In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the ECHE Guidelines for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.	
Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:	
The mobility of higher education students and staff	
Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:	
Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices	
Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities	
Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees	
Partnerships for Innovation	
Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):	
Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:	

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the

goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Medical University of Silesia in Katowice (SUM) is a university with over seventy years of tradition. Established in 1948 as the Medical Academy with one medical department and a dentistry department based in Rokitnica Bytomska, it was renamed with the name Silesian Medical Academy a year later and then the Silesian Medical Academy, Ludwik Waryński to finally - under the Act of March 30th, 2007 - become a university.

This decades-old tradition is a source of pride and inspiration. The current position of the University results from the scientific and research achievements of the academic staff, comprehensive cooperation with the social and economic environment, and above all from the high level of education in medical and related professions, consisting not only in the transfer of knowledge, but also in developing the skills to apply it in practice. With traditions in education towards modern science and modern medicine, the Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, as one of the oldest universities in the region, founded in 1948, has been alming mission to discover and convey the truth through scientific research, modern education of students in medical professions, combined with upbringing in a spirit of respect for freedom of science, humanism and ethics, and cooperation with the social and economic environment.

The University's development is based on a modern scientific and didactic base, a variety of fields of study and specialties as well as a highly specialized academic staff. Currently, the University educates over 9,000 students of uniform master's and first and second-degree studies in medicine, dentistry, medical emergency, neuroscience, pharmacy, medical biotechnology, cosmetology, physiotherapy, medical analytics, public health, dietetics, nursing and midwifery. Almost half a thousand PhD students undertake doctoral studies. The university is accredited by the Polish Accreditation Commission, has also the accreditation for conducting English-language medical studies, certificates of the National Accreditation Board of Schools of Nurses and Midwives for nursing and midwifery faculties, as well as the first accreditation in Poland for public health studies awarded by the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) - a European institution granting international accreditation to academic centers that conduct studies in public health. Continuing education is ensured by various forms of lifelong learning.

Five SUM faculties are in the largest cities of the Silesian Voivodeship:

- 1) Faculty of Medical Sciences in Katowice,
- 2) Faculty of Medical Sciences in Zabrze,
- 3) Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Sosnowiec.
- 4) Faculty of Health Sciences in Katowice,
- 5) Faculty of Health Sciences in Bytom.

The university is the founding entity for five clinical hospitals that offer patients comprehensive, highly specialized health services. Clinics and clinical departments, providing medical services with the highest degree of reference, occupy a significant place on the domestic health care market. Many of them are mentioned at the top of the national rankings as leading centers in such fields as medicine, such as cardiology, cardiac surgery, hematology, highly specialized surgery, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, nephrology and gastroenterology.

The basic tasks of the Medical University of Silesia in Katowice include:

- 1. Educating students to acquire and supplement knowledge and skills necessary for professional work.
- Raising students with a sense of responsibility for the Polish state, for strengthening the principles of democracy and respect for human rights.
- 3. Conducting scientific research and development works as well as providing research services.
- 4. Training and promoting academic staff.
- 5. Disseminating and multiplying the achievements of science, national culture, and technology, including through the collection and sharing of library and information collections.
- Conducting post-graduate studies, courses, and training in order to train new skills necessary on the labor market in the lifelong learning system.
- 7. Creating conditions for the development of students' physical culture.
- 8. Action for local and regional communities.
- Creating conditions for the disabled to participate fully in the educational process and in scientific research.

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area en

- 10. Participation in the provision of medical care in the scope and forms specified in the provisions on medical activity
- 11. Implementation of the Bologna Declaration lifelong learning: from the university of the first age to the university of the third age.

The strategy of the Medical University of Silesla in Katowice is a provision setting out the directions of the University's development and is consistent with the SUM Statute, legal acts regulating the operation of universities in Poland, as well as with national and regional strategic documents. It considers various external conditions, in particular the legal, economic, cultural and social environment in which it operates.

As part of the adopted strategy, the Medical University of Silesia in Katowice aspire, among others, to:

- To be one of the leading medical universities with a recognized position in national and European rankings, undertaking global didactic and scientific challenges and implementing prestigious international projects and programs.
- Closely cooperate with outstanding Polish and international academic centers in the field of education and research, making full use of the potential contained in medical, pharmaceutical, health, natural and social sciences.
- Educate students at the European level, ensure the possibility of obtaining the highest level of education and comprehensive development, give graduates the chance to employ and recognize the SUM diploma in the country and in Europe.
- 4. Be open to the educational needs of students, regardless of race, nationality or religion.
- 5. Guarantee exceptionally good conditions for studying and research and development in line with global standards.
- 6. To have highly qualified, mobile and open to the world academic staff;
- 7. Participate in the proper creation and functioning of the health care system in the region and the country by developing highly specialized diagnostic and therapeutic activities in clinical hospitals and implementing innovative technologies.
- 8. Combine tradition and modernity, be an example of an institution that, in an atmosphere of tolerance and freedom, builds lasting relationships with society, while maintaining respect for diverse views and behaviors.

