

D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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 Presov understands we derive a great benefit from activities that are taking place outside. The selection of the partners is considered after comparing the portfolios of activities, possibilities to find the mutual areas of activities, both, educational and research activities. We have to admit that our students and teachers mostly visit and suggest the cooperation with the V4 countries, i.e. Poland, Czech republic and –partly Hungary, as these countries do not mostly present language barrier. There is an increasing number of students and teachers willing to stay and study abroad. Similarly the number of cooperating and visited countries is ingrowing. We have to admit that after certain time of mostly personal contacts and accepting the suggestions of cooperation proposed by partners we are becoming more active in partner search as well as in the project writing. After experience of being partner in projects we believe we are ready to be also the project managers. We already have/had been the project coordinators in several project schemes. Among the main criteria belong the institutional compatibility and program compatibility, quality of potential partner (as for accreditation, business and partnership practice, ranking); academics have already had connections with the potential partner.

Before building official cooperation also other factors are considered (system of communication – travel, face-to-face, e-communication, mutual understanding of and handling cross-cultural differences and working environment, common procedures to-be-agreed on, legal aspects of agreements, system of re-evaluation and possibility of prolonging or extending the agreements, sustainability, etc.)

Understanding the positive educational and other effects of the joint degree programmes we are trying in recent years to find partners and build the programme that would offer intercultural and international programme at high quality level. This semester two projects focussed on joint degree programmes were finalised where the University of Pesov is partner. However, there are more departments discussing the possibilities with potential partners about the joint degree programmes.

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]

Management and faculty generally understand importance and benefits of educational mobilities. This is also evidently visible from the growth of mobilities (starting with 3 teachers in 1999/00 to 38 this academic year; the rise of outg. students increased fourfold- from 15 to 60). The number of inc. academics has also significantly increased (with 90 teachers coming to the university in 2011/12 and 10 adm. workers).

Teacher mobilities are becoming a significant factor in evaluating teacher's performance not only at the university but also in the prepared national legislation. The outg. academics and students are selected based on the evaluation process. After their return, the students promote the mobilities and program and teachers have to disseminate the information among their colleagues and students. We are trying to send more students and teachers abroad to give them a chance to share their experience and to gain the new ones. It is also a possibility to find partners and to create the networks for other not only educational but also research projects what is again enriching their professional development. The logo of the University of Presov is "...more than education" and we focus not only on the students but also on the graduates providing them with the various forms of formal and non-formal learning as well as we try to find the possibilities to organise traineeship not only for students but also the graduates.

The process maps have proved to be effective aid in answering management and administration questions of the applicants and we understand it is useful to draft processes of all schemes that might be a subject of interest of our academics and students.

One of the priorities of the university is to prepare the program for the foreigners what can be done in two ways—building the programs in foreign language or to build a course in Slovak language for foreigners as a preparatory course for university study. We have partial experience with both forms (see above).

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]

I. Increasing attainment levels

Comparing the change in the total number enrolled in tertiary education between 2003/04 and 2008/2009 the number of students in Slovakia increased by 48.6%. Concerning the University of Presov the number of students between 1997/98 and 2008/09 the number of students was slightly more than doubled – 5590-12618). To reduce the drop-out, the University of Presov (based on the recommendation of the EUA after the self-evaluation reports) decreased the amount of credits per semester students have to reach during semester. This led to lowering the drop outs and students can more freely to decide how they will study. On the other hand, it also led to increasing motivation of students willing to go for mobilities as it the system is now more open to different “credit combinations”.

Study abroad is one of the aspects prospective students concern and thus we can expect that organising different international possibilities for students can lead to an increase of students enrolling.

II. Improving quality and relevance

Cooperation with partners in abroad can lead towards modifications in study programmes based on sharing experience and knowledge of experts, what more it can allow institutions to tailor the programmes to the students' needs and the needs of practice ensuring the best experts and teachers what can also lead towards rising the graduate employability through the internationalisation of study.

III. Mobility & international co-operation for quality

Educational mobilities enable also to prepare the materials and drafts for another projects within different schemes.

The University of Presov tries to effectively recognize studies abroad. Different kinds of mobilities are not just a new educational and cultural experience but it improves access and employment conditions for our students and researchers

IV. Strengthening the “knowledge triangle”

The University of Presov fully realises the importance of interconnection with practice and employers. It is a necessity to work in triangle to prepare students for real life and work – knowledge- research- innovation but also a triangle - academy/university – public sector – private sector. Universities need to be involved in regional development . Universities can provide the statistic data for region and employers as well as realise different types of research and data gathering. Cooperation with the international and foreign companies for e.g. workplacements are the added value for the universities

V. Creating the right governance and funding conditions

The University of Presov takes part in different project schemes and competitions to gain the financial support for realisation its priorities and strategies where internationalisation and globalisation belong among the key terms connecting various aspects of the university mission: education, research, science etc.

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