

## EUT+ AGREEMENT

# PILOT FOR THE FACILITATION OF THE STUDENT MOBILITY BETWEEN EUT+ PARTNERS AND CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT

ENGLISH VERSION

24 NOVEMBER 2022 – 4 PARTNERS



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*EUT+ Agreement: Process Guidelines for the Facilitation of Student Mobility between EUT+ Partners and Cluster Development*

BETWEEN the following partners:

**Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Technical University of Cartagena** (Spain), whose headquarters are located at Plaza del Cronista Isidoro Valverde, Edificio la Milagrosa, Cartagena 30202, represented by its Rector Beatriz MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ,

**Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca** (Romania), whose headquarters are located at Str Memorandumului 28, Cluj-Napoca 400114, represented by its Rector Vasile TOPA,

**Технически университет София, Technical University of Sofia** (Bulgaria), whose headquarters are located at Kliment Ohridsky Bd 8, Sofia 1000, represented by its Rector Ivan KRALOV,

**Université de technologie de Troyes, University of technology of Troyes** (France), whose headquarters are located at 12 rue Marie Curie 10000 Troyes, represented by its Director Christophe COLLET.

Hereinafter referred to as “**the partners**”. The initiative or project “European University of Technology” is also referred to by its acronym “EUT+”.

All the active partners for the development of the project are also called “the Alliance”.

In line with the following agreements, memorandums of understanding and other documents:

- the second call for Erasmus+ “European Universities” projects,
- the application file for this call for projects and its annexes, which the partners submitted on 26 February 2020,
- Grant Agreement N° 101004088 signed by the partners and the European Commission on 16 October 2020, which remains the document of reference in the event of a conflict between the terms of this agreement and the Grant Agreement,
- the EUT+ Memorandum of Understanding European University of Technology: Toward a single university,
- the EUT+ Memorandum of Agreement for the creation of EUT+ Bachelor in Engineering and Master of Engineering programmes by evolution and convergence of existing partner programmes.
- the EUT+ agreement facilitation of student mobility between EUT+ partners, signed by the partners on 27 April.

HAVING STATED THIS, IT IS AGREED AND DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

This agreement does not aim at uniformity but at convergence and interoperability. It is supported by our institutions, with their different backgrounds, and provides them with an opportunity to rethink



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their own higher education while participating in a common discussion of the challenges they face together. It is intended to respect the speed and methods of implementation by each institution.

## 1 Purpose of This Agreement

The partners of EUT+ have affirmed their ambition to build a single European university based on the full integration of their eight institutions, creating a new higher education ecosystem. Student experience is an essential feature of this new European university (see EUT+ agreement facilitation of student mobility between EUT+ partners).

To achieve this, the partners agree to launch a pilot process which is defined in this agreement and will be implemented by the partners who sign it.

This agreement establishes key elements and processes for the experimental implementation of the mobility maps created by the first three Clusters for the Academic Year 2022–2023 within the EUT+ Alliance. In this, it aims to provide for seamless student mobility, defines the expected multilingualism level and automatic recognition of all ECTS gained in the welcoming institution.

This agreement further provides a framework and timetable for student enrolment in semester mobility so as to ensure a cohesive, well-defined and smooth process across the signing EUT+ campuses.

This agreement is considered as a *learning agreement* for all students participating in a cluster mobility, according to the terms defined below. It serves to accelerate inter-institutional cooperation and to organize the iterative process of harmonization of existing degrees offered by the partners.

## 2 Definitions

When not specified here, the definitions used are those of the *European Degree in Engineering EUT+ reference guide*.

### 2.1 Institutions

For a student, the “home institution” is the institution of first registration for a given curriculum, and is the institution responsible for monitoring the student’s curriculum. The “welcoming institution” is the destination institution for a mobility semester.

### 2.2 Modules

A *module* is an indivisible block of training. It is described by *basic learning outcomes* (as defined in the *European Degree in Engineering EUT+ reference guide*). It grants ECTS to the student who had proven his proficiency in these *basic learning outcomes*.



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## 2.3 Clusters

A *cluster* is a group of curricula, in a given thematic, from different partner institutions which aims at an accelerated convergence to become, as soon as possible, a *joint European degree* with a single academic regulation, where the student can move freely across several EUT+ campuses.

The *cluster* works towards a common pedagogical model based on the description given in the *European Degree in Engineering EUT+ reference guide*.

