

## **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]

University of Pitesti is a comprehensive university that integrates academic fields with engineering, sciences, educational sciences, humanities, arts and medical profiles. The strategic plan was developed in accordance with the mission undertaken in the University Charter, focused on the three functions of a modern university, education-research-community service. In accomplishing this mission, the values that define the University of Pitesti are excellence, innovation, commitment, dynamism, interdisciplinary, intercultural dialogue, ethics and responsibility. The overall strategic objective is the continued development of institutional management performance, of educational and research processes in order to integrate itself into the European Higher Education Area. International cooperation is among the priority areas for which specific targets have been set. The following directions were established in order to develop cooperation relationships with institutions of higher education and research and to promote the image of the university at the international level:

- strengthening the position of the university as a member of the European University Association, of the Francophone University Association, of the Danube Rectors' Conference and involvement in other relevant bodies of international interest. University membership of these organizations provides an opportunity for establishing partnerships on different types of European projects;
- developing and implementing a coherent strategy of international cooperation to increase the international visibility and to assert the presence of the university in the area of European and international higher education;
- initiating, supporting and promoting activities of European and international cooperation, as well as participating in their implementation, opening new possibilities of students' and staff participation in mobility programmes of study, teaching and training;
- designing and implementing a multi-directional dissemination methodology, so as to lead to a strong profile of the University of Pitesti on the educational market;
- cooperation for the development of joint master and doctoral programmes, in order to ensure common diplomas (joint degrees), recognised in the common European space;
- setting up bachelor's and master's degree programmes in international languages, intended to facilitate mobility and attract an increasingly larger number of international students in the formative and educational programs organized by the university;
- supporting leading figures in higher international education to deliver lectures at the University of Pitesti;
- continuing the 15-year tradition of international cooperation through mobility programmes, facilitating international mobility and valorising experience in dissemination, advertising (Open Day, artistic activities);
- choosing partners in accordance with the structure and the strategic objectives of the university, prioritizing the Danube region as a region of sustainable development;
- annual evaluation of bilateral agreements, in order to outline the active agreements, to identify the deficient fields and geographic areas and to lead towards future strategy;
- increasing the number of mobility from year to year, in accordance with fund absorption;
- the target groups of mobility for study and practical training are directed at students in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes, while for teaching and training they are directed at teaching and administrative staff;
- transparency, accessible information (mass media, web pages), fair treatment for all mobility beneficiaries;
- stimulating the beneficiaries of alumni mobility by getting them involved in this direction (employing them in the university, organizing tutorials for future beneficiaries or for incoming students);
- as a priority, mobility recruitment of young teachers, potential promoters of new cooperation projects;
- extending relations of international cooperation with universities, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research centres, international companies and foundations, having as starting point the good cooperation within the existing agreements;
- implementing the videoconferencing system and using its facilities for real-time communication with partner institutions from the international area.

Performance indicators: number of framework agreements of international cooperation established, number of bilateral/multilateral agreements in progress, number of mobility agreements established, university participation in international organizations, number of formations in international language/with double diploma/university/faculty, number of joint doctoral programmes, number of outgoing mobility/number of students, number of incoming mobility/number of students, number of outgoing teaching staff/ university/faculty, number of formations in foreign languages/university/faculty.

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]

University of Pitesti applies for mobility, multilateral, development and transfer of innovation projects at each Call for project proposals. Through the Centre for European Studies and Projects, the Design Centre for Sustainable Development Projects and the European Documentation Centre UPIT provide guidance and information to the project promoters. In order to organize and implement international cooperation programmes, measures are taken in the following areas:

- informing, counselling, monitoring and coordinating specific projects, EU and non-EU funded, as well as interdisciplinary cooperation projects;
- applying the expertise in the development and management of European projects at the level of academic entities;
- promoting collaboration between teachers, researchers and students in order to participate in European and international projects;

Performance indicators: number of submissions of project applications, number of ongoing projects, co-funding provided per project/total funding provided per project, number and quality of the dissemination of project products, equipment/educational software produced within the projects.

In order to stimulate cooperation on European, international and interdisciplinary issues, measures are taken to:

- design, organize, authorize and implement research programmes, training courses, exploratory workshops, advanced studies schools on issues that concern European, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies;
- initiate, support and organize activities aimed at developing the interaction between researchers, teachers, students;
- provide guidance in the process of designing and developing programs, modules and courses.

Performance indicators: number of groups of interdisciplinary cooperation and efficiency of their activities, number of exploratory workshops, seminars, programs dedicated to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary studies, number and quality of the programmes, modules and courses completed.

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]

The development strategy of the University of Pitesti foresees actions which aim at its internationalization and modernization. They include the strong support of students and teachers' exchanges, ensuring equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, areas of study/ teaching/training, country of destination, socio-economic conditions, special needs. The teaching and training mobility ensures the harmonization of study programmes and the increase of their quality by improving the formulation of the learning outcomes, which is extremely useful in curriculum design, issuing of the Diploma Supplement, recognition of the periods of mobility, formulating the skills to the level required by the European labour market. The multicultural and the diversity components are developed by the mobility of incoming students and teachers.

University policy on the quality of education observes the European standards and their correspondence on national level. The initial and continuous education covers the European and National Qualifications Framework, taking into account the basic skills for the jobs required by the labour market. As far as the consolidation of quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation are concerned, the partnerships that are likely to ensure compatibility and feasibility to the technical and logistical commitments for the proposed exchanges will be chosen. The long-term mobility will be supported in order to improve the quality of the initial vocational training and a better integration into the labour market. The teaching mobility, in addition to the major contribution to the professional, personal, linguistic development, enables teaching staff to establish networking for further collaboration. The positive effects are to be found in better quality evaluations.

Integrating itself into the development strategy of the Danube region, the university aims at cooperating in projects of common interest with EU countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Slovenia) and non-EU (Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro). However, the most partnerships remain in the Romance languages space (France, Spain, Italy, and Portugal).

University of Pitesti is characterized by the strong link with the socio-economic environment of the Muntenia region. The research in transnational teams is a permanent concern in the academic field. Major objectives of research are excellence in the areas where research of high performance has been achieved. An Incubator of Business and Technological Transfer was set up as a result of the cooperation with the economic and research institutions.

The feedback drawn from international collaboration includes examples of good practice in the academic management at both central and local levels. The long-term strategy and the operational plans are directed towards the co-financing of mobility by attracting extra-budgetary sources and the involvement of strategic partners from the socio-economic environment.

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