

# European Policy Statement

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## ***What is the current situation of your university's international co-operation in the context of current national, international and European development?***

Harokopio University was founded in 1990 and is the newest Higher Education establishment in Greece. It has been designed and developed by the Ministry of Education on high international standards with the aim to promote Human Development Studies in Greece. Harokopio University operates at its own premises in Kallithea, 4 kilometers from the centre of Athens.

It consists of three departments, the Department of Home Economics and Human Ecology, the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics and the newly established Department of Geography, all operating on a full time basis, offering four year studies leading to B.Sc. Degrees.

The disciplines of Home Economics, Nutrition- Dietetics and Geography were introduced for the first time at University level by Harokopio University aiming to advance Human Development Studies in the Country and serve contemporary needs of the Greek society. Particular emphasis is placed on offering studies that balance the theoretical and applied advances in the above fields. It is our belief that only if our students are well trained in real life applications, they will be able to meet the demands posed by their professions. As a consequence, required course work at Harokopio university combines theoretical knowledge with practice in the laboratory, the clinic and the community.

The University supports both basic and applied research. It is within our interest to offer research opportunities for the advancement of knowledge in all areas of Home Economics, Human Ecology, Nutrition and Dietetics and Geography.

Since 1993, when the University accepted its first students, it has taken important steps in establishing its educational and research role in Greece and Europe. Among the achievements and initiatives that illustrate the University's academic and social profile are the following:

- the development and integration of study programs for the new disciplines, i.e. Home Economics □ Human Ecology, Nutrition □ Dietetics and Geography.
- the development of laboratory facilities for student training, including a Chemistry, a Biology, a Microbiology, a Food Science, a Nutritional Assessment, a Nutritional Metabolism and three Computer laboratories
- the development of facilities and laboratories for the newly established Department of Geography in a new building, as well as the development of a new expanded library, which offers on line access to national and international libraries, associations and journals
- the establishment of two postgraduate programs, one on Applied Nutrition and the other on Sustainable Development. These two year programs were initiated in October 2000 and 60 and 50 students respectively are currently enrolled
- the establishment of educational and research linkages with European and non- European academic institutions, including:
  - a) four European Modules under the Jean Monnet project
  - b) short term visits of academics from all over the world
  - c) Participation in the 5th framework programmes
  - d) planning for active participation in the 6th framework programmes
- Harokopio has taken action in order to allocate a portion of its funds made available by its benefactors for funding student fellowships. Fellowships will be awarded to Harokopio graduates wishing to pursue post graduate studies at home or abroad
- the promotion of bilateral agreements with institutions around Europe in order to
 

promote stronger European and International links.

***Given the strengths and weaknesses of your university's present situation, define your university's aims and priorities for 2004/2005 - 2006/2007 with a special focus on promoting activities in the SOCRATES programme. Describe briefly how the the EPS has been developed and how it will be implemented at your institution.***

As it was mentioned above Harokopio University has managed to develop its European and International relations through research programs and activities. Aiming to develop student and staff mobility flows Harokopio University has signed bilateral agreements with European academic institutions from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and Belgium. It has also established systematic co-operation with the university of Main (USA). Currently, bilateral agreements have been increased (reaching a total number of approximately 30 institutions) involving additional universities from the UK, France, Belgium and from Italy, Portugal and Spain. At the same time individual teaching staff members have been very active in promoting European cooperation through their participation in Intensive Programmes co-ordinated by other European Universities (co-ordinating institution: University Aveiro (PT), IP entitled: Urban Development and Strategic Planning in Europe) and Curriculum Development Programmes (co-ordinating institution: University of Genk, CD entitled: Safety in the Agro-food chain). The HU (Department of Geography) is also participating in the European Module in Regional Development Planning in Europe, co-ordinated by the University of Newcastle (UK).

In order to highlight its growing commitment to European co-operation, Harokopio University jointly with the National Socrates/Erasmus Agency (State Scholarships Foundation/ IKY) organised in its premises (22/10/2002) the central event -for all Greek higher education institutions - of The 1 million Erasmus Students Week".

Thus, the aims and priorities for 2003/2004 - 2006/2007 with a special focus on promoting activities in the SOCRATES programme are the following:

A. The Harokopio University reorganises all its educational programmes and curricula in order to comply with the Bologna and Prague principles placing emphasis on the ECTS. Thus a first priority, which arises here, is full endorsement of the ECTS by including also the newly created department of Geography. This will occur within the 2002-2003 academic year.

B. The university is also planning to further expand Bilateral Agreements with European institutions and especially with those of annexation countries, placing emphasis on the Balkan and Mediterranean area.

C. The university is also encouraging teaching staff, by providing the necessary organisational and infrastructure support, to participate or become co-ordinators of Curriculum Development Programmes (CDs), Intensive Programmes, and Thematic Networks (TNs). Already in parallel to the EPS submission Harokopio University (Department of Geography) is applying as co-ordinator for an Intensive programme (entitled: STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLANNING: IMPACT OF MEGA EVENTS ON METROPOLITAN ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES) involving eleven European universities and one (1) thematic network for the 2003/2004 period. Emphasis will be given on extending the participation of Harokopio University in Curriculum Development Programmes (CDs), Intensive Programmes, and Thematic Networks (TNs), for the period 2006-2007 having as potential aim the involvement of each department in at least two of the abovementioned programmes.

***How will your institution ensure high quality in student and staff mobility and in Erasmus co-operation projects?***

In order to ensure high quality mobility the following procedures are being adopted on behalf of Harokopio University:

A. With respect to staff mobility: Currently, an evaluation procedure of the educational, research and administrative work of the teaching staff has been finalised and it will be adopted soon by all university departments. Within that context the participation in international mobility flows and activities is given a very high importance. Members of the teaching staff are given many incentives to participate in international flows and are encouraged to present the respective activities arising from such flows through publications, seminars, lectures and presentations.

B. With respect to student mobility the university adopts the following selection procedure: The students have to apply to the International relations Office for the host University of their choice. Then selection is made by their departments according to the demand and certain selection standards that are set by each department, such as the students' grades, her/his foreign language level, its intellectual interests and commitment. It also examines the content of the proposed learning agreement. If the department approves the application, it is then transferred to the Harokopio University ERASMUS/SOCRATES committee that further examines it by placing emphasis to particular students' interests and commitment. It also examines the applications in

relation to the availability of places in the host University. The ERASMUS/SOCRATES committee elaborates also in detail the students' learning agreement and deals with all the accommodation, travel and registration procedures.