A common set of *final learning outcomes* is defined in the cluster. This set will be the *final learning outcomes* of the target joint European degree. It is described in accordance with the general pedagogical competences framework and the European guidelines (eg. ENAEE framework, Dublin descriptors...). It is guided by and respects the related competences frameworks.

The harmonization of pre-existing national curricula with common objectives of final learning outcomes is progressively achieved in the clusters by the *[cluster] academic coordination committee* under the supervision of the *Education Committee*.

Modules and associated ECTS defined in the clusters are fully pre-recognized by the partner institutions as stated in the mobility maps.

Especially for partner institutions with a fully linear study track (without the possibility for students to choose modules or with a very limited number of elective modules), specific modules of the partners institutions are fully recognized by the home institutions as equivalent to given specific modules as stated in the mobility maps.

## 2.4 Mobility Map

The *mobility map* is the list of the modules that each partner institution is offering to incoming students. The modules are described in *basic learning outcomes*.

The mobility map details the pedagogical and technical information needed for the choice and the organization of students' study tracks. Each "home institution" chooses the modules that its students can choose among the modules offered by the welcoming institution.

The mobility maps are periodically extended and improved, they are built as successive steps of convergence toward this target. They allow a first step in the construction and the deepening of the reciprocal understanding of the partner institutions as well as the development of transversal academic communities within EUT+.

Partner institutions may build curricula by selecting modules from the mobility maps. In particular, a complete semester can be built up by forming a bundle of about 30 ECTS from among the proposed modules with the choice being based on the themes and languages of instruction. As the study regulations and mobility conditions are still largely defined at the national level, it is the home



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institution that defines these bundles. In such a case, the whole bundle is automatically recognized and students only report the validated ECTS.

## 2.5 EUT+ Student Experience

An *EUT+ Student Experience* is defined as a physical mobility (inside EUT+, from the *home institution* to the *welcoming institution*) with a block of a minimum of 12 weeks at the welcoming institution selecting modules offered in a cluster, enabling the student to validate a minimum of 25 ECTS.

Other kinds of mobilities including short-term, blended, virtual and other forms of mobilities will be addressed in further documents.

## 3 EUT+ Intercampus Mobility

Mobility is embedded in any EUT+ curricula: “In order to build themselves and their vision of Europe, our students need to experience an in-depth exposure and immersion. This can only be achieved through long and transforming mobility. Mobility is not an end in itself, but a necessity to be exposed to others and their cultures, and to discover oneself. Mobility is therefore a way of being more than an operation of geographical movement. For the EUT+ European degrees, students are guided towards this state of mind which leads them to meet other cultures in the long term,” (from Article 2.1 of the European Degree in Engineering EUT+ reference guide V.1, appendix to the *Memorandum of Agreement for the Creation of EUT+ Bachelor in Engineering and Master in Engineering Programmes, by Evolution and Convergence of Existing Partner Programmes*, signed by the eight EUT+ partners in Limassol (Cyprus) on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021).

### 3.1 Mobility Maps Implementation

The pool of modules and associated ECTS defined in the clusters are fully recognized by the partner universities, under the conditions indicated. In this respect:

- All modules listed in a mobility map are open to all students, in the conditions indicated; some partners can pre-define bundles of modules.
- A student *freely* chooses the proposed modules, they can only be refused for the following reasons:
  - o The level of the student is not sufficient (problem of prerequisite).
  - o An obvious proficiency issue in the language of instruction.
  - o A limitation in the number of places offered.
- All ECTS obtained during the mobility period are automatically recognized by the home institution in the student’s curriculum, in the given category, if applicable.

Note that some partners will recognize these modules as equivalent to specific modules taught at home.

The partner institutions shall align their study regulations with this agreement by 2025.



The partners are aware that this is their commitment towards a European degree and that they have written this into the bid, and that it will be the subject of an objective and quantitative report to the European Commission.

#### 4 Automatic Recognition of ECTS

The principle of automatic recognition of ECTS is fully agreed in accordance with article 3.4 of the Memorandum of Agreement for the creation of EUT+ Bachelor in Engineering and Master in Engineering programmes by evolution and convergence of existing partner programmes signed in Limassol (Cyprus), 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021. ECTS are obtained through the pool of modules proposed in the mobility maps and through the predefined bundles if the mobility map states it. This common pool of modules will be regularly enlarged by the relevant *[cluster] academic coordination committee*, and report to the *Education Committee*.

