

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

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(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

Universitatea de Vest „Vasile Goldis” din Arad, si implicit Departamentul de Relatii Internationale incurajeaza promovarea valorilor culturale, de limba si identitate a fiecarui popor. Universitatea, prin strategia sa, cauta sa-si imbogateasca experienta si competentele in domeniul relatiilor internationale si prin aceasta sa sporeasca calitatea actului educational si de cercetare. Universitatea tinde catre o dimensiune internationala a excelentei, care sa se incadreze in misiunea generala a universitatii, in special in educatie si cercetare. Rolul activitatilor internationale este acela de a spori dimensiunea si calitatea educatiei, cercetarii si a serviciilor, in scopul cresterii prestigiului universitatii.

O mai buna vizibilitate pe plan national si international ne va asigura un numar mai mare de candidati la programele de studii in limba romana si in limbi de circulatie internationala (engleza si franceza), la programele postuniversitare, o mai buna vizibilitate pe piata muncii si un numar mai mare de proiecte de colaborare academica si de cercetare cu universitati si institutii din tara si din strainatate.

Procesul de internationalizare a Universitatii noastre este unul continuu, care se realizeaza pe mai multe directii, una dintre cele mai importante fiind prin programul Erasmus+. UVVG Arad a folosit fiecare oportunitate, initiind un numar mare de parteneriate care au avut drept efect crearea unei retele internationale prin dezvoltarea unor proiecte in domeniul academic si stiintific. Pana in prezent, focusul a fost indreptat indeosebi spre mobilitati, dar incepand cu noua perioada de finantare ne dorim extinderea si spre alte Chei de Actiune, cum ar fi Knowledge Alliances, European Universities, Jean Monet etc. Proiectul Erasmus+, dezvoltarea in continuare a programelor in limbi straine si internationalizarea acasa sunt principalele obiective ale strategiei de internationalizare si modernizare a universitatii noastre. Construirea unor parteneriate noi si consolidarea celor existente vor fi elementele cheie in obtinerea de rezultate deosebite la nivel academic si stiintific. Dorim sa folosim acest instrument in scopul dezvoltării relatiilor internationale de valoare, care sa ofere posibilitati si platforme de colaborare reale.

"Vasile Goldis" Western University of Arad, and implicitly the Department of International Relations, encourages the promotion of the cultural, language and identity values of each people. The university, through its strategy, seeks to enrich its experience and skills in the field of international relations and thereby increase the quality of the educational and research act. The university aims at an international dimension of excellence, which is part of the general mission of the university, especially in education and research. The role of international activities is to increase the size and quality of education, research and services, in order to increase the prestige of the university.

Better visibility at national and international level will ensure a greater number of candidates for study programs in Romanian and in international languages (English and French), postgraduate programs, better visibility on the labor market and a greater number of academic and research collaboration projects with universities and institutions in the country and abroad.

The internationalization process of our University is a continuous one, which is carried out in several directions, one of the most important being through the Erasmus + program. UVVG Arad used every opportunity, initiating a large number of partnerships that had the effect of creating an international network by developing projects in the academic and scientific field. So far, the focus has been mainly on mobility, but starting with the new funding period we want to expand to other Keys to Action, such as Knowledge Alliances, European Universities, Jean Monet, etc. The Erasmus + project, the further development of foreign language programs and internationalization at home are the main objectives of the internationalization and modernization strategy of our university. Building new partnerships and consolidating existing ones will be the key elements in achieving outstanding results at the academic and scientific level. We want to use this tool in order to develop valuable international relations, which offer real possibilities and collaboration platforms.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

these languages)

Prin crearea de noi parteneriate si consolidarea celor existente dorim sa continuam actiunile legate de mobilitatea studentilor, cadrelor didactice si a staff-ului; dezvoltarea calitatii actului didactic prin implicarea in proiecte de tipul KA2, dezvoltarea unor posibile programe de masterat de tipul double-degree, recunoasterea automata a mobilitatilor etc. Totodata, universitatea noastra a luat primele masuri in digitalizarea programului Erasmus, folosind platform OLA si Dashboard. In viitor, ne vom indrepta atentia mai mult si spre aspectul digitalizarii si simplificarii procesului birocratic, acesta fiind un deziderat al universitatii noastre, dar si o directiva de la nivel European.

