

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

The Institute of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (called herein IGS PAS; originally Instytut Nauk Geologicznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk; ING PAN) is a leading research institute in Earth and Planetary Sciences, specializing in reconstruction of paleo- and contemporary geological environments, planetary geology, geophysics, geochemistry, mineralogy, and sedimentology. IGS PAS operates four specialized laboratories (Geochronology and Isotope Geochemistry, Stable Isotopes, Clay Minerals, Uranium-Thorium) and a Geological Sample Preparation Laboratory, and maintains the Geological Museum. Via its specialized laboratories, IGS PAS is on the Polish Map of Research Infrastructure (Polska Mapa Infrastruktury Badawczej) that lists laboratories meeting the highest standards with regard to research and education.

IGS PAS offers doctoral education within the accredited GeoPlanet Doctoral School of the Polish Academy of Sciences, trains international researchers, and participates in multidisciplinary European research networks, such as EPOS and EESRA. Each year, its scientists and PhD students publish over 140 peer-reviewed publications and collaborate with Research institutions in more than 30 countries. International mobility is an integral part of doctoral and staff development, and Erasmus+ provides a strategic framework to expand structured exchanges, strengthen research competencies, and enhance the Institute's integration into the European Research and Education Area. IGS PAS plans to participate exclusively in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning Mobility of Individuals during the current ECHE period. The focus will be on:

- Student outgoing mobility for doctoral candidates enrolled in the doctoral school GeoPlanet, including mobility for long-term studies and short-term blended intensive programs.
- Staff outgoing mobility for teaching and training, aimed at strengthening international competencies, exchanging research expertise, and enhancing institutional capacity.

Mobility activities will be implemented gradually and on a limited yet high-quality scale, reflecting the institute's size, research-oriented profile, and international collaborations. Bilateral inter-institutional agreements will be concluded with selected European Higher Education Institutions and Research organizations whose academic and research profiles are complementary to those of IGS PAS. Participation in Erasmus+ mobility will also complement and continue the ongoing international mobility of doctoral candidates and staff supported under the NAWA PROM program awarded to IGS PAS for 2025–2026, ensuring continuity of international research experiences and strengthening the institute's mobility culture. Erasmus+ mobility will be integrated into internal regulations and closely coordinated with the doctoral school to ensure academic relevance and full recognition.

The administrative and financial implementation of Erasmus+ activities will be coordinated by the Erasmus Coordinator and the supporting Erasmus team at IGS PAS, in cooperation with the accounting department, and relevant administrative units, to ensure efficient implementation, compliance with Erasmus+ rules, and high-quality support for participants.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Program supports IGS PAS's long-term strategy of internationalization, researcher development, and integration into the European Research and Education Area. As a research-intensive Institute conducting doctoral education within the Geoplanet doctoral school, Erasmus+ mobility is a strategic instrument to:

- Enhance research quality and academic training, by providing doctoral candidates and staff with international research and learning experiences.
- Strengthen international cooperation and institutional capacity, by expanding networks and formalizing partnerships with European institutions.
- Develop transferable skills, laboratory expertise, and research competencies among doctoral candidates and staff.
- Modernize teaching and research infrastructure through collaboration and knowledge exchange with partner institutions.
- Increase employability of doctoral candidates, by exposing them to international research standards and diverse work practices.
- Promote knowledge transfer and innovation, linking research results with applied projects and industrial partners where relevant.