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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 FUB is one of the most internationally oriented universities in Italy as evidenced by its high proportion of teaching staff recruited from abroad and its high ratio of foreign students. Furthermore it is trilingual, the official languages being Italian, German and English. Students receive multilingual instruction and degrees which allow them to become trilingual citizens according to European objectives. Many staff members have direct knowledge of partner universities in Europe and beyond or are familiar with the university culture of other countries.

a) The guiding principles for choosing partners are (i) the thematic correspondence of the study programmes, (ii) the reputation of the partner university in terms of the innovative nature of its study and research orientation, (iii) the linguistic feasibility of students being able to meaningfully follow a study programme, (iv) personal contacts with teaching or administrative staff that facilitate the integration of students into the respective academic environment.

b) Geographically all European countries constitute potential partners, particularly since our students need to know the languages Italian (which facilitates the learning of the Spanish and the French languages), German (which offers access to universities in Austria, Germany and Switzerland) and English, the medium in which many courses in the rest of Europe and beyond are being offered. Most teaching staff are similarly multilingual. Incoming staff and students are therefore not restricted to the use of a single language. Objectives for exchanges are to let staff and students experience the complementary differences that exist in European academic cultures, scientific epistemologies and didactic approaches to the respective disciplines and subject areas. Students are encouraged to seek out modules at partner universities that are not exactly identical with the offers at home and staff exchanges focus analogously on exploring a variety of epistemological and didactic approaches to familiar subject areas. This principle applies particularly at the level of postgraduate exchanges. One of our own characteristics is the promotion of lifelong learning approaches and we are therefore welcoming 'non-standard students' particularly. Shorter study visits play a significant role in this regard as they involve groups of students who can put their experiences up for discussion on return and often work jointly on innovative learning styles during exchanges.

c) The FUB has already acquired considerable experience in promoting double and joint degrees at all levels: it is coordinator of one Erasmus Mundus Master's programme and partner in three more. It actively promotes collaboration with a neighbouring Austrian university (Innsbruck) under a bilateral agreement at Ministerial level aimed at developing joint degrees, and through this is able to build up the technical know-how required for the complex negotiation of different academic legal frameworks.

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 University aims at strengthening its strategic partnerships in order to increase the quality of credit mobility for students, as required by the EU, and staff mobility. Furthermore it fosters long term cooperation activities with HEIs to build excellence alliances and joint programmes.

The university has a well staffed and resourced service office dedicated to the promotion of international contacts and cooperation, and implementation of credit mobility of students and staff. The University Council actively supports international exchanges on all study programmes and the quality assurance criteria at all levels take account of the achievement of such targets as the increase in the rate of participation in exchanges which is being monitored closely. Exchange programmes of staff and students therefore form an integral part of the university's central policy of internationalisation in conjunction with the pervasive multilingualism that characterises all programmes and the recruitment of staff and students from abroad.

These activities are augmented by independent but university-financed student activities.

In future the university intends to implement further measures to support students with family commitments, part-time students and students with special study requirements in participating in exchange programmes.

To promote joint study programmes the university is setting up an administrative service section which deals specifically with legal and organisational questions within the framework cross-border agreement with the neighbouring universities and more generally with double and joint degree initiatives. FUB recognises the efforts made by academic staff in promoting international collaboration and exchanges as one criterion in its incentive scheme.

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]

1.The FUB promotes lifelong learning strategies systematically. As the participation rate in higher education in Italy is very low an increase is targeted through outreach to schools, programmes reaching sectors of the population so far debarred from higher educational opportunities. These strategies will include international exchanges in the medium term.

2.All study programmes are based on elaborate assessments of demand and all have a practice placement component. The Programme will allow for more international contacts. Our graduates have a 80% success rate in finding permanent work within a year of graduating whereby international experiences count significantly. This university's research priorities and PhD programmes are explicitly geared towards themes related to integrated, sustainable economic, social and environmental development and wants to expand international collaboration on these themes.

3.University policy actively encourages students and staff to participate in international exchange programmes. Through the existing cross-border partnerships a high level of expertise was acquired in dealing with questions of validation and recognition of study elements and of qualifications which the new Programme will facilitate further. The university promotes the internationalisation of Italian universities through work in national academic committees and was instrumental in advancing a ministerial collaboration agreement between the countries Italy and Austria and the Programme will allow for the expansion of such activities.

4.Since its founding the FUB has become the lead academic institution in the region that mediates between research, practice oriented higher education and business with the objective of stimulating and implementing innovation. It developed the strategies for coordinating the requirements of industry with the orientation of key research institutions in the area in the development of a technology park with the active support by the Provincial Government. It pursues a research policy of balancing commissioned research projects with basic research. The Faculty of Computer Science developed optional courses for students from all faculties geared towards the transformation of research results into marketable products and small enterprises. The Programme will allow for direct partnerships with like initiatives at universities abroad for precisely these purposes.

5.A new University Statute of April 2013 provides for more efficient administrative processes, greater autonomy of academic units and the setting up of interdisciplinary Centres of Competence and Graduate Schools. Funding structures will be diversified and an incentive scheme for academic staff rewards excellence in research and teaching, multi-lingual competence and achievements in the area of the university's 'third mission' which will include the utilisation of the opportunities offered by the Programme.

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

E

Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place:

BOZEN

Name:

KONRAD BERGNEISTER

Date (dd/mm/yyyy):

9/5/2013

I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)



Original stamp or seal of the Institution



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