

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Spiru Haret University has been awarded with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2014-2021.

The Erasmus Policy Statement (below) sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.

Spiru Haret University (USH) is a private university, a signatory of the Bologna Agreement, providing for a varied educational offer for Cycle I and Cycle II programs. The student-centred teaching/learning process is prevailing, while firmly focusing lately on extending research. USH partners are chosen according to the university objectives, ideals and to the students' needs. USH is constantly engaged in having a competitive management of quality, in line with the European standards, therefore our educational offer and curricula are constantly updated, readjusted and monitored and this is an aspect we are looking for in our partner institutions. A particular attention is paid now on preparing courses taught in foreign languages, for a better attractiveness and visibility worldwide. Partnerships are cherished by our academia and they are based on reciprocity, mobility and cooperation both in the area of teaching/learning and of research.

The Spiru Haret University supports the EU Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda for Higher Education, and the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is integral to the realisation of our institutional plans, strategies and aspirations.

We are committed to a vision that promotes excellence in both academic and scientific research field supported by a wide network of institutional international partnerships.

Our international partnerships in both participating and non-participating countries is destined to facilitate and support staff and student mobility, student recruitment, developments in teaching and learning, collaborative research and institutional capacity-building.

USH is willing to set a tradition of long-term partnerships and constantly expand its relations worldwide in line with its current internationalization strategy. There is a current concern and steps have been made in attracting non-EU international students for our undergraduate and master programs (Cycle I and Cycle II), from the Asian area in particular, which outnumbers any other area in student population, while maintaining a traditional close collaboration with the European countries in developing educational programs and in research, on the one hand, and European student and teacher mobility, on the other hand.

USH is prioritizing the objective of enhancing inter-institutional (EU and non-EU) partnerships, with a special focus on the quality of mobility and accessibility of mobility for all students and teachers. The new direction assumed by USH to promote internationalization is supported both by international openness to networking for teaching and learning and by the enhancement of international research

projects. USH has a Central Research Institute monitoring all the research activities and connecting the research outcomes with the stakeholders. USH is the initiator of the FuturICT programme and assists the research activity promoted by the EU Strategy for the Danube region, 'EU Strategy for the Danube Region', where the University representative chairs the Entrepreneurial Education Commission of the Danube Region within the SUERD Consultative Council of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

USH is concerned with training and promoting a teaching body in full swing, strongly motivated in reaching excellence standards and providing a positive example for the students. As far as international relations are concerned, USH considers the implementation of a system of specific indicators, compatible with the European criteria. Moreover, the University aims to implement the matrix of visibility and international recognition, based on a better reputation for research, quality in teaching and learning.

In this regard the mobility of academic and administrative staff is a priority in order to ensure the internationalization process of the University, the continuous process of self-development and improvement of the human resources.

We will provide an active promotional activity for all the mobility types, trying to extend the range and nature of the opportunities we can offer to our students, as integral or optional credit mobility components of an ever-increasing range of degree programmes.

We have annually a dissemination program regarding new opportunities in the range of Erasmus + programs, together with the National Agency, in order to ensure a proper level of knowledge within our academic community and local community regarding Erasmus + opportunities, evolutions and new aspects.

We are promoting the equality of opportunity, offering additional financial assistance to those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Access to mobility represents a major opportunity for self-development of disadvantaged students and we believe that a healthy academic community has a proper framework for sustaining the activity of the ones with special needs.

A yearly revision of the curricula, career counselling, teacher training courses for competence improvement and motivation, adopting best practices by benchmarking are steps taken to create a sustainable and attractive environment both for the students and for the teaching staff. The Strategic Plan of institutional development sets forth USH commitment to promoting an education act of a strong social nature and its intention to turn into a hub around which a more intense and valuable scientific activity should be carried out. A special attention is paid to joint programs and projects for a successful internal and international employability of its graduates.

We strive that the impact of the European Union's Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda in Higher Education will be seen at Spiru Haret University in each of the five priority areas:

1. Increasing attainment levels to graduates - future specialists in the field

The University is committed to enlarge the students' participation and inclusivity, having flexible admissions policies and practice and a continuous effort to minimise barriers to entry, progression and mobility.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

USH is the biggest private university, providing teaching and training in socio-humanities and sciences fields. It is permanently concerned with training its students for a better employability rate, hence the annual revision and updating of its curricula, in line with the Bologna process and its own vision: promotion and implementation of quality at all levels and structures of the institution; development, dissemination and better capitalization of the innovative knowledge, relying on research; student-centred learning; a proactive involvement of the academia, students and the entire university community to support the University initiatives; building an extended network of partnerships with local and foreign academic and research institutions; engaging the students in activities of leadership, education and research to improve their career opportunities. Faithful to its mission of generating and disseminating knowledge via research, development, innovation and technological transfer, by individual and collective creation, committed to meet societal needs and modern job market requirements, embraces new activities such as: developing new opportunities to internationalize the students and teaching staff, extending relations with non-EU countries with new possibilities of mobility.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border collaboration

It is essential to improve the capacity of developing cross-border type collaboration. Mobility and strategic partnerships represents a vector for gaining experience from other education systems. In the same we can offer to our students and graduates the possibility to enhance their competencies and to be better adapted to the modern requirements from the labour market.

We will seek to offer more diverse mobility opportunities to our staff and students, and to include mobility as an integral or optional element of an increasing number of study programmes.

4. Having a full collaboration with partners from the business and industry environment

Developing partnerships with the business environment at the level of academic curricula projections and scientific research provides us with the opportunity to better adapt to the labour market tendencies and to the rise the number of graduates that are fully integrated into the society.

Mobility has an important role in this process, encouraging traineeships across Europe being one of our priorities in order to give the chance to our students to adapt at a proper level to the different type of requirements, specific for different labour markets.

5. Improving governance and funding

Spiru Haret University is a private university that is striving to diversify its own funding sources, and has a continuous process of re-investing resources in the academic process in order to ensure the attainment of objectives and the mission on the long run.

Developing partnerships under the Erasmus+ framework represents an important source for attracting strategic resources in order to strengthen the mutual advantageous collaboration and the transfer of values.