Managementul proiectului este asigurat de Biroul de Proiecte Comunitare, in colaborare cu celelalte structuri de sprijin de la nivel institutional: Departamentul de Relatii Internationale, Serviciul Economic si de la nivelul facultatilor de catre coordonatori academici, decani, secretariatele facultatilor, sefi de departamente, cadre didactice si supervizati de conducerea universitatii. Periodic sunt organizate intalniri cu coordonatorii departamentali Erasmus de la nivelul facultatilor. De asemenea, cel putin o data pe an are loc o sedinta la care participa Prorectorul responsabil cu programele de studiu, directorul Departamentului de Relatii Internationale, coordonatorul institutional Erasmus si responsabilii Erasmus pe facultati, in care este analizat modul de desfasurare a mobilitatilor. Aceste intalniri sunt organizate cu scopul de a reduce dificultatile intampinate pe parcursul implementarii proiectului. Misiunea de promovare si informare privind Programul de mobilitati Erasmus revine in principal Biroului de Proiecte Comunitare, fiind realizat zilnic, prin discutii, mentorat si consiliere personala oferita tuturor celor interesati, prin intermediul web site-ului, a brosurii si pliantelor Erasmus si periodic, prin organizarea de prezentari si sesiuni de informare derulate in cadrul Facultatilor (Ziua Metodica, intalniri cu studentii fiecarei facultati etc.).

Un sprijin real in activitatea de informare, promovare si diseminare a venit din partea coordonatorilor academici, a studentilor care au fost beneficiari ai Erasmus, precum si a altor structuri de la nivel institutional, Centrul de Consiliere si Orientare in Cariera sau Centrul de Antreprenariat. Distribuirea locurilor disponibile la nivel de facultati a revenit Biroului Erasmus si s-a facut in functie de numarul de studenti si gradul de participare la program in anii anteriori. De asemenea, gestionarea bugetului, raportarea catre ANPCDFP, realizarea Contractelor Finaciare cu participantii si viramentul burselor s-a aflat in responsabilitatea Biroului de Proiecte Comunitare si Serviciului Economic. Selectia candidatilor, pregatirea contractelor de studiu/ plasament, recunoasterea activitatilor finalizate satisfactor ale perioadei de mobilitate a intrat in responsabilitatea coordonatorilor academici si comisiilor de specialitate de la nivelul facultatilor (comisiile de selectie, respectiv comisiile de echivalare), realizandu-se in conformitate cu Regulamentul Erasmus. Selectia candidatilor pentru mobilitati Erasmus se realizeaza prin concurs pe baza rezultatelor academice cumulate si a interviului de selectie. Rezultatele academice fiind colectate centralizat de catre Biroul de Programe Comunitare de la secretariatele facultatilor, dupa incheierea procesului de inscrieri. Interviu de selectie se realizeaza la nivelul fiecarei facultati, comisia de selectie fiind formata din 5 membri: prorector, decanul facultatii, coordonatorul academic Erasmus al facultatii, un cadru didactic de limbi straine si un reprezentant al studentilor. Interviu urmareste evaluarea capacitatii de exprimare orala intr-o limba straina de circulatie internationala, motivarea, interesul profesional, dar si cunostinte elementare necesare unei bune desfasurari a mobilitatii. Media generala de concurs se determina prin ponderarea celor doua criterii de selectie (rezultatele academice 40%; nota interviu 60%).

Rezultatele selectiei au fost comunicate in termen de 72 de ore de la incheierea probei, prin afisare la Biroul de Programe Comunitare si avizare a listei candidatilor admisi, respinsi, respectiv a listelor de asteptare/ rezerve (daca a fost cazul). Studentii au avut posibilitatea sa depuna contestatii cu privire la procesul de selectie in termen de 24 de ore de la afisarea listelor cu rezultate. Asigurarea corectitudinii selectiei, a transparentei si a sanselor egale, asumata prin semnarea ECHE, s-a realizat prin procese verbale de analiza si constatare.

Comunitatea studenteasca a universitatii fiind una multi-etnica, nu au existat cazuri de discriminare a niciunui student sau personal didactic/administrativ referitor la egalitatea sexelor, religie, rasa sau nationalitate.

Dupa incheierea etapei de confirmare si afisarea listelor finale, studentii admisi au fost asistati de catre responsabilul Erasmus al facultatii si/ sau Coordonatorul Institutional la completarea contractelor de studii.

Disciplinele aprobate in contractul de studii de catre Coordonatorul Departamental Erasmus au respectat urmatoarele criterii: fac parte din aria curriculara a programului de studiu pe care il urmeaza studentul, fara sa fie in mod obligatoriu identice cu cele din planul de invatamant al studentului (s-a judecat in termeni de competenta, obiective, nu de continuturi); nu au fost studiate in prealabil de catre student. Finalizarea cu succes a perioadei de studiu si respectarea obligatiilor asumate prin contractul de studiu, conduce la recunoasterea automata si in integru a rezultatelor postmobilitate.

