

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.

Faculty of information studies in its strategic plan defines following strategic orientations: Excellence in Research and Development, Excellence in education, business excellence, socially responsible behaviour, employee satisfaction, innovation in research and development. Each strategic orientation has five strategic goals that are defined in the five-year period. One of the most important strategic goals is international cooperation of the Faculty of Information Studies in regional and European area. Faculty as one of the Key player in Dolenjska region has therefore defined geographical area for its cooperation, where we develop regional activities. These areas are regions of Croatia and West Balkan, Austria and Italy. In this sense Faculty of Information studies is spreading its knowledge pool and social networking activities through networking staff and students from mentioned areas for its further development as an important player in the Danube region. On the other hand, Faculty of information studies cooperates with research partners from the field of its main research like Network analysis, simulations, and informatics. This second partner search is provided through faculty's researcher's own networks on mentioned field. Once a year Faculty organises its key scientific meeting, the international conference ITIS, which is regular year based event, where faculty strengthen its international cooperation in the field. Erasmus programme is one of the most important tool that provide Faculty its international cooperation trough mobility of staff and students based on the faculty strategic plan and research interest. The faculty's mobility activities and target groups focuses on staff employed at the faculty as also all three cycles of students, first, second and third. Within first year of operation faculty provided Erasmus mobility for staff and student study in the second cycle. With growth of the faculty Erasmus mobility are further carried out to the first cycle of students (mostly oriented in training in enterprises) and third cycle of PhD students that faculty gain recently. This group of students in strong related to the faculty research and development activities and international partners in the 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.

EU and non-EU cooperation project at Faculty present important objectives of faculty international activities. Those activities are also a basic pool for straightening faculty international networks based on research fields and network of researches at the Faculty. Erasmus programme on the other hand presents crucial and unique opportunity to further develop those activities according to faculty research goals and aims, what brings new opportunities for research and development, exchange of practice, innovation and implementation of new project ideas within international network. The Faculty supports synergies between Erasmus programme and EU and non-EU cooperation project within staff exchange when implementing (selecting candidates for exchange) for Erasmus.

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.

Priority 1. Increasing attainment levels and strengthening the social dimension of higher education With participating in Erasmus programme and exchanges of staff and students, Faculty of information studies is expect to raise flexibility in education process by developing new opportunities for personalized study routes (distance learning) within partners in faculty's network. Through the programme faculty will also expand its network. Consequently, faculty will increase access to and improving the social dimension in higher education and in this sense impact to the first priority 1 of Modernization Agenda.

Priority 2: Improving the quality and relevance of higher education, including through cooperation between higher education institutions and the labor market

Erasmus exchanges of faculty's students especially in first cycle using the opportunities to be trained in enterprises abroad will impact to second priority of the Agenda. Consequently will provide emerge of labor market and demands with transversal skills including entrepreneurship, developing active cooperation between higher education institutions and partners from outside academia.

Priority 3: Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Implementation of Erasmus programme at Faculty of information studies will impact to the third priority with following expectations: Faculty will trough active and intensive Erasmus exchanges develop new strategies to promote and boost learning mobility, especially within its staff- teachers, educational leaders / managers, trainers. Implementing Faculty's strategic plan by international cooperation objectives also trough Erasmus will impact to the Modernization Agenda within 3 priority.

Priority 4: Knowledge Alliances

Within Erasmus exchanges implemented with Faculty cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises will be improved especially in the regional area of Croatia, Austria and Italy. Within exchanges of staff in particular, new learning and teaching methods, which can involve joint design and delivery of new multidisciplinary curricula and courses, organization of educational activities within the companies will be expected to be developed at Faculty. Erasmus training of students in enterprises will strengthen cooperation of businesses and higher education at Faculty in regional area and will as such impact to Priority 4.

Priority 5: Improving governance and funding

One of the faculty's objectives in its strategic plan is also to develop awareness and enhancing autonomy of higher education institution through various European funds, including involvement of wider stakeholders, enterprises, social partners, civil society organizations, regional development associations etc... Cooperating in this manner with strategic partners in defined network of faculty will impact to priority 5 of Modernization Agenda with significant part also through the support of Erasmus.

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