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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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]

"Petru Maior" University of Targu Mures has taken the responsibility of being an active partner in the formation of the European Higher Education Area, having as a main aim of its development policy the modernization and internationalization of the higher education, trying, at the same time, to harmonize its own academic culture with the European one. Thus, the university signed the main document for European academic cooperation, Magna Charta Universitatum (Bologna, 2005), and is a member of the most important academic organizations: EAU, IAU, AUF, HUMANE, GUNI, EPUF. "Petru Maior" University of Targu Mures will continue to be an active partner in the academic activity of the organizations whose member it is, in order to be in synchrony with the trends of development of the international academic environment, participating at conferences and at their main activities. The university will develop its participation in the actions of the Program, trying to extend its cooperation with partners from both the EU and non-EU countries. A careful evaluation of the possible partners is done every time, from the point of view of the compatibility of the study program, the feasibility of the exchanges proposed, the technical and logistical arrangements, in order to ensure the objective for growth and relevance of the education quality. The Bilateral Agreements with the partners are signed at the level of faculties or departments, having in view the compatibility of the study programs, the placements that could complete the academic training, those teaching assignments and training programs for the academic and administrative staff that could be integrated, vastly, in the usual program of the partner universities. We will keep intensifying the dialogue with the enterprises and the organizations from both the national and international economic area, thus making the cooperation with the industrial and business environment stronger and more stable. The scope is to raise the students' interest and that of the economic organizations for placements, to create the best conditions for them, and to facilitate the insertion of the graduates on the labour market. The constant growth of the ERASMUS mobilities at the level of students (outgoing and incoming) and of the academic staff will be encouraged in the future as well, being supported by the competitive educational offer that the university has to define as a host institution. Mission indicators will be set so that "Petru Maior" University may transfer positive experiences from the partner universities. The staff training mobilities for the administrative staff will continue to be supported, given the necessity to raise the level of professionalism to European requirements. The participation to mobilities will be promoted and supported, as well as the academic exchanges and for curricular development, while looking for new opportunities for projects and programs. Partnerships with universities from the European and non-European areas will be initiated, in view of organizing joint programs (Joint Degrees) in English, for all levels of study. The extension of the cooperation relationships with universities and research institutes from abroad, through study programs, research, teaching assignments and students' mobilities will be a qualitative landmark for all the organization structures of our institution, for excellence and regional development. The use of foreign languages of international circulation in the didactic process of "Petru Maior" University is strongly supported and encouraged; there are already certain courses taught in English. In this context, the efforts for offering modules in foreign languages of international circulation, in our programs of study, will be continued, in order to facilitate the students' mobilities and that of the academic staff and, at the same time, to allow foreign students access to the courses offered by the university. Programs of study taught entirely in English, for both bachelor and master level, are undergoing the accreditation procedure. The academic staff from the university is allowed to organize its activity at the university so that the mobilities may be done in the best periods, previously agreed with the partners. Students with study mobilities and placements are assisted through monitoring activities at their host institutions by staff from the management of their faculties or from the European Programs Office. Foreign students coming to the university are ensured, through the care of the European Programs Office, an academic tutor in the person of a professor, for their entire period of stay at the university, who monitors and evaluates their activity. For the best integration of these students in the social and academic environment, a student tutor is also nominated for them, among the students who already have participated in the Erasmus Program. The incoming students benefit from an intensive Romanian Language course.

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 has implemented projects such as Do-IT, Done-IT, Global SRS, Move-IT, all being programs for the development of modern educational technologies, which include Blended Learning, Video-Conferences, Mobile Technologies. The university thus tries to make sure that it is compatible with the advances in educational standards from the other European countries and supports all its other projects in the same area.

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 participation in the Program will continue to support, through all the proposed actions of the Program, the modernization and internationalization of the university. The most important expected result is the growth and development of the international dimension, according to the objectives set, and the priorities of the Modernization Agenda, as follows:

1. New programs of study will be proposed or developed, having as language of teaching mainly languages of international circulation, at the level of European requirements. The university intends to develop international master and Joint Degree programs.

2. Development of international agreements based on compatibility and complementarity of study programs will ensure the accomplishment of the professional training.

Teaching programs of outgoing professors' mobilities will ensure their integration in the normal program of the partner university. Our programs are compatible with similar programs from our partner universities, having previously been benchmarked.

The University has received, following a national evaluation, the distinction "University with High Level of Trust" from the Romanian Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and is currently undergoing an EUA evaluation.

3. The university aims to extend its cooperation with countries from the EU, and also with third countries, having in view the organization of common projects such as Joint Degrees in English for all levels of education. Consequently, contacts of the students, of the academic and administrative staff made during the mobilities can ensure the internationalization of the university, as seen in the many partners of the university.

The university is expected to increase its participation in international programs, and to create a new network of partners among the third countries, in the view of developing TEMPUS programs.

4. Another important task is represented by the extension of the cooperation agreements with universities and research institutions, as well as with the business environment, through programs of study, research projects, students and professors mobilities. All research projects are immediately applicable in the industry; the university has over 40 patents that can be applied in industry.

5. "Petru Maior" University of Targu Mures is a true entrepreneurial university through the governmental resources, those attracted from the tuition fees, but also through the attraction of research contracts closed with local businesses, all due to the high level of commitment and involvement of the academic and research staff.

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