In urma realizarii acestor mobilitati, vom incerca sa dezvoltam si celelalte actiuni, cum ar fi proiecte de tipul KA2, in special cu partenerii cu care avem o colaborare mai veche si mai ampla, astfel incat contributia programului Erasmus sa fie una semnificativa in ceea ce priveste internationalizarea universitatii. Diversele actiuni ale programului Erasmus + pot contribui, printre altele la: dezvoltarea unor noi parteneriate internationale in domeniul educatiei si cercetarii, dezvoltarea de proiecte de cercetare internationale, recrutarea de studenti straini, colaborarea in editarea in comun a unor publicatii sau a organizarii unor evenimente stiintifice si culturale internationale si evident, in cresterea vizibilitatii internationale a UVVG.

By creating new partnerships and strengthening existing ones we want to continue the actions related to the mobility of students, teachers and staff; development of the quality of the teaching act by involving in KA2 type projects, development of possible double-degree master's programs, automatic recognition of mobilities, etc. At the same time, our university took the first steps in digitizing the Erasmus program, using the OLA platform and the Dashboard. In the future, we will focus more and paying more attention on the issue of digitization and simplification of the bureaucratic process, this being a wish of our university, but also a directive at European level.

The project management is provided by the Community Projects Office, in collaboration with the other support structures at the institutional level: the Department of International Relations, the Economic Service and at the faculty level by academic coordinators, deans, faculty secretariats, department heads, teachers and supervised by the

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university management. Meetings are regularly organized with Erasmus departmental coordinators at the faculty level. Also, at least once a year there is a meeting attended by the Vice-Rector responsible for study programs, the director of the Department of International Relations, the Erasmus institutional coordinator and Erasmus officials by faculty, in which the mobility is analyzed. These meetings are organized in order to reduce the difficulties encountered during the implementation of the project. The promotion and information mission regarding the Erasmus Mobility Program belongs mainly to the Community Projects Bureau, being carried out daily, through discussions, mentoring and personal advice offered to all those interested, through the web site, the Erasmus brochure and leaflets and periodically, through organizing presentations and information sessions held within the Faculties (Methodical Day, meetings with students of each faculty, etc.).

Real support in the information, promotion and dissemination activity came from the academic coordinators, from the students who were beneficiaries of Erasmus, as well as from other structures at institutional level, the Career Counseling and Guidance Center or the Entrepreneurship Center. The distribution of available places at the faculty level went to the Erasmus Office and was done according to the number of students and the degree of participation in the program in previous years. Also, the budget management, the reporting to ANPCDEF, the realization of the Financial Contracts with the participants and the transfer of the scholarships were the responsibility of the Community Projects Bureau and the Economic Service. The selection of candidates, the preparation of study / placement contracts, the recognition of the satisfactorily completed activities of the mobility period came under the responsibility of the academic coordinators and the specialized commissions at the faculty level (selection commissions, respectively equivalence commissions), being carried out in accordance with the Regulation. Erasmus. The selection of Erasmus mobility candidates is made through a competition based on the cumulative academic results and the selection interview. The academic results being collected centrally by the Office of Community Programs from the secretariats of the faculties, after the end of the registration process. The selection interview is conducted at the level of each faculty, the selection committee being composed of 5 members: vice-rector, dean of the faculty, Erasmus academic coordinator of the faculty, a foreign language teacher and a student representative. The interview aims at evaluating the capacity of oral expression in a foreign language of international circulation, motivation, professional interest, but also elementary knowledge necessary for a good development of mobility. The general average of the competition is determined by the weighting of the two selection criteria (academic results 40%; interview mark 60%).

The results of the selection were communicated within 72 hours, by displaying them at the Community Programs Office and notifying the list of admitted, rejected candidates, respectively the waiting / reserve lists (if applicable). Students had the opportunity to file appeals regarding the selection process within 24 hours of displaying the lists of results. Ensuring the correctness of the selection, transparency and equal chances, assumed by signing the ECHE, was done through minutes of analysis and finding.

As the university's student community is multi-ethnic, there have been no cases of discrimination against any student or teaching / administrative staff regarding gender equality, religion, race or nationality.

After completing the confirmation stage and displaying the final lists, the admitted students were assisted by the person in charge. Erasmus of the faculty and / or the Institutional Coordinator when completing the study contracts.