Strategy in relation to mobility and blended mobility: selection of partner universities / institutions; geographical countries / regions; goals and target groups for employees and students; promotion of mobility.

Currently, SUM has signed agreements with many foreign universities from Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Italy, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. This cooperation concerns, among others exchange of students, exchange of information in the field of teaching programs and exchange and training of teaching staff. As part of the Erasmus Program, which has been in the SUM since 2004, inter-institutional agreements regarding the bilateral exchange of students and employees are signed, among others with many universities from Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Denmark, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary and also from Ukraine. In the years 2021-2027, cooperation with universities from these areas will be further developed, and it is planned, in line with the signaled needs of students and staff, to establish cooperation with universities from the Scandinavian countries, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and the Baltic States. Among the students of the first and second degree of studies, as well as uniform master's studies, mobility for the period of study covering one semester or the entire academic year are promoted. This type of mobility ensures, especially for last-year medical students, participation in clinical subjects and contact with the patient during foreign mobility. Traineeship mobilities are also promoted. Final year students are encouraged to apply for internships so that they can benefit from the participation in the Erasmus Program also as young graduates, improve practical skills, expand professional competences and learn about working techniques in the countries of partner institutions. In the following years, the promotion of blended mobility is planned, which is part of the SUM strategy both in terms of internationalization and expanding the use of distance learning services and distance learning, while developing modern ICT-based learning techniques and medical simulation. Currently, SUM has a rich base of training materials in Polish and English available on the distance learning platform. Two Medical Simulation Centers also operate in SUM in Katowice and Zabrze. Medical simulation is a learning technique that enables learners to acquire skills, competences and knowledge by participating in situations encountered in everyday life. It allows to solve problems in real conditions, discuss the procedure immediately after the end of the exercise, as well as use the potential and emotional involvement of students. There are fourteen high fidelity simulation rooms in both Medical Simulation Centers. In the operating room, hospital emergency department, intensive care room, delivery room, pediatric room, two dental rooms and the prehospital simulation zone, there are advanced, full-scale patient simulators of different ages and modern medical equipment. Thanks to advanced technology, patient simulators are able to provide information about their medical history, current ailments, present various disease symptoms and dynamically change life parameters. Students can examine patients in real time, order laboratory and imaging tests and conduct treatment while observing its effectiveness. Under the conditions of the pre-hospital simulation zone, it is possible to implement scenarios using a fully equipped emergency ambulance equipped with the standard of a Specialized Medical Rescue Team. All rooms allow the recording of simulation scenarios in the form of audio-video materials, which, after being combined with the patient's vital parameters, are discussed in detail with simulation participants in specially prepared debriefing rooms. Two multimedia laboratories have access to the e-learning platform, a wide library base and advanced software, including for electroradiology. Two multimedia laboratories have access to the e-learning platform, a wide library base and advanced software, including for electroradiology. In cooperation with Asseco Poland, students were offered a virtual hospital system with which they can learn about their future work tool. Multimedia work is also adapted to conduct exams in electronic form. Both the distance learning platform and e-learning classes run by Medical Simulation Centers have proven themselves during the restrictions introduced in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling SUM students to conduct online classes and students coming as part of the Erasmus Program to carry out classes both in Poland and in case of an earlier return to the country of residence. In the following years, blemded mobility studies will be promoted among students of all types and degrees, which by combining real and remote mobility will be more able to agree on the optimal study program during mobility and, if necessary, the implementation of subjects at both the partner and home university. Due to the fact that long mobility and the need to travel for the whole semester or two semesters of study constitute an obstacle for some students and prevent the use of the Erasmus Program, the

possibility

of implementing blended mobility will contribute to increasing the total number of students participating in the Program.

In order to have highly qualified, mobile and open to the world academic staff and to guarantee very good conditions for studying and scientific and research work, corresponding to global standards, SUM plans to increase the mobility of doctoral students and teaching, research and other employees. Due to the interest shown by SUM employees, it is planned to organize courses and training of employees from partner countries organized in SUM as part of the Erasmus program in 2021-2027. Such training will additionally contribute to promoting mobility among SUM employees.

