



Erasmus+
The new EU programme for
education, training, youth and sport
2014-2020



Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

INTERNATIONAL (EU AND NON-EU) STRATEGY

The University of Cagliari has always considered internationalization as a main strategy in development of policies; during the last years we have noticed a great growth in the mobility of both outgoing and incoming students, teachers and administrative staff. We have activated specific mobility programs for studies, placement, and thesis in both EU and non-EU countries, with dedicated scholarships. Our university brings forward the policy of internationalization by redefining and modernizing the internal organization, involving all the directorates, and by creating a sector within the directorate, that governs all of the didactical processes.

The particular geographical location and condition of insularity that can create difficulty in emerging into the regular flow, stimulate us to develop and encourage initiatives to increase and support a greater similarity between our reality and that of other EU and non-EU countries, with the intention to contribute, even with these initiatives, to ensure to our students/graduates a positive level of competitiveness in the labor market.

We believe is crucial for our growth a more comprehensive training to our students in the three university degrees, to researchers and to teaching and administrative staff.

The University of Cagliari with its 30000 students and its numerous faculties, provides certificates of first, second and third degree, specializations and masters, covers in cooperation with the teaching staff all of the subject areas. In the selection of the partners, related to the EU countries, we have not considered worthy carrying out closures or openings "a priori" in some locations than others, obviously in accordance with the recognition of the quality of education imparted. We think that the experience of mobility should be strongly encouraged without preconceptions, and should take place in all countries of the EU, believing that the establishment of the European Higher Education and Research should be the aim to which all countries should compete.

As far as non-EU countries are considered, there are privileged partners, but even in this case we must consider the complexity and plurality of the University of Cagliari and the different scientific expertise and excellence in various areas, which inevitably affect positively the execution and success of the cooperation agreements. It is obvious that the particular geographical location of Sardinia and the ancient historical and cultural ties identify the countries of the Mediterranean area of the privileged partners, also considering that the region of Sardinia is home of the managing authority of the ENPI program.

Encouraging students, researchers and academic and administrative staff mobility, and the inevitable comparison between the different situations, leads to continuous rethinking and revision of the training offer, to make it more suitable for a wider market and at the same time for the teaching methods. And the range of services is more and more addressed to a wider audience linguistically and culturally more heterogeneous. The full achievement of these objectives cannot be realized without the participation of all the members of our University.

The main goals of our international strategy are:

1. Increasing the level of graduates and researchers' qualifications and competitiveness at international level which is required by international labor market;
2. encouraging mobility and international cooperation overcoming the real obstacles perceived towards mobility, by providing the students with the full academic and personal support;
3. promoting the attractiveness of our University, by:

- increasing the number of foreign students who choose to enroll in a formative program of the University, thanks to a high educational quality offer;
 - increasing the number of teachers and scholars that the University is able to recruit from abroad enabling an internationalization “in loco”;
 - encouraging the realization of training courses integrated with those of the universities and foreign entities, form of joint and double degrees, international doctorates etc.;
4. Activating the knowledge triangle by promoting more and more the marked connection in collaboration with our University, as well as research and businesses that can promote the development of the local economy;
5. Improving the raising of public and private funding and ensure a system of internal and external evaluation for the constant improvement of the quality of internationalization process.
- The activities of internationalization will be for the benefit of the students of all the three cycles: with particular attention to the PhD students and specialized students to whom specific mobility programs are addressed and funded.

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

UNICA supports the process of internationalization through the actions listed below:

- To guarantee equal opportunities provided in the 21st Article of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, providing adequate support for students and lecturers who are in a situation of hardship and disadvantage;
- to consolidate and increase the quality and quantity of collaborations and partnership with universities in Europe and beyond;
- to strengthen the alliance of knowledge with European and international companies for the realization of high quality industrial training;
- to update periodically the online database of the agreements signed with other institutions (universities and companies) of European and Extra-European countries;
- to make its academic offer very clear, by annually publishing the online catalog, containing a description of the teaching activities, well before the start of the mobility experience;
- to guarantee the academic supervision provided by the tutors dedicated to study and training activities;
- to ensure the efficient recognition of credits gained abroad through effective quality assurance;
- to enhance the accompanying services of mobility and ensure the quality of those (VISA, INSURANCE, ACCOMMODATION, UNICA GUESTHOUSE);
- to ensure the linguistic preparation for both incoming and outgoing students;
- to facilitate the full integration of the incoming students (to live the life of the city and its university) in cooperation with student associations, and to ensure the orientation activities and psychological support for the students;
- to support our students, after their mobility experience, in order to acknowledge their experience and give them the possibility to strengthen their personal and career life;
- use data from the continuous monitoring and from the questionnaires to investigate the customer satisfaction of teachers and students to find the best way to improve the performances and strategies.

EXPECTED IMPACT OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME ON THE MODERNISATION OF OUR INSTITUTION

We aim at primarily reaching the following results:

- Increasing the level of qualification for graduates and researchers;
- Improving the quality and the accuracy of higher education system;
- Enhancing the quality of mobility and international cooperation;
- Activating the knowledge triangle;
- Improving the management and financing.

It is fundamental to improve the level of qualification by increasing the number of graduates needed in Europe to support economic growth through research and technology transfer. In the times of economic recession it is essential to highlight the role of education in youth formation that deserves better occupational prospects. There will be undertaken awareness raising initiatives for families in such serious economic difficulties, that they cannot pay for their children studies. We will also improve our attractiveness, being more sensitive to the needs of labor market and guidance initiatives in order to avoid our students making bad choices. Will be introduced forms of part-time as well as online teaching and adequate measures of support that may allow students, in economic difficulties, to attend classes.

Another crucial aspect concerns quality in the human resources training. Our university will, therefore, encourage mobility with other international institutions to improve the quality of its graduates and researchers. We also aim at promoting the employability and mature entrepreneurial spirit in students, not only by creating a harmonious cooperation but also by making better control over the training to make students' curricula compatible with European and international working environment. We also intend to implement the recruitment of foreign professors/researchers who can offer, as a visiting scientists, an international education by accomplishing the international activities of research and teaching to students who cannot participate in mobility programmes.

To ensure the development of the region, we aim at encouraging the cooperation between higher education system, research and companies, by establishing close links between research and innovation (knowledge triangle). The increase in quality and quantity of placements in the companies will allow students to get closer to the working realities, to improve the basic preparation, often too theoretical and not always sensitive to the demands of the labor market. Moreover, the companies, by the internship, know and will appreciate the new professional profiles that, due to the new organization of the training system, have not been fully appreciated yet. Regarding the financial availability that may hinder the achievement of objectives, forms of co-financing will be activated, obtainable by public institutions like Regione Sardegna and private ones.

