

***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 Sapientia University of Transylvania is an independent university of the Hungarian community in Romania, which aims at providing education to the members of our ethnic community and performing scientific research on a high professional level. We consider ourselves responsible for the knowledge offered to our students, for the future of our teaching staff and colleagues, for the quality of our research activity and for transparency in our operations. One of the scopes of the Sapientia University on an international level is to develop a wide network of partnerships, based on openness, trustworthiness, dedication and reciprocity.

International cooperation at our University is embodied by programmes and strategies developed under the Bologna Declaration, the Romanian legislation and the principles of university autonomy. One of our University's priorities is the integration into the system of inter-university cooperation mainly with institutions from Hungary, but at the same time the development of cooperation in the Central European area.

Our university supports international partnerships, the development of collaborations by the increase of the number of bilateral agreements concluded with universities in Europe, with special emphasis on Central-European institutions, but also with universities in third countries. Sapientia is also involved in several cooperations with Western European universities, mainly in the field of technical sciences and humanities.

The purpose of the University is to contribute to the alignment of higher education in Hungarian language in Romania to European standards, by developing a comprehensive and prosperous institutional network. Adhering the Programme would facilitate to achieve this goal by joining the wide international relations network established in the field of science-teaching. As our study offer is focusing on the local needs of the labour market, while choosing between available agreements, we take into consideration competences our students could gain in order to accommodate to the globalisation trends, but in the same time we also aim to sustain regional and European values. Our university initiated six joint Master programmes in collaboration with universities from Hungary, and for the future it is important to support the establishment of such programmes together with foreign partners from the Western European regions as well. In the near future the University is planning to organise Intensive Programmes to improve specific skills and abilities of BA and MA students.

One of our most important objective is expanding the international mobility of students to provide them adequate preparation for the global labour market, and stimulating teachers and administrative staff to participate in transnational mobility, aiming at their integration into the academic world circuit. In this respect our university offers full recognition of the study/placement period spent abroad, applies a flexible system for the equivalence of credits through the comparable use of ECTS and issues Diploma Supplement. We are also prepared to ensure facilities for people with disabilities or special needs.

Our goal is also to support the organisation of different international reunions and increasing the number of international guests participating at the scientific events of the university. Participating in international exhibitions and fairs would help us to promote our educational offer, to increase the number of foreign students.

A major priority in our international strategy is the development of partnerships in scientific research through common project and topics. The results obtained from such joint research activities would contribute to increase the number of highly ranked scientific publications or to attract a growing number of specialists from abroad to publish in the Acta Universitatis Sapientiae volumes.

Our university is about to deepen its collaboration with the business sector, thus achieving an effective reciprocity between education-research and business through knowledge transfer. By such initiatives the University could better integrate the results of scientific research into the economic sector and would help more students to participate at placements, in order to increase their professional, social and intercultural skills.

Our institution is developing dynamically, therefore our strategy for the Programme is designed to emphasize high-quality teacher exchange, improve the quality of study and placement offers, to increase the internationalisation of our higher education in a wider scientific and social context.

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 Sapientia University is making its first steps in the framework of the Programme, although during the 12 years of our existence we had implemented different international projects. Our university established the International Relations and Community Programmes Office in order to improve international cooperation, to choose the right partners with compatible or complementary curricula, aiming to sustain the participation of university staff in international projects, to follow the European mainstream. The IRCP Office, together with the faculty staff and the Research Centre of our University is focusing on the implementation of these projects, on the expansion of partnerships, following to increase the number of joint academic programmes. The IRCP Office also supports the faculties in attracting foreign students and visiting professors, and provides assistance to raise the number of international guests from partner institutions, as well as the business, technology and non profit sector at the scientific events of the university.

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]

-Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers EU needs

The participation of young people belonging to the Hungarian ethnic minority in the Romanian higher education is less than the percentages of ethnic Romanians (4 vs.6%). The Programme will help us attract students in study programmes which are offered in Hungarian only by our University, thus facilitating young people to participate in Hungarian language higher education. We offer high-tech qualifications such as biotechnology, computer science, mechatronics etc. in Hungarian, which contributes to the industrial development of economically disadvantaged regions of our country. Furthermore, to reduce school drop-out we organise catch-up courses for disciplines such as mathematics, physics, biology and so on, and offer tutorial counselling for our students, including international students, on a regular basis.

-Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Besides the feed-back coming from our former students and the representatives of the labour market, in order to improve our curricula we apply the best practices of high-ranked universities, mainly from the EU. In this respect, the experience our teaching staff gained during international mobility offers an opportunity to shape the professional content of our programmes according to European expectations.

-Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

We include in our curricula disciplines which will be taught by renowned specialists from our partner universities on a regular basis, based on reciprocity, thus increasing the quality of our study offer. We encourage our best students and young, talented teachers to take part in mobility, hoping to acclimate in our institution the good experience and knowledge they would accumulate abroad.

-Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking HE, research, business for excellence and regional development

The usual practical training of our students take place at firms, schools, NGOs and after graduation most of them become employees of specified enterprises from the region, so the competences gained during international placements could be harnessed by these institutions. Our teaching staff is involved in several projects launched by local and regional institutions of public administration or specialized firms. In this respect the experience and knowledge they come home with will be invested in the achievements and development of these regional institutions.

-Improving governance and funding

By widening their scientific cooperation network the staff of our university could participate in diverse projects launched by different institutions of EU facilitating the access to alternative sources of funding. The mobility of the leaders of the academic and administrative structures could give them opportunities to experience new methods thus enabling them to improve their skills and implement more efficient and better organised management system.

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

E

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

*Place: Cluj-Napoca*

*Name: DÁVID LÁSZLÓ*

*Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013*

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

*Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)*

*Original stamp or seal of the Institution*

