

D

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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}

West University of Timioara's internationalization strategy is a bottom-up strategy developed through a process of consultations at Faculty level. Its' development and monitoring is coordinated by the Department for International Relations, with the support of the Pro-Rector for International Relations and Institutional Communication. Thus, it reflects the multidisciplinary character of the university, as well as a focus on the internationalization of the university as the intersection of departmental strategies on this matter.

In this context, West University of Timioara's strategy is the product of intersecting the particular disciplines' potential for internationalization and the Faculty strategies for the internationalization of education, research and artistic creation. It, thus reflects the common grounds of internationalizing research and education at WUT, as well as fostering interdisciplinarity by acknowledging the specifics of disciplines and faculties. Additionally, the bottom-up approach to developing an internationalization strategy applies to long term strategies, being supported by authentic input from the academic community of the university.

Furthermore, the bottom-up process of developing an internationalization strategy at West University of Timioara is one which allows for a clear focus on both teaching staff, as well as students' specific needs, according to their field of teaching and studying, in an increasingly internationalized university environment.

The internationalization policy at West University of Timioara is institution-wide, but the new internationalization strategy is based on faculty strategies and specifics, with each faculty being autonomous enough to develop its own strategy and goals for internationalization. However, faculty consultations have revealed that in general the faculty strategies do not vary to a great extent in terms of general goals, but rather in terms of means of achieving them.

The general aims of West University of Timioara's internationalization strategy are the following:

- 1.increasing student and staff international mobility, inside and outside of the European Union, inside and outside the framework of EU funded projects;
- 2.rendering the curricula of study programmes compatible with both European Union and non-EU study programmes;
- 3.increasing WUT's visibility and prestige in the international higher education and academic research community;
- 4.fostering economic growth, as well as social and cultural responsibility.

The priorities of West University of Timioara's internationalization strategy- to be implemented within the faculties according to their specific potential for internationalization- include:

- The increase of UVT's number of bilateral agreements with higher education institutions both within and outside of the European Union.
- The increase of UVT's number of participations (as coordinator and/or partner) in projects with international partners- higher education institutions, as well as research institutes, companies or other organizations-, both within and outside of the European Union.
- The increase of UVT's number of incoming students and staff (academic and administrative) both within and outside of the European Union.
- The increase of UVT's number of outgoing students and staff (academic and administrative) both within and outside of the European Union.
- The increase of UVT's number of jointly supervised PhD students (cotutelles).
- The increase of UVT's number of joint and double degree programmes (specifically for MA level).
- The increase of UVT's number of foreign language programmes (specifically for MA level).
- The development of partnerships with cultural and economical organizations and institutions at the local and regional level, as well as abroad.
- The increase of the number of international events such as conferences, symposia, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, etc held at UVT.
- The increase of UVT's students' and academic staff participation at international events such as conferences, symposia, workshops, concerts, exhibitions, etc.
- The increase of ISI ranked publications with UVT affiliated authors.
- The creation of a UVT International Summer School.
- The increase of memberships in higher education and/or research consortia and associations.
- The participation in higher education international fairs focusing on regions or countries with a large pool of potential international students.

Due to what may be known as foreign language "bias", we have more agreements with countries such as France, Spain, Germany and Italy because most of our staff and students speak one of the languages of these countries, aside from

English.

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]

Given the current situation of the Programme, at this point on a short term, the main goals of UVT in terms of the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training have been:

- to increase the number of Incoming and Outgoing staff mobilities for teaching.
- to increase the number of Incoming and Outgoing staff mobilities for training.
- to increase the number of bilateral agreements with other comprehensive universities such as UVT, thus offering the opportunity for an extensive cooperation framework with those institutions.
- to renew the Erasmus bilateral agreements expiring at the end of the academic year 2012-2013 in order to keep the programme functional. Out of a total of 285 agreements, 250 were expiring during this academic year and at the moment of beginning the student selection for an Erasmus mobility for studies in March 2013, for the academic year 2013-2014, 210 agreements were valid.
- to increase the number of Intensive Programme and Erasmus Mundus project proposals where UVT was a partner university, both in regards to student and staff mobility, as well as concerning staff training.
- to increase the applications number for Erasmus mobilities for studies by 20% for the academic year 2013-2014. It was increased by 25%. We strongly believe that this will eventually materialize in a 20% actual increase in mobilities.
- to increase the number of students opting for an Erasmus mobility for placements for the year 2012-2013 and foster bridges between students' studies and their placement on the labour market.

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]

West University of Timisoara aims to pursue actions in regards to all of the five priorities of the Modernisation Agenda (Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs; Improving the quality and relevance of higher education; Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation; Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development; Improving governance and funding).

However, to this end, a participation in the Programme is essential for a successful implementation of the policy objectives pertaining to these priorities. The expected impact of our participation in the programme includes a successful bridging of the education/labour market divide, a development of the international dimension of education and research at UVT, a stronger focus on developing educational programmes taught in languages other than Romanian, an improvement of the support framework for incoming and outgoing mobilities of both students and staff, an increase in more wider collaboration projects (going beyond one particular subject area) with comprehensive universities in Europe and the world. Through all of these, UVT aims to enter the global market of higher education, go beyond the European one, and offer prospective students and staff an opportunity to become a member of an international university situated in Western Romania, but reaching to the entire world.

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