Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Universitat de València’s international (EU and non-EU) strategy

One of the main goals of the Universitat de València, already included in its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, is the internationalization. The participation of the whole university community is a key point to achieve this goal. The leading position of the Universitat in the international mobility arena facilitates the strengthening of the internationalization and modernisation of the institution. International rankings show this leadership by placing the Universitat in the second position when receiving Erasmus students and in the sixth one when sending Erasmus students.

Universitat de València has a wide experience in choosing partner universities to do international mobility. The well-shown experience in international mobility programmes, the satisfactory previous relations in joint research activities and the international ranking positions are the main criteria to choose partner universities. All these institutions are widely-spread around the world, but traditionally the Universitat de València has cooperated with two main geographical areas: Europe and Latin America. Both of them are considered strategic areas to achieve the internationalization objective. The knowledge and experience of the institution with the Erasmus programme, the future continuity in the Programme and the implementation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) consolidate the strategy with those countries of the Mediterranean area. Both, the historical links and the developing economies of Latin American countries constitute two reasons to promote the internationalization of the Universitat de València. Other geographical areas such as the United States, Russia or East Asian countries have also priority for the Universitat de València for different reasons: the well consolidated mobility experience for the former case and the fact of being rapidly developing countries with enormous potential concerning High Education, for the second. The Universitat also participates in domestic mobility schemes with other Spanish universities in order to promote the student mobility.

Another goal of the Universitat de València is the increasing number of students doing mobility with different profiles and study modes: full-time, part-time, local students, students coming from other countries, etc. To increase the Academic and administrative staff mobility is another goal to be achieved in a near future.

Students are the main actors for achieving the internationalization objective of the institution. The Universitat de València has an outstanding role in the international mobility programmes and it has consolidated the international mobility among the students in the last few years particularly in the bachelor level for study purposes. Once the objective of the international mobility has been achieved with the first cycle students, the second step is increasing the
number of mobilities among postgraduate students, particularly the mobility of the students doing one of the official masters – a hundred - offered by the institution at the moment.

The policy issue of increasing the international joint, double or multiple degrees has also priority in the modernization and internationalization strategy of the institution. In fact, the Universitat already has some joint and double degrees and masters with the strategic geographical areas. The previous experience on mobility with the international partner universities is a starting point to promote the new double degrees. This will increase the international profile of our institution.

The evolution of student mobility for internship purposes has been positively evaluated since it started in the 2009-10 academic year. The recognition and the accreditation of the training experience in the study curricula is a first step to increase this type of mobility.

Finally, academic and administrative staff mobility of the Universitat de València is necessary for the development of the other actions. That is why the institution promotes the participation of all this personnel in the mobility programmes.

The above mentioned goals will be developed through actions that will transform the Universitat into an open, modern and internationalized university.

The Universitat de València’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

The Universitat adopts a global perspective and plays an active role when organising and implementing international cooperation projects. Consequently, it has a pro-active strategy based on two main guidelines: excellence and innovation. That is, participation in these projects increases the capacity of the institution to excel across the board, enhances quality and develops new ways to deliver education.

As for the projects implemented under the Programme, the main objectives were fostering teaching activity and training abroad and improving future professional profiles of the students. The networking action implied, firstly, to support the development of international networks for promoting collaboration between staff and students of the University; secondly, to raise awareness for training, dissemination and teaching in the cooperation area.

The actions taken were, firstly, developing an information and awareness plan in order to promote the participation in the international projects; secondly, reinforcing the institutional administrative support to improve project management by introducing information technologies.
The results of this strategy are measured by the evolution in the number of applications submitted throughout the implementation of the Programme with the institution involved as coordinator or as partner. The success rate in the number of agreements and projects proposed and implemented is also an indicator that shows the progressive investment on international activities.

The participation in these projects has stimulated the development of innovation skills, has encouraged partnership and cooperation with business sector and has reduced the regulatory and administrative barriers to partnerships between institutions. As for governance and funding, it has encouraged a better identification of the real costs, has developed incentives to support a diversity of strategic choices and has facilitated access to alternative funding.

The expected impact of the participation in the Programme on the modernisation of the Universitat de València

The participation of the Universitat in the Programme, firstly, will consolidate the results achieved during the implementation of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-13). Secondly, it is expected that the Programme will lead to the process of transferring the successful results of policy issues and initiatives to appropriate decision-makers in regulated local and regional systems surrounding the Universitat system.

The policy objectives of the Universitat, enhanced by the participation in the Programme, will be measured by the following priorities:

1. The increase in the attainment levels of graduates and researchers of the Universitat by the recognition of skills and experience gained through all the activities developed under the Programme. Having the results accredited by the Universitat will provide both quality assurance for University standards and recognition of the achievements of the students. This accreditation is already made by unit ECTS credits within the European Qualification Framework and they are included in the Diploma Supplement.

2. The improvement of the quality and relevance of studies done at the University by strengthening the links with the labour market. This will be done by the encouragement in the use of skills, growth projections and graduate employment data in course design, delivery and evaluation, adapting quality assurance and funding mechanisms to rewards success in equipping students for the labour market. Here, the encouragement of greater variety of study modes (full-time, part-time, student with family responsibilities) and the exploit the potential of ICTs will introduce incentives to invest in continuous professional development.

3. The mobility and cross-border co-operation will strengthen excellence in the Universitat. Today learning mobility is systematically integrated into Universitat’s curricula and the
unnecessary barriers that prevent the vertical mobility between bachelor and master level will progressively be eliminated. The recognition of all the mobility activities will go beyond the ECTS credit system and Diploma Suplement and it will also be included in the Mobility Passport.

4. The triangle work linking higher education, research and business leading to excellence and regional development will improve the stimulation of innovative and creative skills, the strengthening of the knowledge-transfer infrastructure and the promotion of the partnership and cooperation with the business sector as a core activity.

5. It is also expected that the participation in the Programme will improve specific needs analysis and decision-making processes about targets and strategic policy. All this will also encourage a better identification of the real costs and a modernization of the human resource management.

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: Valencia   Name: Esteban Morcillo Sanchez   Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 06/05/2013

☐ 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