Program coordinators and employees of the Didactic Center who are administratively responsible for implementing the Erasmus Program, implementing mobility, helping outgoing and incoming participants under the Program, including the preparation of contracts, obtaining relevant documents (such as visas), accommodation, they are involved in the promotion of mobility. In the coming years, SUM plans to involve more former Erasmus Program participants, both from Poland and partner universities who implemented their mobility in SUM, to promote the program among SUM students and employees.

Strategy in relation to multilateral projects.

SUM wants to be one of the leading medical universities with a recognized position in national and European rankings, undertaking global didactic and scientific challenges and implementing prestigious international projects and programs. Close cooperation with outstanding Polish and international academic centers in the field of education and research, full use of the potential contained in the medical, pharmaceutical, health, natural and social sciences is associated with cooperation with scientific centers around the world. In 2021-2027, SUM will undertake actions aimed at promoting the participation of its own students and employees in international multilateral projects. Future partner institutions will be sought both among Eastern European and Western European countries, which will allow them to benefit from the experience of cooperating universities in different parts of Europe. The active search for partner institutions is planned to include visiting professors, other employees performing mobility in SUMs, as well as SUM employees leaving for partner universities and institutions conducting training under the Erasmus Program. Expert lectures of professors with global scientific achievements influence the improvement of culture and quality of education in SUM. Information on the results of participation in multilateral projects will be appropriately disseminated by the SUM.

Strategy references to the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff.

SUM is open to the educational needs of students, regardless of race, nationality or religion. In SUM, it is very important to create conditions for excluded persons for full participation in the educational process and research, as well as for full participation in the Erasmus Program. Mobility of disabled people or students with the right to a "social allowance" is additionally supported under the program "Foreign mobility of auditors with special needs." As part of the Operational Program Knowledge Development Education. Students are informed about the possibility of obtaining additional funds or obtaining a higher scholarship, which will allow excluded persons to fully participate in the program, both before and during recruitment process.

Strategy in relation to 'Erasmus without paper'.

The strategy implemented under the 'Erasmus without paper' policy has a significant impact on environmental protection. On average, 17 trees disappear with every ton of paper used. SUM is currently introducing changes to the IT system, both to support students and to support remote teaching. SUM plans in the Erasmus Program in the years 2021-2027 to introduce modifications and adaptation of software enabling management of the mobility of SUM students, which will allow to agree on the details of the Learning Agreement before, during and after mobility between the home and home university and the student without having to print a paper document. Similarly, after completing the mobility, Transcript of Records will be available online and downloadable by both the student and the sending university.

From 2021, it is planned to introduce for all new mobility data necessary for the participant's mobility to obtain a European student card. This correlates with the strategy of promoting blended mobility among participants, i.e. implemented partly in a traditional way and partly remotely. Employees of the Didactic Center administering mobilities and employees of individual dean's offices responsible for students attending the program will be responsible for entering relevant data in the systems.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Strategy in relation to mobility and blended mobility.

As before, the selection of partner institutions will involve many of the best specialists, academic teachers of all fields of study at the SUM. Interinstitutional cooperation under the Erasmus Program may be initiated by both the authorities or employees of the home university, authorities or employees of the partner university and SUM students who may be interested in implementing studies or traineeships in specific foreign centers. In each of these cases, proposals for

establishing interinstitutional agreements are assessed by the Institutional Erasmus Coordinator in consultation with the faculty coordinators and deans of the relevant faculties. After making the decision to sign the interinstitutional agreement, it is accepted by the Rector.

Admissions to the Erasmus Program are set out in the Admissions Regulations, which constitute an attachment to the ordinance of the SUM Rector and it is available on the university's website. The Erasmus University Admissions Committee appointed by the Rector's order is responsible for the correct recruitment process. The recruitment of university employees is carried out on a continuous basis, until the funds at the disposal of the university are exhausted. Whereas, recruitment of SUM students and PhD students for study, traineeships and internships takes place once a year. The opportunity to qualify for the program and the award of the scholarship is influenced by both the student's assessment, his scientific and professional commitment (including awards, scholarships, participation in scientific associations), as well as knowledge of a foreign language enabling the implementation of mobility at a foreign university. The Regulations assign a point weight to individual achievements (including average grades, language qualifications, and academic achievements). In order to facilitate application for the Program, the SUM website on the Erasmus Program includes, in addition to the relevant Rector's resolutions, presentations in Polish and English, which explain step by step the application procedure for the program and the procedure after the recruitment results are announced. In addition, people qualified to participate in the Program at each stage have the option of personal, telephone or email contact with an employee of the SUM Didactics Center.

