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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 Technical University of Cluj-Napoca is dedicated to increase its international standings and to become more active in all the international academic life aspects: research, teaching, academic exchanges. These efforts are encompassed by the larger strategic objectives of the university to improve the quality of teaching and research and to increase the international visibility and recognition.

The increase of the importance of international cooperation in the TUCN activities is conceived through: increasing the number of partnerships with foreign universities, research entities and companies; enlarging the activities corresponding to existent agreements by adding new components such as research, teaching or short time training stages to on-going ones; a larger implication of teaching staff from foreign universities in our degree or training programs and of our own staff in similar programs in universities abroad; enlarging the implication of students in international programs others than or together with mobility programs; augmenting the importance of international relations with industrial companies for student placements but also for staff, in order to influence directly on the curricula of engineering topics; increasing the number of incoming students in a larger range of academic activities; increasing the number and consistency of international research programs.

The international partners of TUCN are chosen considering several criteria: scientific recognition for universities and research entities; technological level, international class and cooperation dedication for enterprises; formerly existing partnerships with strategic partners of the university; existing punctual cooperation relations with staff in the university; existence of cooperation strategic actions between Romania and the approached countries; partnerships within the frame of academic international organisations TUCN is a member in (such as AUF-francophony, Black Sea Universities Assoc.); general strategic directions considering geographic area, industry, academia, etc. The strategic partners of TUCN are chosen on the basis of the development strategy of the university and of the region, considering the implementing of new industrial investments, opening of new research facilities, technology and know-how transfer, as well as connecting to world-leading research partners.

The geographical area of choice for TUCN partners is considered according to the partnership objectives: generally, prestigious universities, research entities and companies from EU member states are taken into account for all activities; in the case of companies, multinationals with the base in other parts of the world as well are strategically considered for cooperation; non-EU European states are also important partners for cooperation; the extension of cooperation in various aspects with partners in important Asian countries such as China, Japan, South Korea is strategically important; major partners in North America or Australia, as well as from South and Central America are of interest, but the geographic distance leading to excessive travel costs are a limiting factor. The language factor is also very important in choosing the area of TUCN partners. For staff and students involved in the German/French study paths, partnerships with entities in German/French-speaking countries are preferred.

The objectives for mobility activities are stated according to the position of staff / student – bachelor, master, PhD and to the type / duration of the mobility. For the staff, the objectives are, also, dependent on the position of the participating members: senior members of staff and personnel with managerial attributions are expected to develop tasks for opening of new research / joint teaching activities during short visits; younger members of staff are either implied in longer mobility dedicated to research or training, or in short visit programs for the development of curricula. The objectives for student mobility are designed according to the Bologna cycle: Bachelor degree students are mostly involved in semestrial study mobility or in placements in companies; Master degree are mostly expected to run research or work placement activities; PhD students are mostly expected to run research activities for their thesis. A new direction to be developed is the short mobility for non-degree awarding programs dedicated to students in the Lifelong Learning System.

The Technical University of Cluj-Napoca is involved in double/joint – diploma master degree programs and intends to extend this approach for several other programs. In TUCN there is, also, a long tradition of co-tutored PhD theses with members of foreign universities. In the near future, TUCN intends to develop teaching programs, mostly at the master level, awarding a joint degree.

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]

TUCN has a long experience in developing cooperation projects in teaching and learning, being an active partner within the LLP programme (mobility, vocational training, peer learning, intensive programs, adult learning, networks), and a respected member in various academic associations. The active participation to different cooperation projects under the new Programme is a strategic goal. Besides the cooperation with traditional partner European Universities or companies, TUCN aims to develop this kind of cooperation with non-EU countries, especially from the Danube area, Asia (mainly China and South Korea) and northern Africa. In doing this, TUCN will implement the model learnt from EU Programmes and will play an active role, making extensively use of its experience in quality based teaching/training (learning-centered philosophy, modular and credit-based curricula, line of studies taught in English, distance education, cooperative training, etc.). TUCN will be not only a source for students taught/trained abroad, but also an important education provider, aiming to teach/train an increasing number of people, jointly with the foreign partners.

Dealing with transversal approaches, TUCN will participate in: sharing the educational knowhow, dissemination/exploitation of results through multilateral projects, establishment of new thematic networks (leading to new joint/double degrees in Engineering), improving the ICT impact on learning/teaching. Jointly with partners from the Union of Universities in Cluj Napoca, we'll provide a wider offer of topics that can be studied by incoming students. Having strategic cooperation agreements with national/multinational companies (located in Cluj area), TUCN is able also to offer placement/training/research facilities. All these aspects are guaranteeing an enlarged base for cooperation within Programme's key actions and will positively influence the organisation and implementation of cooperation programs in teaching/training.

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]

For each of the 5 priorities of the 'Modernisation Agenda', the expected impact of our participation in the Programme is summarized as follows:

Considering the impact on increasing the number of higher education graduates:

Ensuring student mobility at other universities abroad is a „must“ for keeping the attractiveness of the study programmes, especially of those held in English, French or German. Surveys done among our students on their motivation in doing exchange study periods in other universities abroad have revealed that most of them are interested to interfere with other cultures, to exercise their foreign language skills, to feel other social environments, as well as to come in contact with other modes of teaching and with new teaching facilities. They are also interested in networking, experimenting new life experiences, self-sustainability, more independence, and deeper knowledge in some narrow topics. Therefore, Erasmus mobilities represent good incentives for students in having good study results, thus good premises for increasing the number of higher education graduates.

Impact on improving the quality and relevance of teaching and research training for students: Programme mobilities provide appropriate frameworks for students in carrying out high quality degree projects, usually involving common research tasks and a lot of team working. Moreover, additional courses are attended by our students and from their feedback our curriculum may be improved.

Impact on providing more opportunities for students to gain additional skills: Studying abroad provides our students the possibility to attend courses and run lab works and projects that some are not available in our university. Our students reported that study abroad is beneficial to enhance their skills, including the perspective of experiencing new ways of learning.

Impact on strengthening the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business: Effects of this kind are mostly visible with respect to the final degree projects run by our students abroad. Most of these projects have practical applicability. Also it is visible for our MSc, MEng and PhD students, which when returning home from mobilities, present more awareness on this issue.

In creating effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence: First of all, the Programme is offering instruments concerning the sharing of best practices between the participants' staff, in the field of university governance and in the implementation of the Bologna process. Programme's incoming mobilities have a positive impact on motivating our academic/administrative staff to innovate and adapt to their specific needs and expectations. The outgoing participants are selected by contest, thus it provides another source for bringing excellence. For faculties teaching in a foreign language, for Programme local contact persons or those providing higher quality in their international activities, incentives are

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