

On behalf of the institution, I commit to publishing the Erasmus Policy Statement on the institution website.

Legal representative of the institution

Signature of the legal representative

DIGITAL SIGNATURE

PROF. GIAN CARLO AVANZI

RECTOR

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

UPO has included ambitious goals in its Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2024 and aims to significantly increase the degree of its internationalization until 2027. In particular, it has improved the procedures to favour the inclusion of the many foreign students who enrol in the international degree courses of Health, Food, Environment and Medical Biotechnologies. UPO plans to open in 2021-2022 its third international degree course to be held entirely in English. The two international courses are already attended by a large number of foreign students, coming from all over the world. Since 2019 UPO runs the Erasmus Mundus two-year European Master in Translational Cosmetic and Dermatological Sciences (EMOTIONS). All students enrolled in the Master are international students. UPO has a number of offices that focus on the inclusion of international students. In particular, the Welcome office based in Novara and in Vercelli, where the majority of UPO Departments are located, deal with their full integration. With the aim to fully integrate international students, UPO has finalized the production of degree certificates and enrolment in English in 2019. This definitely makes easier for international students to have their degrees recognized worldwide. UPO intends to strengthen the teaching of the Italian language and culture. The Italian language and culture courses are available to international students enrolled in all degrees, without any extra fee. As it is clear from the above-mentioned examples, the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion are embedded in the nature of UPO as a public university and have been put consistently into practice in every administrative operation of the UPO. UPO guarantees the full and total automatic recognition of ECTS acquired abroad by its students at all levels of their university career.

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

The main principles that guide UPO are the principle of transparency, accountability and publicity. These principles are pursued through the wide dissemination of its press releases in English. UPO is a partner in several European research and education programs; so far it has been involved in 21 FP7 Projects (1 ERC grants) and 15 H2020 Projects (4 as Coordinator). The UPO crucial aim is to strengthen the integration of the community in national and international networks by promoting scientific and cultural exchanges. In this respect, the mobility of students and researchers is widely supported and actively funded. UPO has been acknowledged as a competent partner in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Union body for risk assessment regarding food safety. UPO has also established a significant number of international relationships with European and non-European universities. Currently, UPO participates in nearly 30 agreements for research activities and exchanges and more than 150 Erasmus agreements for student exchanges. UPO encourages inter-university cooperation to develop jointly operated/tutored doctorate courses. As of 2020, UPO has subscribed 9 agreements for joint programmes with European universities that involve all cycles of studies (Bachelor and Master Degrees, PhD courses).

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Erasmus actions are expected to promote innovative teaching programmes at UPO, and to increase the entrepreneurship as well as employability of students. These actions are also expected to improve the level of digital and foreign languages competences among students. Since 2016 UPO has been promoting a yearly “call for ideas” to support the application of projects within the framework of the Key Actions 1, with a specific focus on KA107 and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, and Key Action 2. Any efforts will be done in order to extend this support during the new programme 2020-2027 and to increase the quality and the interdisciplinary variety of the education opportunities.

UPO is formally and unconditionally committed to fully collaborate with EU and non-EU universities as well as with private-sector companies. Short programmes, life-long education, innovative blended teaching and international traineeships have been consistently encouraged and fully recognised as crucial elements of the UPO academic teaching activities. Moreover, UPO intends to explore all ways to interact with emerging academic systems and to build up collaborative projects. One of UPO main strategic targets is exploring new ways to promote home internationalization. In 2018 the School of Excellence was established in order to offer a rewarding international summer school for 25 selected students. A trans-disciplinary approach is one of the main focus of that experience and it has moved forward the internationalization process by involving international students. The Erasmus Programme provides a welcome opportunity to foster this international dimension and to provide students with unusual chances to get directly acquainted with excellence in learning and to be

introduced into the post-graduate research process. UPO has gained an outstanding first-hand experience in managing international projects. To name just one of them, UPO is the coordinator of an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree – EMOTION and it is involved in many international research and teaching projects.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The long-term main goal for UPO is improving the international composition of students and faculty, by mixing cultures and disciplinary perspectives. In the strategic program UPO has set the goal of having three international degrees entirely held in English (namely Medical Biotechnologies; Food, Health, and Environment; Management and Economics) that will attract international students to a very large degree. The implementation of the Master Degree in Management and Economics is planned to be finalized by 2022. A decisive increase in the participation of international students will be assessed in 2022. Till now, UPO has negotiated more than 150 Erasmus partnerships. We plan to increase this number to 170 by 2027. UPO has established an internal auditing procedure that monitors the increase in internationalization. Auditors assess the degree of success year by year and make binding recommendations accordingly. UPO supports student and teacher mobility (incoming/outgoing) at European and international level, through membership of the Erasmus+ programmes and other funding actions which have proven to be instruments of increasing interest with increasing participation, especially for local students to foreign destinations (outgoing). Against this background, it is important to mention the active role played by the University Language Centre (CLUPO) which supports incoming Erasmus students with Italian language courses, and supports outgoing students with language courses in English, French, German and Spanish (via online platform). Through the Internationalization Policies it is proposed to outline a series of objectives and concrete activities in three main areas (Higher Education, Research and Third Mission). The implementation and the achievement of the objectives will contribute to the strengthening of the role of the University of Eastern Piedmont in an international context. During the previous period (2014-2020) the number of visiting professors rapidly increased, and now UPO hosts about 25 professors per year. UPO will offer the best possible conditions and unconditional

support in order to keep up this level of international recognition and reinforce the role of visiting professors in the teaching activities through the Erasmus+ Programme. UPO aims to develop its curricula and to increase the number of modules and courses taught in foreign languages.

2. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles

2.1 Implementation of the new principles

Please explain the measures taken in your institution to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. Describe how your institution ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.

UPO takes full advantage of all measures enacted by the national and regional governments to provide foreign students with a full range of opportunities in their education and social integration. For students with disabilities the University provides services and assistance that can ensure the proper performance of university activities:

- o Cognitive interview
- o Compensatory measures
- o Individualised mentorship
- o Economic benefits
- o Library service

Students with disabilities are entitled to full or partial exemption from tuition fees. The Student Services Office, in collaboration with the University Library System, helps disabled people in the search, consultation and borrowing of study texts, essays and journal articles. If they are unable to reach the libraries, the office will collect the texts and convert them into alternative format, as well as request to publishers of texts in digital format or e-books. As quoted before, UPO intends to explore and reinforce interaction with emerging academic systems and their students. Activities recently implemented are expected to be bolster and widen. In 2019 a formal meeting with representatives from the University of Banfora (Burkina Faso) has established the framework for a future collaboration. In view of the recent opening of a University in Banfora, in southern Burkina Faso, the prospects of a collaboration were investigated, with particular reference to the participation of students from Banfora in advanced teaching courses at the UPO. The "Cultural Center for the Promotion of Languages, Development and Peace" (CLIRAP) (based in Yaoundé, Cameroon) and UPO will collaborate in the next three years in the organization of joint cultural initiatives in favour of students interested in postgraduate specialization. This collaboration is based on the mutual recognition of the usefulness and importance of contributing to the development of cultural cooperation relations aimed at young students who decide to continue their studies, especially post-graduate. CLIRAP has a strategic position in sub-Saharan Africa (especially Cameroon, Togo, Ivory Coast as well as other countries) and a long experience in the teaching of Italian in order to facilitate the integration of African students in Italian universities. CLIRAP provides advice and