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**POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027**

The Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens (AEAA) is a higher Education Institution of Greece. The AEAA has two main departments: Department of Pastoral Studies and Department of Management of Ecclesiastical Heritage Objects.

The AEAA was granted with Erasmus Charter in 2017 for the first time. The Erasmus+ Programme has contributed to the maximum to the modernisation and internationalisation of AEAA, which are the basic principles of the Programme and were its primary goals from its participation in the Programme. With this Erasmus Charter (ECHE) 2021-2027, the AEAA, as part of its Policy for Further Modernisation and Internationalisation, aims to:

1. **Inter-Institutional Agreements**, Collaborations and Contacts with Higher Education Institutions abroad (pre-existing and new) on courses, topics and subjects that represent AEAA (Systematic Theology, Interpretation of Old and New Testament, Patrology, Psychology, Liturgical, Ecclesiastical History, Christian Ethics, Ancient and Byzantine Philosophy, Ecclesiastical Administration and Organisation, Christian and Byzantine Archeology and Art, Preservation of Ecclesiastical Heritage Objects, Museology, Iconology, Teaching), as well as collaborations with other strategic Partners, such as Institutions (Holy Metropolises of the Ecumenical Patriarchate abroad, as well as the Church of Greece) and Organisations (PanEuropean Christian Bodies, National Research Institutes, Research Institutes, Byzantine Theological and Interpretive Theology Companies).

2. **Outgoing Mobilities for Training** for the majority of the Academic and Administrative Staff of AEAA.

3. **Outgoing Mobilities for Teaching** for the majority of AEAA Academic Staff, as well as incoming Mobilities of Academic Staff from other Institutions, for the purpose of acquiring, transmitting and exchanging knowledge on courses and academic subjects, as well as subjects concerning educational systems, programs and good practices.

4**. Mobilities of outgoing and incoming students** for Studies and Traineeships.

As for all mobilities, AEAA is committed to selecting all participants through fair and transparent procedures, without discrimination on matters of gender, race, age, origin, religion, sexual preferences.

In Accordance with the new priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme, which are **Inclusion and Diversity**, special care and measures are taken so that students and Staff belonging to the following groups be encouraged and motivated to participate in the Programme and that their participation be facilitated as much as possible:

-People with **fewer opportunities**

-People with **disabilities** (e.g. mobility impairment, blindness, deafness, etc.)

-People with **health problems** (e.g. chronic diseases, including mental illnesses)

-People with barriers related to **education systems** (e.g. people with learning difficulties, problems in their schooling, people at risk of dropping out/have dropped out of school -NEETs)

- People with **cultural barriers** due to different culture (e.g. refugees, immigrants, people belonging to ethnic/religious minorities)

- People with **social barriers** (e.g. ex-prisoners, ex-drug users, people who are socially marginalized. Also, people who are orphans, have a single parent family, have responsibility for children while at a young age, are the first in their family to are studying)

- People with **financial barriers** (e.g. people who have a very low family income, are unemployed, belong to over-indebted households, work to study, are homeless or live in temporary housing)

- People with **obstacles related to discrimination** (in relation to origin, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or a combination of these)

- People with **geographical barriers** (people living in geographically remote areas, very small islands, suburbs not regularly connected to the city center.

The Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens is committed to informing, motivating and encouraging in every possible way everyone that belongs to the Academy, regardless of their socio-economic background, to participate in the Mobilities offered by the Erasmus+ Programme, so that, according to the goal of building a European Education Area, they can get the benefits of moving abroad: Studies, knowledge, experience, learning foreign languages, traineeship, mutual recognition of acquired qualifications, integration into the local community, active social participation, knowledge of Europe's cultural heritage and diversity, strong sense of identity as a European citizen.