

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy 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]

Unicusano's international strategy aims at developing a coherent set of actions and activities able to promote international relations, a global profile, an international participation and cooperation in research projects. Within this framework, international partners were and are chosen because of their training offers, their experience, cooperation and involvement in international activities, their answers to the needs of students and staff, their priorities, their own strategies. Erasmus partnerships will be based on already working relationship, reliability (both formal accreditation and reputation), and determination to carry out cooperation projects under the Programme. Special attention were and is paid to the quality of teaching and research, namely to the impact that research and cooperation produces onto the whole training offers and on the subjects that are part of them. Additional attention will be paid to the training offers and specific subjects that are taught in English and Italian.

As to the choice of partners' main geographical areas, no priorities, of course, will be given to either countries or continents, but the main concern will concentrate on the above-listed issues and characteristics, to the availability in terms of cooperation in all forms of training, distant training included. At present, several informal cooperation activities have already been implemented with Universities and HEIs; one of the last protocols was signed with the Qadi Ayyad University, Morocco. Therefore, Unicusano aims at expanding and developing strategic international partnerships in the European Union, as well in Eastern and Third countries, as well as among BRIC countries. According to the following actions and activities:

- producing and supporting research projects able to produce an international impact, significant dissemination of results;
- promoting partnership with universities, funding bodies and other private and public organizations;
- strengthening already existing international networks, inter-department and inter-faculties agreements, bilateral protocols;
- organizing international cooperation projects implemented under the Programme;
- welcoming students, teachers, and researchers from all over the world;
- enabling students and staff mobility of all cycles to valorise their personal and professional development;
- supporting all the needed steps to provide international master courses and single courses, in both Italian and English, for student interested in very specific subjects;
- increase mobility opportunities with the participation in international doctoral schools.

As to mobility, moreover, Unicusano's specific aim is to increase the exchange of professors as well as of students and staff of all cycles within the framework of the programme Mobility Actions to Third Countries, as it offers additional potential to meet targetable students, staff, competences.

Furthermore, Unicusano already planned to actively participate in the development of joint courses. Joint programmes are a major objective of Unicusano's international strategy, since they are regarded as a means to strengthen existing cooperation and to expand it beyond mobility and to upper levels.

According to the University priorities, the university international strategy, up to 2021, can be described as follows:

- enhancing the number of Bachelor and Master courses taught in English, in order to increase the attractiveness of our teaching programs, as a whole, for international students;
- increasing the number of participations in PhD international Schools;
- increasing the number of single courses taught in English;
- increasing the mobility of our researchers towards internationally renowned academic institutions, with the aim of increasing the research projects' number and of intensifying individual collaborations and networks' cooperation within Europe and beyond.

Unicusano will support common training offers within the framework of international academic networks, so increasing the opportunities of common assessments and the provision of double-degrees and joint degrees. Priority will be given to researchers and students mobility within PhD programs and selected Masters; additional support will be given to single researchers in order to activate academic and scientific partnerships envisaging the release of double-degrees.

From a technical and technological point of view, Unicusano will improve the quality of its portal. The number of webpages and information on its structure, international programmes, international projects, didactical and research laboratories will have versions in English in order to enhance appeal and visibility.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

If not applicable, please explain (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The National and International Projects Office supports teaching staff interested in applying both to the different calls / actions within the Erasmus+ Programme and other national / international programmes; support is provided with the aim of producing qualitative applications for funding specific cooperation and research projects. Teaching staff and researchers are assisted in filling applications and in increasing the number of contacts and partnerships, in all the bureaucratic procedures needed to formalize cooperation agreements and to build consortia.

In all cases the application are positively assessed and funded, additional support is provided during the implementation of work-packages and work-programme, for any financial procedure.

Students participating in mobility programs (both incoming and outgoing) are provided by the National and International Projects Office with guidance and support before, during and at the end of the mobility period. Students who are interested in doing an internship abroad can take advantage of the services offered by the Stage & Job Placement Office, which supports them in finding opportunities within companies, organizations, national and international institutions, everywhere they can experience work stages and placements, before and after graduations of all levels, before and after the achievement of the different diplomas. Students, at the end of their academic career, are also supported with personalized advice, assessment days, seminars on all the technical issues that are concerned with the preparation of applications, personal curricula, recommendation and invitation letters.

At present and in future months / years, the Unicusano above-mentioned offices will go on promoting and fostering the widest participation to all the actions of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda \*and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.(max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

1st priority

Unicusano aims at increasing the participation of all-levels students in mobility, both within running EU programmes and in the framework of future BAs. It is actively engaged in enhancing the participation of profs / researchers in study and research programmes, in order to provide all of them with, at least, a minimal level of international experience and to aim at achievable innovative outputs. The use of English in teaching is encouraged, incentives for students who want to attend courses abroad will be provided by means of tutored support.

2nd priority

Quality and relevance policies are adopted by: selecting the participants in mobility programmes by the assessment of achievable and expectable outputs, within the framework of criteria mainly identifying descriptors of worth and motivation; enhancing mobility involving renowned academic institutions and high-level research groups; endorsing graduated and non-graduated students' placements / research projects, both national and international.

3rd priority

The strategies concerned with mobility and cross-border cooperation will mainly be focused on the aim of innovation. The Unicusano's different research groups and experimental laboratories will play a significant role in this direction. Each researcher and prof has his own research strategy and workgroup; moreover, three inter-faculties workgroups transversally link common objectives; an example is the network involving profs and researchers interested in juridical, pedagogical, psychological issues. Unicusano aims at integrating mobility and cooperation for innovation within international consortia interested in interdisciplinary aims and focused on wide / transversal impacts on users, students, trainees.

4th priority

Unicusano already is a significant presence at a national / international level in implementing innovation and excellence. Several researchers / profs were already supported by funding their research projects and mobility, from England to Greece. The above-mentioned offices are already supporting research and dissemination projects with schools, HEIs, teachers and trainers, even in the sectors of handicap and disability. Deserving students and graduated have already been supported; an example: a broadcasting radio actually is within the campus and was born to support a project of a group of Unicusano's students interested in communication strategies and ICTs. At present, the radio reaches thousands listeners, is famous at the regional level and independent; about 35 people - all of them under 30 - work there.

5th priority

Unicusano is already and actively participating in Horizon 2020. Researchers are offered support and assistance by the above-mentioned offices, in writing proposals, business plans, workplans. It participated in November 2013 Vilnius Conference "Create, connect and growth". It was one of the different opportunities it had to meet potential partners and identify additional research directions.