based on our current program and the strategic policy outlined above, the Marnix Academy chooses for a consolidation of its current network and intensifying the network with some partners. The selection of partners is closely linked to the strategic decisions chosen by the Marnix Academy.

The partners of the Marnix Academy are mainly located within Europe. Areas of interest within the upcoming years include world citizenship, sustainable development, inclusion, digital innovation and virtual mobility/blended learning. A number of European institutes within the mentioned frames shall be identified through intensive working visits. Subsequently, the Marnix Academy will initiate a sustainable relation with these institutes.

The areas listed above contribute to build a European Education Area.