



## UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PERUGIA

### Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014 - 2020

#### Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Università degli Studi di Perugia, a Higher Education Institution (HEI) whose primary aims are education, research and innovation, is committed to play a crucial role in the strategic plans set by the EU for achieving significant economic growth and durable prosperity. As internationalisation is the key for reaching those objectives, our University Board has established a policy aimed at the promotion and fostering of international cooperation in order to increase student, researcher and staff mobility. This is bound to have a strong impact on the quality and relevance of human capital.

Establishing relationships with other HEIs as well as with other types of organisations (research centres, local authorities, and enterprises) is an essential prerequisite to promote mobility and incentivate inter-institutional collaboration. Our University (Departments and Faculties) has been involved in the latter and has been establishing collaboration agreements with other institutions for the purpose of scientific research and mobility for the past 25 years.

We have currently 361 inter-istitutional agreements with eligible HEIs covering all Erasmus/LLP Programme area, 170 framework agreements with EU (France, Greece, Germany, Spain, Switzerland) and non-EU countries (Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, South Khorea, Taiwan, Turkey, Uruguay, USA, Vatican City, Vietnam).

Initially, partners were identified based on direct relationships which staff, related to the various teaching and research facilities, had established with colleagues of foreign institutions. Subsequently, increasing attention was paid to the choice of partners in line with specific scientific areas and with the interests of individual departments. In the future, the University aims to strengthen and expand existing partnerships and instate new ones taking into account not only the excellence of the institutions involved, but rather the consistency with objectives of scientific research and priorities set out in its strategic plan.

Consolidation with partner countries will be monitored and evaluated on the basis of results achieved, reciprocity of exchanges and according to the criterion of quality referring to international mobility, intended not only in terms of formation but also in terms of services for participants and, above all, procedures for recognition of activities carried out abroad.

Relations with candidate countries will be encouraged to promote the exchange of good practices and their integration into the Union. Partnerships from emerging countries, some of which are currently partners, will be intensified, in compliance with EU directives.

Mobility, the core of inter-institutional collaboration, involves all members of the University: students of I, II and III cycles as well as teaching and non-teaching staff.

Students of I, II and III cycles, will be guaranteed full recognition of the study/training activities carried out abroad, which were previously agreed upon and approved by the relevant teaching structures. Mobility participants may partake in both study and placement activities and will be able to participate in one or more of the following:

- a) Follow courses and sit for exams;
  - b) Conduct research for thesis;
  - c) Conduct post-graduate research;
  - d) Carry out internships for educational purposes as an integral part of the curriculum.
- Full-time internship activities (placement) will be recognised by our Institution as an integral part of the student's curriculum.

Teaching staff mobility, with a view towards professional and personal development, and aimed at promoting exchange of expertise, knowledge and experience, will be an incentive to teaching and training activities carried out abroad, which will be certified and considered as activities constituting a part of the professor's workload. Mobility activities are also directed towards administrative/technical staff. Informative sessions will be held in order to encourage participation of this target group and detail the possibilities available. Even in this case, the activities carried out in the hosting structure, will be certified and considered as substitution of regular, scheduled work activity at the home institution.

For all participants in mobility activities, both inbound and outbound, intensification and enhancement will be given to services from the International Relations Areas. As regards the issuing of double and joint titles, which is among the University's priorities within internationalisation policies, the institution has already activated specific agreements and conventions, and official regulations have been approved with a view to fostering the activation of double/joint degree courses.

## **Institutional strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme Erasmus +**

Beyond agreements with HEIs, our University has established remarkable relations with Authorities in Italy (Umbria Region, Perugia Province/Municipality) and Governments worldwide, fruitful contacts with public/private Institutions (National Banks, Foundations, Chamber of Commerce, Trade Associations) and with local/foreign Enterprises. Such a network constitutes an essential basis for further cooperation (Strategic partnerships) with existing and other actors, aimed at drafting proposals focused on the acquisition of sector-specific competences that will facilitate the employability of all individuals involved.

