

D**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]

Slovak Medical University is a young institution with long history: We evolved from the Slovak Postgraduate Academy of Medicine to a State owned higher education institution providing post-secondary specialisation studies in medicine since 1952. The institute was formally transformed to a university in 2002 by the National Council Law Nr. 401/2002. Implementing the principles of the Bologna process by introducing three cycle system of higher education in accredited study programs along with corresponding degrees, ECTS and Diploma Supplement, organising lifelong education and training in medical and paramedical subjects according to rules stipulated by the European Council Sectorial Directives. We became the leading university providing lifelong learning in the health care sector. In 2003 we signed the Magna Charta Universitatum and the University became member of the European Association of Universities, the Union of European Medical Specialists and a number of international medical organisations. The University is seeking for international acknowledgement by applying for international evaluations. In 2005 the University was evaluated by an international evaluation team headed by Prof. Weisch (Scranton University, USA), and recently by the evaluation team of the European Association of Universities. After obtaining the EUC Code, we entered the ERASMUS academic exchange programme. Internationalisation became the major pillar of the development strategy. Traditional international cooperation in research and science (e.i. participation in the NIH international research grant projects, USA) has been extended to education and own strategic vision of internationalisation of education has been elaborated. English language has been introduced in study programs of general medicine and post-secondary professional education in specialised medicine and bi-lingual education is provided by domestic as well as foreign (guest-professors) teachers. In academic year 2006-2007 first students have been send to a semester study to partner universities abroad (Italy, Czech Republic) and first incoming foreign students have been accepted (Italy, Greece). The greatest priority is given to projects strengthening academic mobilities of students and teachers within the ERASMUS programme and to our participation in research projects of the 7th FP (health promotion, aging). Cooperation agreements have been signed with universities in Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Greece. A booklet printed in English is available providing foreign students of all pertinent information. The exchange activities within ERASMUS mobility program are accessible on web page and information posters of each faculty. Due to monothematic focus to medical and paramedical education we choose our partners from HEIs with the same field of interest. We try to develop cooperation throughout all participating countries. Our main partner is Czech Republic thank to close geographical, historical and cultural relationship between Slovakia and Czech republic. We are also interested in establishment of cooperation with partners from another geographical area like Austria and Germany because of relatively short distance between mentioned states and Slovakia. The target groups of our mobility are students in first, second and third cycles and academic staff. The most important objectives are ensuring that cooperation between partner HEIs leads to sustainable and balanced outcomes for all partners and participants, modernisation and internationalisation of Slovak Medical University as well as improvement of the quality of the education programmes provided by Slovak Medical University.

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]

Slovak Medical University has developed its own strategy to organize and implement international projects in research and training which has direct relation to projects implemented by the Programme. Especially good research of our university is helping in improving teaching and training of students as well as getting international grants and funding.

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 Slovak Medical University realizes that higher education is a powerful driver of economic growth and opens doors to better living standards and opportunities for people. We shall do our best to equip our young people with the skills they need to reach their potential in terms of development and employability. Participation in the Programme brings to Slovak Medical University modernisation and internationalisation of our institution. University's increasing number of international students at Medical Faculty and improving condition for their education and modernisation of infrastructure necessary for attaining better skills contributes to achieve our goals. Mobility of students, researchers and academic staff and cross-border cooperation will greatly help to improve quality and internationalisation of education and to achieve excellence and regional development. Mobility and cross-border cooperation will facilitate to broaden our skill in governance and can assist for the better funding of the university.

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