

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The University of Eastern Piedmont "A. Avogadro", in line with the world of research and training, has developed from the start of its institution (1998) the communication and exchange of experiences with other universities and organizations of training and foreign research. The international activities of the University are achieved on many levels: the participation of researchers for development and research projects in partnership with foreign organizations (7^o Framework Program, LLP/Erasmus, Public Health, others), the signing of cooperative agreements with Institutes both European and Non-European, the institution of joint educational careers. In particular, the University encourages interuniversity co-operation to develop jointly operated, tutored doctorate courses and, at the moment, there are nine agreements for joint programs with European universities involving all cycles of studies (Bachelor and Master Degrees, PhD courses). The University is also increasing participation in European and Non-European research programmes. International partnerships are becoming frequent even in research projects funded by Italian institutions and the cooperation with the United States and other non-European countries is improving. To date, the University is involved in about 20 European projects and, in 2011, one of its researchers received highly competitive European Research Council funding (a Starting Independent Researcher Grant). Students have benefited from the development of these activities not only at the level of PhD students involved in research activity, but also at the level of bachelor and master degrees, since these cooperation generated a substantial mobility of visiting professors giving their contribute to teaching at each level. The number of students participating in the Erasmus program has constantly grown since the moment in which, with the institution of the new university, it was introduced: in the 1999-2000 academic year there were 30 outgoing students, today they are around 80 and the number of students hosted at our university from other universities (10 in the 1999-2000 academic year), today it is about 50. Moreover, a substantial number of outgoing and incoming students have been involved in the novel Free Mover program on the last year. The agreements with foreign universities, which involve all the Departments and the Schools, have had a strong impulse and now today our partners are more than 100. A constant increase in movement to and from our university in the next five years is foreseeable and desirable. The EUC - EPS will be published on our website.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the **organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects** in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The UPO International Office has been substantially strengthened, in the last two years, by flanking the Erasmus and Foreign Students Office with the Office for International Affairs aimed to draw the global international strategy of the university, and promote and support each international action. This Office is supported by the Academic Board for International Relations comprising academic delegates from each department of the university. Moreover, each department has structured its own International Relation Office and Academic Board, organizing the international activity of each department in strict integration with the central one. These activities are supported by dedicated funding from the university directed to implement Erasmus and Foreign Students Office of students and academic/administrative/ technical staff, recruitment of international students for higher education, establishment of dual degrees, recruitment of visiting professors. At this light, efforts have been dedicated to implement the teaching offer in the English language in order to increase the appeal of these courses for international students. Further efforts have been dedicated to implement and coordinate planning, drafting and submitting of applications for international projects in teaching and training. In this activity, the Office for International Affairs works in strict coordination with the Research Office and the PhD Program Office which integrate the teaching and training cooperation with the scientific cooperation.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

In the last couple of years, the university carried out curricular reforms, within the principles of the Bologna process, to improve the connections between the bachelor, master, and PhD degree programs and to favor the training progression to higher education. Further work is on the way to better connect the university's degrees with those of partner universities in order to widen the global training offer. It has been established an International PhD program by switching to the English language several scientific PhD courses and setting up an advanced recruitment system of international students, which strikingly increased the number of international students in these courses. Improvement of quality and relevance of training has been promoted by establishing centers of excellence to favor interdisciplinary training and best teacher awards to strengthen the motivation of the academic staff. Innovative teaching using e-learning and simulation techniques has been strongly implemented together with offer of internships in the national and international professional world. Competency-based excellence curricula, job placements, and career counseling are proposed to improve the graduate employability in collaboration with the local social and economic entities. Study and training abroad has been supported through the "Free Movers" exchange program which encourages and economically supports cross-border cooperation by creating personalized training paths tailored on the individual needs and interests of the students. The links between education, research and business are promoted by involving the research teams in the regional, national, and international technological poles and platforms and business incubators.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)