To adopt a transparent interpretation of student achievements, partners use only the Bologna process grading system (ie. ECTS and grades A-F) as described by the European commission: European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, ECTS users' guide 2015, Publications Office, 2017 as given at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/87592>. If necessary a conversion system such as outlined at [www.egracons.eu](http://www.egracons.eu) may be utilized.

#### 5 Language

In order for EUT+ to be a driver of change in Higher Education in Europe it is necessary to agree in principle that there is a parity of esteem for all European languages; thus, a recognition that all languages are of cultural and linguistic importance. EUT+ encourages opportunities for staff and students of EUT+ is to realize their potential through intercultural and linguistic experiences.

The languages of teaching are clearly specified in the mobility maps. A module may have one main language of teaching (in which all teaching resources are given) and one or more secondary languages of teaching. In case some parts of the teaching cannot be provided in that language, but additional resources allow the whole teaching to be followed in that secondary language without compromising the success of a student doing the work that would normally be expected.

In all cases, partner institutions guarantee that:

- The languages of teaching declared are indeed effective when incoming students are received;
- The academics or teachers in charge of a module are explicitly notified of the presence of EUT+ students and their language profile.

##### 5.1 Expected Languages Level

In clusters, the students to be graduated will master:

- one foreign European language at level B2 at Bachelor;
- in addition, a second foreign European language at level B2 at Master (B1 until 2025).

The partner institutions may offer, require or strongly encourage the acquisition of this second foreign language from the bachelor level onwards.



This applies only to students who started the bachelor level at an EUT+ campus. The case of new master students will be addressed later.

## 5.2 Language as a Condition for Intercampus Mobility

The minimum requirement for students to move intercampus is level B1 of the language in which the selected modules in the welcoming institution are being taught. The acquisition of language is designed to open up the field of mobility.

The required level of language will be known beforehand and clearly defined in the respective mobility map.

Priority should be given to solve problems of language that could prevent seamless students' mobility. Study tracks in a main shared language would be the solution as a first step. In particular, considering the position of English language as the most common lingua franca, this approach makes it an easier choice to start with. EUT+ partners will strive to find solutions to introduce students to other languages (and not only the most spoken western ones) as teaching and working languages. They will do what is necessary to enable the students to follow a full semester in another language as soon as possible.

## 5.3 Language Verification

Partners will implement external verification for all EUT+ students by 2025. If the European Commission provides language assessment tools, they are considered as external verification in this case. For the Academic Year 2022–2023 attestation by the home Language Center will also be accepted.

## 5.4 Language ECTS and Modules

Language modules will be integrated in EUT+ curricula by all partners. Students are required to validate a minimum of 15 ECTS during their bachelor curriculum and 10 ECTS during their master curriculum. The sum of 25 ECTS can be distributed in multiple ways between the bachelor and master levels. This applies only to students who started the bachelor level at a EUT+ campus. The case of new master students will be addressed later.

It is a requirement to gain up to 5 ECTS in the national language and culture of the host institution during a mobility, achieving at least an A1 level. These modules are to be included in the cluster mobility maps. These 5 ECTS are included in the 25 ECTS expected for bachelor plus master level.

To actively promote multilingualism, EUT+ partners will study the possibility to offer a full year by the welcoming institution's national language foundation course up to the level B2 free of charge.

## 6 EUT+ Certificate

In anticipation of the *European Label* and later the *Joint European Degree* proposed by the European Commission, an EUT+ certificate attached to the national diploma will be offered to EUT+ students according to the following conditions:



- A minimum of 25 ECTS obtained during a semester mobility at an EUT+ partner campus,
- Validation of at least 5 ECTS through the study of national language assessing at least A1 level,
- Achievement of the prescribed level in foreign languages,
- Fulfilling the national conditions of validation of the degree.

The student is automatically awarded this EUT+ certificate without having to request it. The mobility does not necessarily have to be done within a cluster. Each partner institution, within their framework and national regulations, implements this label in the most robust and ambitious form possible. If a *certificate* is not possible for legal reason, the partner can consider a *label*.

## 7 Creation of [cluster] Coordination Committees

Each cluster has a *[cluster] coordination committee*. [cluster] is the name of the cluster (e.g. Bachelor in mechanical engineering).

