

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]

The UVigo has been a pioneer in the implementation of specific internationalisation strategies, a clear indicator of progression in our internationalisation process. The Erasmus Programme has been a driving force in making mobility part of the academic life of our students and staff. It has also been an important catalyst in the reform and internationalisation of our university, with the introduction of Bologna tools that provided wider transparency, transferability of credits, thus fostering a better understanding and mutual trust with our EU partners, and beyond. Later, other EU programmes with a more global outreach, like the Erasmus Mundus or Tempus projects coordinated by the Uvigo, have contributed to enlarge our foreign activities.

Our international strategies have had a positive impact on the institution international growth, and in particular as regards:

- .the development of new partnerships, especially with new emerging and EU neighbour countries (i.e. Asia, Latin America, North of Africa) and different types of public and private institutions as well as with HEIs from new countries that have joined or are willing to join the EU.

- . the increase of outgoing student and staff mobility to EU and non-EU countries for studies and placements, which has also been possible through the Universia Consortium, the Leonardo da Vinci programme or by joining networks like Leonet. The Uvigo is also an active member of the cross-border Galicia-North of Portugal Eures network to promote employment and mobility actions.

- . the signature of quality agreements with HEIs outside the EU to open new exchanges and further ways of cooperation, by joining cooperation aid projects (Latin America or Africa).

- the promotion of foreign language learning so that the teaching staff acquire the relevant language proficiency to facilitate teaching in other languages and the organisation and funding of language courses for incoming/outgoing students and staff.

- . the attraction of international students from different countries, through networks like CGU, ISEP or GE4 or joining funding schemes like Science without Borders (Brasil); and to improve the services offered for incoming students, with a better housing offer, help with visas, the buddy system, language tandem or specific cultural activities.

- . the aid given to youth actions like the Uvigo Erasmus Student Network opened by UVigo students to integrate visiting foreign students .

- . the enhancement of staff mobility and their participation as coordinators/partners in EU projects, achieving higher rates of success in programs like Tempus with North Africa or Bosnia, EU-ICI with Australia, EMundus with Latin America or the recent action 2, lot 1 EmundusGreenIT project with North of Africa and coordinated by the Uvigo (in force till 2015).

- . the study of double degrees with those partner institutions we already have bilateral agreements with as well as international projects in force so as to have a more international academic offer and to attain higher rates of foreign students, as well as to foster employability among registered students.

- . the introduction of the European Integration studies at the UVigo and opening the EU to society through all our JEA activities, such as the Centre of Excellence, the Ad Personam Chair or the 11 Jean Monnet modules.

- . a higher awareness among Uvigo members of working with universities in Europe and in neighbour countries through participation in EU projects such as Comenius Thematic Networks, Erasmus Multilateral and Leonardo da Vinci Projects, and also in projects for development aid financed by regional governments.

- . the joint development of courses with other HEIs was possible through the participation in 6 Erasmus IPs.

- . embracing the modernisation agenda or fostering knowledge alliances were the last EU priorities taken into account by the Uvigo when joining 2 new recently approved projects in this field.

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]

To comply with future challenges for the new EU programmes 2014-2020, the following mechanisms have been recently approved (cf. www.uvigo.es/uvigo_en/administracion/ori/lexislacion/index.html)

- A new Internationalisation Strategy based on international mobility, international cooperation, academic activity cooperation, international presence & institutional capacity and training program (with specific measurable indicators and target actions).

- The new Mobility Regulations, which tackles international mobility, participant's rights and obligations, selection procedures, and learning agreements and studies/training recognition processes,

- The Language Policy to foster all initiatives related to languages and their accreditation.

- A Regulation for the Mutual Recognition of Studies supporting double degrees with institutions abroad.

Our main focus is to:

- enlarge our support for the development and modernisation of HE systems in third countries by helping build the institutional capacity of partners in developing or emerging regions, using as a platform to design new projects with other parts of the world the links already established through the existing Uvigo Tempus and Emundus projects coordinated by us so as to transfer the acquired expertise to other regions.

- continue working on the internationalisation of learning and teaching, together with other stakeholders and business to offer new learning methods with a focus on the EU digital agenda. We shall include Open Educational Resources into learning/teaching and participate in international projects in this field.

- provide our students with new learning and internship experiences abroad, including mobility for placements in other non EU countries and integrated cultural mobility (volunteering, community engagement, ...) New destinations will be opened in new EU countries and Asia.

- open an adult-senior mobility action and join networks of elderly students to collaborate in multilateral projects.

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 continuous modernisation of the institution, the promotion of innovation and the cross-border cooperation are also among our strategic priorities, which will work to:

- provide our staff with opportunities to go abroad, not only to HEIs but also open the mobility to other types or organisations, such SMEs
- create for the first time international volunteer actions for our students, mainly in the framework of cooperation aid projects together with NGOs and non-profit organizations, so students may gain insight into global issues faced by communities around the world.
- improve the quality of mobility and quality tools at home.
- attract talented non-EU students and researchers who can contribute to our growth and competitiveness with their knowledge and skills.
- increase the number of international students at the Universidade de Vigo considering that in some institutions that rate is above 10% of the total number of students enrolled .
- open the welcome office to help incoming students/staff with all processes, including help to obtain visas, residence permits and disability attention.
- search for new funding sources, among private and other types of donors.
- design projects (also for sports) that will focus in driving innovation through support for entrepreneurial and collaborative education.
- foster a closer collaboration between academia and business, the Uvigo will launch a University-Business International Forum, a platform where different business entities and organisations meet together once a year with university staff in order to learn from each other needs (to deliver new and innovative teaching methods and approaches or syllabus and to promote entrepreneurship).
- continue to develop, in a clear response to matching skills with labour market needs, its internship program, that will give talented people the opportunity to work in a entrepreneurial and innovative framework and encourage the development of skills in demand.
- launch the 'Young Ambassadors Group', a group of youth, entrepreneurs and students, benefiting from an exchange experience whose aim is to ponder over innovation challenges and propose recommendations for mobility and contribute to the international image of the Uvigo.
- improve our position in international rankings and to actively participate in the EU Multirank.
- contribute to raise the visibility of our university globally and to contribute to the EU policies debate.

An important element of Uvigo's mission is to prepare our students for global citizenship, where communication, flexibility, adaptability, mobility and cross-cultural understanding will be increasingly important. Our internationalisation strategy refers to a broad range of international partnerships and exchanges, including mobility, strategic alliances, open education resources and capacity building in other parts of the world. This is summarised in 5 key factors: global vision, commitment, citizenship, entrepreneurship, and creativity.

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