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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]

The international strategy is outlined in Long Term Strategy Plan 2011-2015. Its implementation includes following actions (most important objectives, target groups):

- Making CULS Prague more visible at international level through international quality evaluation and branding (ECTS Label, Diploma Supplement Label).
- Increasing the numbers of outgoing mobility students (first, second and third cycles), enabling all CULS students to spend a part of their studies abroad.
- Developing new forms of administrative, research and academic staff mobility (outgoing and incoming).
- Increasing the numbers of full time international degree students at CULS within the framework of various mobility programmes (ERASMUS and others) in 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles, as well for study and training.
- Increasing the number of Double Degree programmes as well introducing new Joint Degree programmes.
- Further developing the involvement of CULS in EU and other international programmes focusing on cooperation in tertiary education (e.g. ERASMUS, CEEPUS, AKTION, Visegrad Funds, Development programmes of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport).
- Establishing CULS as a bilingual university, reflecting its vocation as an international university.
- Finalising the implementation of tools for management of international relations at every CULS Department's level.
- Developing short intensive programmes (e.g. Summer Schools) for international students at CULS as well as for CULS students abroad, supported by CULS, Faculties and Institutes internal funds.
- Increasing cooperation with international academic and research partners with the frameworks of bilateral agreements as well as international networks and consortia.

As far as the specific aspects of international cooperation, as specified above:

a) Choosing international partners?

The University focuses particularly on partners connected to the areas of life sciences (incl. agricultural sciences, environment sciences, forestry and wood sciences), economics, management, social sciences and engineering. For this purpose the University is member of the Euroleague for Life Sciences (www.euroleague-study.org), the Association of European Life Sciences Universities (www.ica-europe.info), the Danube Rector's Conference (www.drc-danube.org), and thematic consortiums e.g. Central And Eastern European Initiative (www.casee.org). The partners are chosen based on their quality (international reputation, research achievements and studies /incl. English programmes/).

b) In which geographic area does the university choose its partners?

The University chooses partners worldwide, on all continents, with special focus on Europe (including non EU members), Russia, Central and South Asia, China, India, Mongolia, Indonesia, North and South America).

c) What are the most important objectives and target groups of mobility activities?

The university most important objectives are to increase mobility flow at all levels (see strategic goals 2011-2015). The target groups are students and staff with a desire to increase their skills, competencies and international experience. The prerequisites for mobility is good command of the language spoken at the selected host university, with specific emphasis on flawless written and spoken English, and a desire to increase and broaden one's area of specialisation.

Double degree MSc programmes:

Currently the University implements 13 DD (with Cranfield University UK /3 programmes/, Wageningen University NL, BOKU Vienna A, Grenoble Business School FR /2 programmes/, Université Catholique de Lyon FR, Technical University in Zvolen SK, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra SK /3 programmes/, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid ES). To increase the number of DD programmes is one of the strategic objectives of the University for the period 2011 – 2015 (from 2011 already 3 new programmes).

Joint degree MSc programmes:

Currently the University implements 1 JD programme in the area of Natural Resources and Environment (with BOKU Vienna A). To increase the number of JD programmes is one of the strategic objectives of the University for the period 2011 – 2015 (therefore now within the CASEE network a new joint degree programme in biotechnologies and food is elaborated).

Multiple MSc programmes: Not applicable

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's strategy for organisation and implementation of international (EU and non EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme focuses particularly on work in international consortia (outlined above). Within Euroleague for Life Sciences (www.euroleague-study.org), the Association of European Life Sciences Universities (www.ica-europe.info), the Danube Rector's Conference (www.drc-danube.org), and thematic consortiums e.g. Central And Eastern European Initiative (www.casee.org) these activities are pursued. The international consortia are considered as the right tool to use the support of the Programme for the cooperation projects in teaching and training. Already within the associations the strategy for Erasmus for All cooperation projects is discussed. The main strategy of the cooperation under the programmes is in the development of joint/double degree programmes and international summer schools. It is also assumed to use the projects for the development of e-learning as the tool of the internationalization and cooperation at home.

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]

All 5 priorities are incorporated into University Long Term Strategy Plan 2011-15. That is why also the Progr. will heavily impact the university performance and its achievements will be considered against this programme

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs: Because the Programme supports the intern. mobility, it contributes to 1 of the expectation from the graduates and researchers: to have intern. experience. It is assumed the Programme will impact higher involvement of students in science and research. It will help to encourage talented students to get the experience abroad utilized in their future professions. The Progr. will empower younger staff due to intern. experience. They will impact the changes the graduates have on labour market and will empower researchers with intern. experience and knowledge. The impacts are in line to improve the employability of the graduates and the competencies of the research staff.
2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education: Due to its intern. characters it is assumed the Programme will impact the quality and relevance of higher education which is in accordance with the University strategy. The Programme will influence international benchmarking which is crucial in the terms of quality development. It will also impact on the quality of the staff offering the possibility to learn abroad new experience. In this way the Programme will contribute to achieve the goal of improved quality which is stipulated in University Long Term Strategy Plan 2011-2015.
3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation: The Programme will strengthen the quality also through mobility and cross-border cooperation. The intern. associations the university is the member already use the Programme to improve the quality of its members in the terms of education and research. Already used support to summer school is highly acknowledged. That is why the mobility and cross-border cooperation will support the quality common activities done together with the international partners. The international cooperation is seen by the University Long Term Strategy Plan 2011-2015 as the tool to improve the quality of the university.
4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development: Due to the rules of EU Cohesion Policy the Programme is highly important to link research, education and business for the benefits of excellence and regional development. The Progr. will impact the cooperation of the university with firms/companies whilst taking advantage of intellectual property of CULS. The impacts will be especially as for the cooperation of the University towards small and medium enterprises, or cooperating with farms and food producers.
5. Improving governance and funding: The support of the Programme given to staff mobility is foreseen as improving the governance and funding practices which is in accordance with University Long Term Strategy Plan 2011-2015.

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