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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 University of Cadiz has undertaken in the last two years a global approach to internationalization envisioning the joint action and overlapping of Teaching, Research, Technology Transfer and Innovation areas, and the cooperation with companies. Key points to define such a strategy are the EU policies (Horizon 2020 program, the new E4A program), the Spanish and Andalusian Government policies (International Excellence Campuses strategy and RIS3, respectively) and the acknowledgement of its own unique characteristics (historical, geographical and scientific strengths). Internationalization is no longer an isolated milestone.

Searching for excellence is a priority. Europe, Latin America and Northern Africa have been traditional geographical areas for cooperation due to our geostrategic location and historical background. However, emerging economies has prompted our interest to other areas of the world. In the last years, Russian universities developed as important strategic partners and increased cooperation with them is now a reality. Establishing strategic partnerships with Asian and Northern American universities will be the next step.

The internationalization policy of our university is based on four main strategic lines:

- 1.- Building strategic partnerships with universities of similar size and common interests in order to establish joint research projects through: co-directed Bs.C. and Ms. thesis, double degrees especially at master level, co-tutelled Ph.D thesis and interuniversity master and Ph. D. programmes within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus projects.
- 2.- Cooperation with companies. This has been undertaken through the creation of a new unit: the General Direction of University and Companies (GDUC) where teaching and research is connected to company needs through traineeships and the services chart of the University (presenting the technology offer of the research groups). All of them are integrated in a web portal and an online application form. Students are encouraged to perform international traineeships and a great effort is made when looking for companies able to accept students.
- 3.- The development of networks on specific subjects to promote cooperation, application to international calls, students and staff mobility and joint research projects connected with Ph. D. and Ms. Thesis. The International Excellence Campuses (CEIs), as powerful aggregations of universities, is one tool promoted and financed by the Spanish Government which links higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.
- 4.- Quality assurance and audits.

1.- The general Erasmus strategy is to offer our student a broad number of places in many participating countries. In the last year, the university switched the goal from an increased number of mobility to a more diverse offer in the number of host countries. We wish to have at least one incoming student and/or one outgoing student with all participating countries. The objective is to fill in the university life with more intercultural diversity and international richness. This will allow our students to increase their professional, social and intercultural skills, creating relations that will result in networks of professionals in the future.

Partners of similar size and goals are our preferred special matches; we are working together for additional actions with preferred partners in Italy, Poland, France and Germany. Our aim is to increase the number of our special partner countries. Closed cooperation is achieved with exchange in all possible areas, developing of double degrees and Erasmus Mundus Master and Ph. D. programs. Staff and Teacher Mobility in both directions are encouraged yearly with the objective of a better knowledge and improved cooperation. The long term goal is to develop more projects together with these special partners.

2.- To date, there are more Erasmus exchange students in the Bachelor or First Cycle Level. The goal fro the next years is to exchange more Master and Ph. D. students offering additional mobility possibilities. We would like to extend their international experience through Traineeship and/or project working.

3.- Specific administrative units (named "Aulas") working as Foundations have been developed to promote agreements, joint projects and ventures, mobility, exchange, research and innovation, and cooperation with companies and enterprises with key geostrategic areas. Three Aulas (named Latin American, Spanish-Russian and Gibraltar Strait) are now created for the three key geostrategic areas. A new Spanish-North America Aula will be created during this year. These units are responsible for contacting possible new partners and extending our cooperation agreements.

4.- Recently the university board decided to go for ECTS Label and to increase quality assurance through the University Language Policy.

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]

Strategy towards internationalization goes pivotal through the four axes previously mentioned.

Double degree agreements both with EU and non-EU countries. Besides EU agreements next step will be to develop double degree proposals with some strategic Russian and South America (mostly Mexican and Brazilian) university partners internationally high ranked. The Aulas will play an important role in identifying potential partners and establishing the agreements. UCA has a strong commitment with the EEES, the Latin America and Post-Soviet Areas. Student exchanges to EU, Latin America and post-soviet countries are already working and will be intensified.

Companies and networking: the University of Cadiz leads the CEI devoted to Marine Sciences (Ceimar) and participates on the Agrifood (Ceia3) CEIs. Ceimar integrates within its structure the most important Spanish companies and research institutes related to marine sciences. Main objective is to establish networks where cooperation projects (e.g., Erasmus Mundus, and the calls integrated in the new E4A program, or other international calls) where Universities, research institutes and companies can apply together. The development of synergies and joint ventures among them is a key point. The GDUC, together with the boards of the CEIs, the International Office and the Aulas are actors playing a key role in this endeavour. Applications to EU calls for research, teaching and cooperation projects will be encouraged through the International Projects Office (new unit to be created) and the "Aulas" (vide ut supra).

Quality assurance has pointed to increase the academic offer in English and the number of their members speaking foreign languages by supporting actions such as: broadening the offer (type and number) of Language Courses; achieving official European Language Recognition; the implementation of promotion campaigns ("B1, So do I"); official exams and courses costs are partially or totally financed by 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]

According to the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda, the expected outcomes and improvements envisioned are the following:

- 1.- There is no doubt that the strategy of at least one partner/one incoming/one outgoing student per Erasmus program countries will allow increasing not only the mobility numbers by expanding mobility to underrepresented countries, but also cultural diversity and professors and staff exchange.
- 2.- The strategy of establishing VIP partners per country connected with the development of double master's programmes and titles will: a) encourage our students to increase the quality of their CVs through internationalisation, the connection with companies in EU through traineeships, the acquisition of language skills; b) increase the academic quality of our degrees if partnerships are to be developed; c) prompt our teachers and researchers to pursue the excellence in order to facilitate such partnerships; d) encourage our researchers to find areas of common interests with our VIP partners to achieve joint master thesis that might end up connecting with joint Ph. D. thesis; e) point d) will also facilitate the creation of themed-research networks easing the application to local, national and EU funding calls.
- 3.- The Services Chart provided by UCA through the DGUE will: a) allow a higher connection with the companies by providing traineeships and research and cooperation projects matching the companies needs according to the H2020 and RIS3 guidelines for Andalusia; b) allow opportunities for international traineeships to arise both for incoming and outgoing students that will connect their formation with the needs of the labour market through the cooperation links with partners in other countries.
- 4.- The International Excellence Campuses (CEIs) Strategy will: a) allow the linking of higher education, research and business connected with the regional landmarks and needs defined by the RIS3 objectives and the business fabric-locally and regionally; b) pursue the excellence in all branches of knowledge (social, humanities, liberal arts, scientific) related to marine sciences and agrifood, providing opportunities for networking in research, teaching, innovation, technology transfer and development; c) create new opportunities for funding search through networking in local, national and international calls, allowing cross-border cooperation, not only in the EU, but outside; d) in a joint action together with the "Aulas", increase South-South cooperation through research, teaching and innovation projects and stepping forward to new models of governance; e) increase mobility within and outside the EU with CEIs partners.
- 5.- The ECTS label will ensure a higher quality and international exposure of the academic offer. Also, the process and changes needed to apply for it will prompt the increase of the academic offer in a second language (English) and the use of a second language the whole university community.

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