

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 Pan-European University (PEU) as a young, modern and dynamic higher education institution tries to act as an example through achieving its goals in education and research using the potential of internationalisation. From the very beginning the programs of tuition have been developed linking to the expertise of partner universities whereas the Erasmus program has been the marking point for the development of the university's international relations. Reaching the goal of strong partnerships within the EU the PEU started to draw its attention towards the economically emerging regions of the world. Quite naturally, the emphasis of a first period in this continuously ongoing process was the EU neighbourhood area. This is how a HEI from Slovakia was likely to locate a number of important partnerships in the countries of the former Soviet Union, the Balkans region and through its membership to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (EMUNI University) also in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. A further process in which the university sees a crucial importance for its future, interlinking its own views with the goals and strategies specified for the area of higher education in the EU for 2014-2020, strategic partnerships with institutions in non-European countries are envisaged. In this approach, cooperation schemes, projects and agreements concluded with partner institutions from Eastern Asia (China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Korea and Japan), Southeastern Asia (Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia) and Latin America (Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Mexico) are developing into cooperations of strategic importance to the PEU. The University feels itself strongly committed not only to address cooperation plans to its partners in third countries but also to provide such programs of tuition through which it can present the EU and Slovakia as an attractive destination for studies to students from outside Europe. Therefore, the PEU currently finds itself in a content transformation period when it begins to offer its first fully English taught study programs. On one hand, these programs are suited to include preferentially international (among them also non-European) students, on the other hand there is a clear switch in prioritising joint cooperation schemes in strong partnerships with non-European institutions when developing and offering new programs. Within a few years the University will be able to seek its opportunities to develop a multiple/joint degree program with one of its non-European institutional partners. There is a clear strategy in offering the first cycle with a general approach in its content, whereas the second and third cycles may become more interdisciplinary and practice oriented, with a considerable perspective to be addressed to an international addressee. A development of any form of internationalised tuition goes hand in hand with a stronger involvement of international staff in these activities. Therefore, the last few years could be marked as a departure point for other activities than tuition developed jointly with academics of non-European origin. These include research and project activities, joint publishing teams, involvement in summer schools, international academic competitions, etc. The impact is a stronger emphasis on intercultural dialogue, comparative analysis of research and teaching techniques and a deepened intercultural University environment. The priority for the University for the 2014-2020 period is to further strengthen the mentioned activities and to emphasize the internationalised actions in tuition and research.

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 is prepared to commence strategic partnerships with stakeholders from different sectors but at the very moment it has not yet created a specific strategy how to fulfill the goals of the new Programme in this specific area of expertise. As a new, modern and creative institution with a range of multidisciplinary programs, approaches and strategies the PEU is a strong partner for enterprises, local and regional enterprises and other relevant entities on the domestic scene. Under the framework of the new Programme the University will be delighted to use the already existing experiences towards cooperation with external stakeholders.

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]

In reaching the ambitious goals of the Modernisation agenda for Europe's higher education systems the PEU expects the following impacts when implementing the specific priorities of the Modernisation agenda:

1. Through its activities the PEU is strongly committed to raise new professionals and high quality researchers which will be even more highlighted by implementing the goals of the new Programme. The innovative approach of the offered studies can be further strengthened by using transnational partnerships under the framework of the new Programme.
2. The interdisciplinary approach to studies using and interlinking the expertise of the different faculties of PEU strongly support the objectives of the Modernisation agenda. This approach enables the University to raise better suited professionals who are not willing to limit themselves in only one particular field of their expertise. Another aspect is the practice oriented approach where stakeholders of non-academic background from various fields of expertise are directly involved into a practice oriented teaching. The PEU also establishes direct links to the labour market. It remains highly efficient in placing its graduates on the labour market. Using the framework of the Programme the cross-border aspect of the employability of university graduates can be further emphasized.
3. The PEU, strongly committed to internationalisation and multicultural dialogue enthusiastically welcomes the goals of the new Programme to link closer the EU with non-EU regions of the world in both tuition and research. Intercontinental mobilities of students and staff will further encourage the professional comparison and will be likely to promote the European universities also outside Europe. The already existing framework of mobilities, recognition of credits/studies and cross-border employment of graduates within the EU can be developed into a global educational market and a labour market where European and non-European universities will be able to cooperate even more efficiently.
4. All study programs currently offered by the PEU encourage critical thinking, involve creativity and facilitate the development of innovative and entrepreneurial skills of the students. This is, however just a first prerequisite to establish an active knowledge triangle. The PEU expects from the new Programme to complement the approaches already established by the Universities with all EU policies. The institutionalisation of a cross-border cooperation framework between HEIs and the business sector seems to be the most valuable asset of the Programme for this policy issue.
5. The position of a private HEI such as the PEU is quite clear in regard to the need of a careful targeting of financial mechanisms and competition on the market. Nevertheless, the PEU sees the processes of internationalisation as one of its most important priorities as a means to reach excellence in education and research.

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