



ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (2021-2027)

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)



Entrée principale du CUFR Mayotte, novembre 2021 © G. Stoica

Participation in Erasmus +

Our application to the Erasmus Charter of Higher Education (ECHE) 2021-2027 needs to be placed in the context of the European overseas territories where our higher education establishment - the *Centre de Formation et de Recherche de Mayotte* (CUFR) is situated. Mayotte island is a French overseas department situated in the northern Mozambique Channel in the Indian Ocean off the coast of South East Africa, between north-western Madagascar and north-eastern Mozambique. Although the French is the administrative and schooling language, the predominant native language of the island of Mayotte is *Shimaore*, a language having Swahili origins, altogether with the *Kibushi*, a Malagasy language. The vast majority of the inhabitants are Muslims and have a rich cultural tradition that is transmitted from one generation to another. As a former French colony and as a part of the Comoros archipelago, the Mayotte island voted to remain politically part of France in 1974 and it became the last French department in 2011. Three years later, in 2014, it became an **outermost region of the European Union**, being also part of the eurozone. For all these reasons, Mayotte is a very special territory and offers an **ideal place for study and research** both for **international students and academics**. Our vision is that of **connecting (scientific and local) knowledge and cultures across national borders**. Although geographically the island is distant from the European continent and despite the fact that Mayotte island may face a number of difficulties such as illegal migration, social inequalities, unemployment, insularity, small size (Mayotte land's area is 374 square kilometres) etc., **the island of Mayotte has a unique potential** and represents **an excellent laboratory for research, development and innovation** both for **social sciences and humanities and natural sciences**. Just to give an example, the most recent scientific research is related to the birth of an undersea volcano in 2018 that caught the attention of seismologists worldwide and put the basis of a long-term collaboration and establishment of research networks both at local and international level. Other research topics such as *cultural and*

natural heritage, socio-ecological systems and coral reefs, educational system and bilingualism, francophone literature, local law and justice etc. are part of the **research strategy** of our education establishment that has an **interdisciplinary approach**. Although the CUFR is a young higher education establishment (celebrating its 10th anniversary in the fall of 2021), our expertise and the team of researchers and administrative staff enable us to **provide an environment for challenging research and learning** and offer the opportunity of important international scientific debates in relation to the Indian ocean area. **The young age of CUFR should not be considered as a weakness but on the contrary as an opportunity** to contribute to the education of the future of young generations of Mayotte Island and the development of the territory through the implementation of the Erasmus + programme. Being an Academic Centre of Education and Research (*Centre Universitaire de Formation et de Recherche*) and not yet a « full university » (fr. *université de plein exercice*), the CUFR has partnerships with universities based in mainland France (i.e. Montpellier University, Nîmes University) and with Reunion Island University mainly for the delivery of the diplomas and the co-establishment of the teaching curricula. Presently, the CUFR offers as learning opportunities several **Bachelor degrees** such as Law, Geography, Literature, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Biology. Starting with 2017 a **Master programme in Educational Sciences** that form the future elementary school teachers has been established within the CUFR. The establishment of this Master degree is related to the need of the territory in terms of education of future generations and the possibility of educating excellent professionals. For all these reasons, our participation in Erasmus + programme will offer the opportunity to our students, academic and administrative staff to improve the mobility opportunities (incoming and outgoing) and to **become more international** both at a European level and at the level of the Indian Ocean region through collaboration with partner countries (Key action 1). In accordance with the evolution of the Erasmus + 2021-2027, our university will consider the **hybrid mobility** (virtual activities combined with physical mobility that may take place before, during and/or after the Erasmus agreement) and will look closer at the category of **inclusion**, considering that a great part of our students do not have the financial opportunities to leave the island and continue their studies abroad. Each year a call for Erasmus scholarships will be organized and seminars on the Erasmus + will be organized at the level of the university in order to inform the academic and administrative staff but also the community of students. **Key Action 2 (KA2) Cooperation among organisations and institutions** The Erasmus Mundus joint Master degree can be implemented within the Department of Social Sciences of the CUFR within the Master MEEF (Métiers de l'enseignement, de l'éducation et de la formation), the only Master degree activated until now in Mayotte. The three partners of the Erasmus Mundus might be the University of Perugia (Italy) and the University of Fianarantsoa (Madagascar). Conceived as a programme of excellence, the experience of the students enrolled in this Master will give the opportunity to the master students to undergo activities of teaching in universities different from their own and will open them new horizons but also different ways of seeing and understanding the world. The partner universities are establishment that already collaborated in the past with the CUFR or that manifested their willing to start an Erasmus Mundus especially in the field of educational sciences.

Strategies, objectives and impact

Becoming an international higher education establishment recognized at a European level through the implementation of internationalization activities is for us **a process and not an end-state**. This requires a continuous improvement in what we have done until now and what we plan to do in the next years across a **range of objectives**:

- increase diversity of the student population both from mainland Europe and the Indian Ocean area;
- attract academically excellent students willing to pursue their studies or future research on the local territory;

- help our current students build a better future, acquire an international recognized experience and offer them the possibility of becoming employable candidates at the service of their homeland territory;
- develop our capacity to access international research funding systems;
- encourage and support academic and administrative staff to spend periods of time researching and teaching at an international level;
- motivate academics to put up the basis of international academic networks or be part of them and/or integrate international scientific associations in order to promote their own disciplines;
- expand our research to address challenging research questions and promote the interdisciplinary approach.

Impact

In terms of impact, the Erasmus + program will great help our establishment to:

- improve teaching and learning practices for the academic staff;
- improve staff skills and competences;
- offer high quality traineeships for students that lead to job opportunities;
- improve our teaching system and develop in the near future other Master programs in relation to excellent programs that are activated in partner universities;
- improve the language skills for outgoing and incoming students but also of the academic staff
- improvement of the key competences at different levels (administrative staff, academic staff in terms of networking);
- increase the number of students (incoming and outcoming) that receive support for mobility under the Erasmus programme;
- improve the collaboration of our academic establishment with Partner countries and especially with the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states (ACP countries) within the framework of Erasmus + considering the geographical position of our establishment in the Indian Ocean area;
- place the Erasmus + programme in the context of the Indian Ocean.

Indicators

General Objective: Accessibility and Internationalization of higher education in the framework of Erasmus + programme

Indicator: sustainability and success of implementation by number of incoming and outcoming students

Objective 1: Increase cooperation with European Union **Indicator:** multiply and sign Erasmus agreements and be part of a network of Erasmus universities

Objective 2: Promote intercultural exchanges and awareness **Indicator:** awareness of the students and active implication in teaching activities

Objective 3: Improve the quality of teaching skills of our staff through the implementation of new education programs **Indicator:** Implementation of new courses taught at our university

Objective 4: Encourage regional cooperation and integration across different region of the world and especially in the area of the Indian Ocean **Indicator:** Involvement of partner countries and regional cooperation between the universities situated in the Indian Ocean area.

As a general strategy, each year our establishment will make an analysis in order to identify key problems in the context of the implementation of Erasmus + programme and try to solve the issue by connecting the problem with the cause-effect.



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Centre Universitaire
MAYOTTE

CUFR Mayotte

Centre Universitaire de Formation et de Recherche de Mayotte
8 rue de l'Université, Iloni, BP 53

97660 Dembeni

Tel. : 02 69 61 07 62

<https://www.univ-mayotte.fr/fr/index.html>