Over the years, our Institution has implemented different actions to promote quality and innovation: University Centres of Excellence and Research (Research Centre for Beer-CERB; Scientific Methodologies Applied to Archaeology and Art-SMART; Centre of Excellence on Nanostructured Innovative Material for Chemical, Physical and Biomedical Applications-CEMIN; Research Centre on Malaria-CIRM), Innovation Hubs (Start up company for Genomics, Genetics, Biology-GGB); LLP, FP7 and other funded projects which received official praise and awards (SPICES, BRIDGE-IT).

From such excellences, the Institution intends to exploit its connections and create new ones (Knowledge alliances) to: foster integration among HE institutions, SM enterprises and other entities; become constructive in the research field; exchange good practices, knowledge and innovation; enhance the quality of the HE system.

As regards to long-standing and recent cooperation with non-EU countries, those organisations part of the Bologna zone have expressed their growing interest in EU higher education systems. Our commitment is to enhance those collaborations through bottom-up projects and networks (International cooperation) to share and disseminate modern approaches to teaching and training systems, thus supporting those partners in the application of the guidelines provided by the Bologna promoters.

## **Impact of UNIPG participation in the Programme Erasmus + on the modernization of the institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernization Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives UNIPG intends to achieve**

By participating in Erasmus +, the Institution intends to focus on human capital, especially through mobility and international cooperation, to reinforce its modernisation process and have an impact on the country's economy, thus contributing to resolving the crisis Europe is currently experiencing. The Institution, therefore, sets out specific objectives.

With reference to Key Action 1 (Learning Mobility), the University will endeavour to increase the number of mobility agreements with partners from EU, non-EU and third countries, assessing them on the basis of thematic/geographical priorities and quality criteria, with a view to integrating mobility in a systemic way within institutional programmes. Greater access to mobility will be guaranteed through dedicated and effective services (clear and complete information, simplified bureaucracy, on-line procedures). Specific support measures will ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination to increase the number of participants from disadvantaged/poorly represented groups. Selection procedures and allocation of contributions will be transparent and recognition of qualifications achieved will be guaranteed. The above factors will have a huge impact on the mobility flow, generating positive effects on the Institution's quality and attractiveness. (Priorities addressed: 1&3).

Under Key Action 2 (Cooperation), the Institution aims to increase the number of agreements with other HEIs and SM enterprises to augment the number of specialising traineeships offered. Specific needs analysis will single out the most requested professional figures as a basis to developing sector-specific programmes providing high qualifications and useful specialisations. New partnerships will be sought out for creating innovative solutions (platforms) supporting virtual mobility and distance learning. As a result, training offer will be enhanced, graduates will acquire specific abilities and thus become more employable, facilitating mobility and the circulation of talent. (Priorities addressed: 1, 2, 3 & 4).

As regards Key Action 3 (Policy Reform), the University will undertake to adopt and disseminate UE transparency tools (EQF, ECVET, ECTS) as well as the official documents to achieve the utmost transparency in the recognition procedures (Learning/Teaching Agreement, Transcript of Records, Diploma Supplement). To facilitate access to EU grants, the Institution will promote the participation of staff in international projects to co-finance activities with internal resources (person/month) and will strengthen collaboration with local authorities to implement projects also through dedicated public fundings. The expected impact will be a harmonisation among HE systems through the promotion of the Bologna and Copenhagen processes. Obstacles to mobility deriving from the plurality of programmes will be removed, bringing coherence and synergies among institutions from different countries. (Priorities addressed: 3&5).

\*Priorities of the EU Modernisation Agenda

- 1 - Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs;
- 2 - Improving the quality and relevance of higher education;
- 3 - Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation;
- 4 - Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development
- 5 - Improving governance and funding.

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/policy/modernisation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/policy/modernisation_en.pdf)