This committee supports convergence to EUT+ engineering programmes and contributes to the EUT+ experience including student application issues. It is intended to include academics, student representatives and international relations officers from all partners.

### 7.1 Role and Functions of the Committees

Composition:

- academic staff involved in the cluster chosen by the partner university
- students involved in the cluster chosen by the students amongst their representative
- representant from the Erasmus Common Office
- representants from the WP3 (the responsible cluster et the WP3 leader or his/her representative)

Its main role is to interface between EUT+ and the university faculty:

- Gathering information with regard to the clusters
- Monitoring student learning experience by student survey or feedback analysis on to the modules and the organisation.
- Advising outgoing and incoming students in the clusters
- Managing number of seats in the cluster per partner and application of agreed selection criteria (e.g in the case that there are more students than places)
- Progressively extending the mobility map
- Analysing technical aspects (eg. overlaps of timetables/semesters)
- Ensuring that the academic supervisor system works well
- Improving the common final learning outcomes

### 7.2 Meetings

Each committee holds:

**Technical meetings** with all the committee members apart from the students. They define the:

- The number of places open by cluster per campus



- Selection criteria for students (in the case that there are more students than places)

**Progress meetings** with all the members. They focus on the feedback from students and improve the processes and clusters.

Each cluster will hold annually at least:

- 2 technical meetings to manage the flow of applications
- 2 Progress meetings for quality management

## 8 Common Process for Student Enrolment

A common process for the effective management of student enrolment within the framework of the EUT+ engineering programmes is defined here. The partners will implement it no later than the autumn 2022 semester.

### 8.1 Reservation of Places

Faculties or departments relevant to the clusters commit to reserving a number of places for EUT+ students on mobility. Their capacity (i.e. the number of places made available) in accordance to legal and regulatory limitations will be provided to the partners 8 months prior to the next study semester. They are defined according to the physical mobility growth plan.

If a partner receives fewer students in total across all faculties than expected in the EUT+ growth plan because of internal balance problems, in collaboration with the other partners, solutions will be identified to avoid students being turned away (in other locations) due to lack of places. These points will be globally monitored by the *Education Committee*.

### 8.2 Student Applications

The EUT+ partners will actively promote the EUT+ Student Experience in a coordinated manner and within an agreed time frame.

The student application phase will open from February to mid-April for students applying for the following autumn semester and from mid-September to the beginning of November for spring semester applications. For the 2022/23 autumn semester, applications will be accepted until the end of May.

Students may apply to multiple EUT+ campuses (1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, etc.) in constructing their academic pathway through the selection of modules and destinations defined in the cluster mobility maps. Prerequisites such as *basic learning outcomes* and interdictions to repeat modules may be applied by the academic departments. If modules are equivalents, it is usually not allowed to repeat them as stated in the mobility map. Therefore, students' applications are subject to initial validation by the academic department or faculty of the home institution. Within the EUT+ Alliance, the welcoming institution accepts the validation of the home institution and the student's application will be accepted subject to availability of places.



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This process is synchronized and supervised by the relevant [cluster] academic coordination committee.

In case the home institution has an imposed linear curriculum path, the choice of the student will be the selection of predefined bundle of modules available at specific destinations.

### 8.3 Validation of Places

In EUT+ Alliance, the welcoming institution automatically accepts the student's application by the home institution as long as there are enough places.

All efforts will be made to fulfill the students first choice. In the event that student demand exceeds the number of places for a given module, a selection process will be applied. This process will be defined by the [cluster] academic coordination committee, in coordination with the EUT+ Erasmus Common Office.

## 9 Alignment of University Calendars

The partners will strive to find a common pivotal week for change of semester from autumn to spring in order to avoid hindering mobility due to the current incompatibility of university calendars.

A working group with at least one representative from each partner institution will be set up to work out technical solutions and ensure gradual convergence.

## 10 Reporting

A report on mobility numbers is provided every semester.

An annual review of general convergence (processes, study regulations, etc.) is annually made to share best practices and measure progress. The means of convergence are monitored, shared and discussed in the Education committee.

## 11 Complementary articles

Each partner institution encourages its students and academic and non-academic staff to participate in the mobilities.

## 12 Review clause

This agreement is reviewed annually according to the evolution of student mobility and the evolution of the convergence of curricula in the clusters, or every time that another partner would like to join the agreement.




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