Administering the recruitment process, preparing contracts between participants and the university and supervising mobility, helping program participants rest with the staff of the SUM Didactic Center, both in relation to students, doctoral students and employees of SUM, as well as foreign participants implementing mobility in SUM. Employees of the didactic center also enter data into the Mobility Tool system. Scholarship payments to participants are made within 30 days of signing the contract between the participant and the SUM.

The Institutional Erasmus Coordinator supervises the functioning of the Program, to which Faculty Coordinators are subject. In consultation with the dean's authorities, they evaluate the curriculum / internship program included in the Learning Agreement by the beneficianes and decide on the possibility of implementing the given program. The list of subjects available for implementation by students coming to the SUM in a given academic year is posted on the university's website:

- mobilities for a period of study covering one semester or the entire academic year, which ensures, especially
 for students of the last years of medical studies, participation in clinical subjects and contact with the patient
 during foreign mobility.
- trainceships and internships among final year students, which will help improve practical skills, expand
 professional competence and become familiar with working techniques in the countries of partner
 institutions.
- Blended mobilities, which are part of the SUM strategy both in terms of internationalization and expanding the use of distance learning services and acquiring knowledge, while developing modern ICT-based learning techniques and medical simulation. They may also encourage students for whom long mobility and the need to travel for the entire semester or academic year were, for various reasons, an obstacle and prevented them from using the Erasmus Program. The possibility of implementing blended mobilities can significantly contribute to increasing the total number of students participating in the Program.

Currently, program coordinators and employees of the Didactic Center responsible for implementing the Erasmus Program are involved in the promotion of mobility. Promotion of mobility in SUM takes place, among others, through:

- organization of meetings with students and employees, i.e. potential participants of the Program,
- information about the Program provided by academic teachers during classes,
- information on the possibility of participation and how to recruit for the Program available in the form of a presentation on the website https://student.sum.edu.pl/erasmus/ for both outgoing and incoming students,
- information posted on SUM social media,
- meetings and trips organized for incoming students and SUM students who take care of them.

Greater involvement of former Erasmus Program participants (from the SUM and partner universities) is planned to promote the program among SUM students and staff and to attract participants from partner scholars.

Strategy in relation to multilateral projects.

SUM wants to be one of the leading medical universities with a recognized position in national and European rankings, undertaking global didactic and scientific challenges and implementing prestigious international projects and programs. Close cooperation with outstanding Polish and international academic centers in the field of education and research, full use of the potential contained in the area of medical, pharmaceutical, health, natural and social sciences is associated with cooperation with scientific centers around the world. In 2021-2027, SUM will undertake actions aimed at promoting the participation of its own students and employees in international multilateral projects. Future partner institutions will be sought both among Eastern European and Western European countries, which will allow them to benefit from the experience of cooperating universities in different parts of Europe. The active search for partner institutions is planned to include visiting professors and other employees implementing mobility in SUMs, as well as SUM employees leaving for partner universities and institutions conducting training under the Erasmus Program. Expert lectures of professors with global scientific achievements influence the improvement of culture and quality of education in SUM. Information on the results of participation in multilateral projects will be appropriately disseminated by the SUM.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions

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SUM implementing the mobility project meets the general objectives set out in the SUM Strategy for 2015-2021:

- SUM students and PhD students gain knowledge and experience that allows them to be better prepared for medical professions.
- SUM employees develop cooperation with universities recognized as potential strategic partners.
- the university, thanks to the participation of employees in the program, establishes contacts that allow to attract foreign academic teachers who are then invited as visiting professors. Establishing contacts can also contribute to establishing research cooperation.
- the effect of more international initiatives resulting from participation in the Erasmus Program will be to strengthen the prestige of institutions on the international arena.
- People participating in the exchange under the program by exchanging experiences, establishing professional and personal contacts, promote the idea of integration and openness to other cultures, customs and traditions.

During the program implementation will be undertaken, among others the following activities to disseminate results:

- implementation and publication of joint scientific works in the press of recognized specialized journals and in university bulletins,
- implementation of joint scientific conferences or trainings,
- active participation of employees of the Didactic Center in conferences organized by students and educational fairs, where the results of implemented mobility programs are disseminated,
- publications in university guidebooks and brochures published, among others on the university's website.