The disciplines approved in the study contract by the Erasmus Departmental Coordinator complied with the following criteria: they are part of the curricular area of the study program that the student follows, without being necessarily identical to those in the student's curriculum (it was judged in terms of competence, objectives, not contents); have not been previously studied by the student. The successful completion of the study period and the observance of the obligations assumed by the study contract, leads to the automatic and integral recognition of the postmobility results.

Following these mobilities, we will try to develop other actions, such as KA2 projects, especially with partners with whom we have an older and broader collaboration, so that the contribution of the Erasmus program is significant in terms of internationalization of the university. The various actions of the Erasmus + program can contribute, among others: to the development of new international partnerships in the field of education and research, the development of international research projects, the recruitment of foreign students, collaboration in joint editing of publications or organization of scientific events. and international cultural and obviously, in increasing the international visibility of UVVG.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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Sustinerea politicii de internationalizare a universitatii si promovarea imaginii acesteia, ca institutie de educatie, stiinta si cultura, atat in spatiul european, cat si la nivel global, reprezinta unul din obiectivele cheie ale dezvoltarii universitatii. Internationalizarea este si un factor important in evaluarea si pozitionarea universitatii in rankinguri, dar in acelasi timp ofera si membrilor comunitatii academice oportunitati de dezvoltare profesionala. Pentru ca o

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universitate sa fie competitiva pe plan local si national, ea trebuie sa fie competitiva si pe plan international. In perioada 2020-2027, ne propunem urmatoarele: cresterea numarului de mobilitati Erasmus outgoing si incoming pentru toate categoriile de beneficiari (studenti, profesori, staff); acreditarea unor programe de studii in limbi de circulatie international (de exemplu: Medicina dentara in limba engleza si Farmacie in limba franceza) – sporind astfel numarul studentilor incoming in viitorii ani; extinderea si crearea de noi parteneriate atat in spatiul European cat si in afara acestuia; implicarea ca si parteneri sau coordonatori in proiecte de tipul Joint Masters Degree, European Universities, Jean Monet etc. In ceea ce priveste obiectivele privind internationalizarea, cuprinse in strategie, o mare parte dintre acestea reprezinta o continuare a celor definite anterior, cu modificarile aferente. Astfel, putem mentiona:

- atragerea de studenti straini prin programele de studii in limbi de circulatie internationala, de tip licenta, masterat, doctorat si cursuri de tip internship si servicii de invatare;

- marirea numarului de studenti care sa studieze sau sa faca practica in strainatate prin burse Erasmus sau alte tipuri de burse si extinderea spre spatiul non EU;

- abordare strategica a afilierilor internationale si a parteneriatelor cu institutii din strainatate;

- cresterea numarului de granturi si proiecte internationale.

Avand in vedere ca internationalizarea este un proces dinamic, in continua schimbare si adaptare, planul strategic are rolul de a trasa principalele directii in acest domeniu, unele dintre ele putand fi aplicate intr-un termen scurt, altele necesitand un termen mai indelungat si chiar unele adaptari pe parcursul urmatoilor ani. Astfel, in scopul imbunatatirii calitative a procesului de internationalizare, in general, si a implemetarii programului Erasmus +, in special, trebuie sa tinem seama de provocarile care stau la baza planului strategic, printre care putem mentiona:

- identificarea obstacolelor care impiedica participarea cadrelor didactice in procesul de internationalizare a procesului de educatie, cercetare, obtinere de proiecte si depasirea acestor obstacole;

- crearea unui grup de cadre didactice care sa poata sa predea in strainatate si sa reprezinte cu succes universitatea;

- cooperarea la nivel de programe de studiu cu alte universitati din strainatate, atat in domeniul educatiei si cercetarii, cat si pe plan cultural;

- formarea unor echipe la nivelul facultatilor, coordonate de responsabililor cu relatii internationale, care sa sprijine activitatile internationale ale departamentelor.

Studentii incoming reprezinta un instrument foarte important de asigurare a vizibilitatii si recunoasterii pe plan extern. Obiectivul nostru este acela de a oferi studentilor incoming o experienta academica si sociala de calitate, placuta, pentru asigurarea unei bune cooperari cu institutia de provenienta si cresterea pe viitor a numarului de student Erasmus care opteaza pentru universitatea noastra. Participantii la mobilitate au beneficiat de consiliere academica - intalniri cu coordonatorul academic pentru discutarea eventualelor modificari survenite in acordul de studiu, discutii privind sistemul de notare, sistemul de predare la universitatea gazda. De asemenea acestia au beneficiat de sprijin in probleme administrative: cazare, permise de rezidenta etc. precum si activitati de pregatire lingvistica si culturala; au fost implicati in activitati sportive si culturale organizate de asociatiile studentesti si Liga Studentilor. Prin aplicarea criteriilor calitative de selectie a studentilor, cadrelor didactice si personalului administrative pentru obtinerea bursei Erasmus+ ne asiguram ca participantii la mobilitati, sa creasca nivelul calitativ al acestora si in acelasi timp sa propuna noi directii de dezvoltare, atat la nivelul programului, cat si pentru imbunatatirea (sau dezvoltarea) strategiei de internationalizare a universitatii.

