



**ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT of the
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'INSUBRIA
IVARESE02**

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

Since its foundation in 1998, the Università degli Studi dell'Insubria has always been a Higher Education Institution strongly linked with the territory and the local stakeholders. Nevertheless, the constant effort to improve the quality of research and teaching as well as the growing demand for internationalization by students and staff, naturally imply the adoption of policies and strategies focused on widening the boundaries of higher education. Concerning that, a special Committee for Internationalization, composed of teaching, research and administrative staff as well as by students' representatives, constantly deals with actions designed for the enhancement of the International dimension of the academic activities. With the new governance of the University, in office from late 2018, a strategic plan has been adopted where internationalization plays a fundamental role. Furthermore, according to the University regulations, a three-year strategy plan for international activities has been drawn by the Vice Rector for Internationalization and it has been approved by the academic authorities. This plan, that is focused on the enhancement of the international attractiveness of our Institution, considers the Erasmus activities as a fundamental asset to reach directly and indirectly such goal, especially by developing new actions, e.g. an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree and Capacity Building Projects. In particular, a major priority of this institution will be a more targeted selection of partner institutions based on the following criteria: The consolidation of already existing agreements that have been proven successful in the context of students and staff mobility and in the field of scientific cooperation; The set-up of new agreements with institutions in developing countries, with the aim to approach new Erasmus actions within the KA2 such as the Capacity Building and extend the cooperation network under the Key Action 107, International Credit Mobility; The search of new partners with a special focus on meeting the educational, training and scientific needs of students and staff. Regarding this last criterion, our Committee is open to a wide participation of the different academic actors accepting and assessing suggestions and proposals as to new cooperation agreements. Each agreement will be renewed or newly undersigned taking into account general and specific goals: On one hand a general objective is to increase the mobility numbers in relation to both outgoing and incoming students and outgoing and incoming teachers; On the other hand a specific goal is to improve the quality of the mobility in order to let its outcomes become an asset for the enrichment of the personal experience of students and teachers as well as for the growth of the whole academic community. Such quality improvement will be pursued by the Committee for Internationalization with a careful individuation of target groups and the assessment of their needs, in order to let them match with the mobility opportunities. Concerning that, the main goals are: Promoting the mobility of researchers, in full compliance with one of the most important principles of the HRS4R (Human Resource Strategy for Researchers) label the University of Insubria has been awarded with in 2019; Extend existing agreements and undersign new ones in order to meet the growing mobility demand of first and second cycle students within the field of interlinguistic and intercultural mediation and, in general, find new destinations offering programs in English to allow our students improving its knowledge; Undersign new agreements within the field of Medicine and Surgery to face the current mismatch between mobility opportunities and the medical students demand; Promote traineeship opportunities and develop new double degree programs for second cycle students; Design new curricula, especially within the second cycle studies, to be offered in

English in order to increase the interest of international students either on mobility or degree seekers; Select new EU and non-EU institutions distinguishing themselves with excellence in the research field to set up with exchange agreements for third cycle students, especially within the fields of sciences and technologies; Allocate funds in order to offer an adequate financial support to students and staff involved in mobility programs; Improve services for incoming students and promote the students residences and the “diffused Campus” project that will facilitate the participation of students in the everyday life of the towns where the University of Insubria has its seats.

IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

Beside the increase of the mobile students and the improvement of the mobility quality a major task of our Committee for Internationalization is to promote the mobility of academic staff and especially researchers, either for teaching or training purposes and, concerning that, the Erasmus action has always been considered by this Committee as one of the best tools to pursue such aim. The particular attention on the researchers mobility arises from the institutional strategic plan that includes the fulfilment of the HRS4R path (Human Resources Strategy for Researchers), already started in 2018 and confirmed with the award of the HRS4R label in February 2019. A promotional campaign to boost the awareness of all categories of researchers, from PhD students up to full Professors, will start in autumn 2020 with the aim to increase their interest in international mobility thus providing them with proper information about the staff mobility opportunities in the frame of the Erasmus programme. Concerning the improvement of the international attractiveness of our Institution, the design of an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree is considered by our Committee for internationalization as one of the best opportunities to reach such goal. Among our Master courses already having Double Degree partners, the MA in Global Entrepreneurship Economics and Management could be the ideal candidate for the development of an EMJMD. With three already working Double Degree agreements within two different participant countries, four Erasmus Inter Institutional Agreements with partner countries (KA107) and one exchange agreement with a prestigious Indian Institution, the above-mentioned master program satisfies the basic requirements to design an EMJMD project; a dialogue with partners about such opportunity has already started and we plan to concretize Memoranda of Understanding by the end of 2020 to formalize the commitment of all potential participants in the common design of the project. Finally, during the last three years, our Institution undersigned cooperation agreements with three Universities from central Asia (two in Kazakhstan and one in Uzbekistan). Such agreements have been promoted thanks to personal contacts of teachers and were initially focused on research activities, but soon they have been additionally exploited to include students and staff exchange programs, revealing a great interest of the partner institutions on didactical aspects and especially on curricula development. The idea to cooperate with faraway countries on this aspect fully complies with the goal of building a European Education Area as a global model to be exported, facilitating the diffusion of its principles and systems for an easy recognition of qualifications worldwide.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The University of Insubria is willing to reach high levels of quality in accordance to the key issues of the Modernisation Agenda. The participation in the Erasmus+ during the period 2014-20 has already proven as a fundamental tool to reach internationalization related objectives at the institutional, national and European levels. In particular the expected outcomes of our participation in the ECHE can be synthesized as follows: the increase of students in mobility programs could imply a relevant growth of the qualification attainment level in fact when it comes to the Insubria’s students, it is undeniable that the ones having experienced international mobility get better results and are more oriented to continue their academic career within second and especially third cycle studies thence approaching them to the research field; the design of new educational and training programs, according to the global society and economy needs, naturally implies that the international mobility of students and teaching staff becomes a fundamental step within the personal growth of the involved actors as well as a growth opportunity for the entire academic community; widening the international dimension of the Higher Education,

within and beyond the EU, by supporting the outgoing mobility and by attracting selected international students as well as researchers and teaching staff will be an asset for the academic community and for the social and economic environment where the Institution has its seats; a link between the local and the global economic environment could be built by different actors but our institution has a relevant responsibility in such context, thanks to its strong connection to the territory and its ambitions towards the global dimension of higher education and research; the commitment to act according to precise internationalization policies, the recruitment of additional specialized personnel, the allocation of a larger amount of internal funds and the raising of external ones will be the fundamental resources to achieve all the above mentioned goals. During the next Erasmus+ round, the main targets of our institution will be: The automatic full recognition of satisfactorily completed activities in terms of credits; An increase in the outgoing mobility of students, including 3rd cycle ones, of 5% per year; An increase in the outgoing mobility of researchers for teaching and/or training activities of 3% per year; An increase in the incoming mobility of students and staff of 2% per year; the successful application, every year, for Key Action 107 projects with the aim to widen the global cooperation network in student and staff mobility; the successful application for at least one Capacity Building Project; the successful application for at least one Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Project. Mobility actions will have a yearly monitoring through the intermediate and final reports to be submitted to the National Agency; the preparation of the EMJMD project will start as soon as the ECHE is awarded so to apply already in 2022 and, in case of failure, have enough time to adjust the project according to the assessors suggestions and apply again the following year; the preparation of the KA2 Capacity Building project will start in 2022 even If an informal dialogue on such opportunity with central Asia partners already started in late 2019.

THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'INSUBRIA

(Prof. Angelo Tagliabue)

The paper document bearing the original signature of the Rector is filed at the International Relations Office of the Università degli Studi dell'Insubria