In ceea ce priveste indicatorii cantitativi, Intentionam sa crestem gradual numarul de studenti incoming si outgoing, in fiecare an cu 10% - 20% fata de anul precedent. Acest grad de crestere depinde, bineinteles, si de numarul absolventilor de liceu din anul respectiv si a numarului de student admisi in universitate, existand riscul ca nu toate locurile disponibile de studii sa fie ocupate.

In scopul monitorizarii activitatilor derulate prin programul Erasmus +, precum si a celor de internationalizare, anual se realizeaza un raport care identifica modul in care acestea au fost realizate. Pe baza concluziilor rezultate din raport, prin intermediul planului operational anual, se stabilesc masurile necesare pentru cresterea calitativa si cantitativa a programului.

Supporting the internationalization policy of the university and promoting its image, as an institution of education, science and culture, both in Europe and globally, is one of the key objectives of university development. Internationalization is also an important factor in evaluating and positioning the university in rankings, but at the same time it offers members of the academic community opportunities for professional development. For a university to be competitive locally and nationally, it must be competitive internationally. In the period 2020-2027, we aim to: increase the number of outgoing and incoming Erasmus mobilities for all categories of beneficiaries (students, teachers, staff); accreditation of study programs in international languages (for example: Dentistry in English and Pharmacy in French) - thus increasing the number of incoming students in the coming years; expanding and creating new partnerships both in the European space and outside it; involvement as partners or coordinators in projects such as Joint Master's Degree, European Universities, Jean Monet, etc. Regarding the objectives regarding the internationalization included in the strategy, a large part of them represent a continuation of those previously defined, with the afferent modifications. Thus, we can mention: - attracting foreign students through study programs in international languages, bachelor's, master's, doctorate and internship courses and learning services;

- increasing the number of students to study or practice abroad through Erasmus scholarships or other types of scholarships and expanding to the non-EU space;
- strategic approach to international affiliations and partnerships with foreign institutions;
- increasing the number of grants and international projects.

Given that internationalization is a dynamic process, constantly changing and adapting, the strategic plan has the role of drawing the main directions in this field, some of them can be applied in a short time, others requiring a longer

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term and even some adaptations over the next few years. Thus, in order to improve the quality of the internationalization process, in general, and to implement the Erasmus + program, in particular, we must take into account the challenges underlying the strategic plan, among which we can mention:

- identifying the obstacles that prevent the participation of teachers in the process of internationalization of the educational process, research, obtaining projects and overcoming these obstacles;
- creating a group of teachers who can teach abroad and successfully represent the university;
- cooperation at the level of study programs with other universities abroad, both in the field of education and research, and culturally;
- formation of teams at the level of faculties, coordinated by those responsible for international relations, to support the international activities of the departments.

Incoming students are a very important tool for ensuring external visibility and recognition. Our goal is to offer incoming students a quality, pleasant academic and social experience, to ensure a good cooperation with the institution of origin and to increase in the future the number of Erasmus students who opt for our university. The mobility participants benefited from academic counseling - meetings with the academic coordinator to discuss possible changes in the study agreement, discussions on the grading system, the teaching system at the host university. They also benefited from support in administrative matters: accommodation, residence permits, etc. as well as linguistic and cultural training activities; were involved in sports and cultural activities organized by student associations and the Student League. By applying the qualitative selection criteria of students, teachers and administrative staff to obtain Erasmus + scholarships we ensure that participants in mobility, increase their quality level and at the same time propose new development directions, both at the program level and for improving (or developing) the university's internationalization strategy.

Regarding the quantitative indicators, we intend to gradually increase the number of incoming and outgoing students, every year by 10% - 20% compared to the previous year. This degree of growth depends, of course, on the number of high school graduates in that year and the number of students admitted to the university, with the risk that not all available places of study will be filled.

In order to monitor the activities carried out through the Erasmus + program, as well as the internationalization ones, a report is made annually that identifies the way in which they were carried out. Based on the conclusions resulting from the report, through the annual operational plan, the necessary measures for the qualitative and quantitative increase of the program are established.