



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]

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The University of Siena considers the process of internationalisation a means to achieve the proper qualification of its education and research activities.

This implies relevant actions which are carried out in several international fields and the involvement of different partners both in Europe and in not-European countries.

The choice of partners is mainly based on the objectives which the University gives itself in the frame of the strategic internationalisation plan but it is also related to the traditional connections which have been created and maintained during the years.

The European geographical and cultural area is entirely covered, including Turkey and the most recently annexed countries, by the partnerships which the University of Siena has established in the frame of the Erasmus programmemainly-and of different cooperation agreements.

The links with some European partner Universities have especially developed in the last few years thanks to the collaboration leading to the release of double degrees as in the

case of the University of Uppsala, Ljubljana and with the European Business School in Germany.

For similar reasons some cooperation agreements with European Universities, or other vocational training organisations, are more active due to the participation of students from the University of Siena in postgraduate courses, which include some study and traineeship abroad.

Since the early 1990's the University of Siena has signed several international cooperation agreements with universities in North America, Australia, Latin America, in the mediterranean area and in the Far East and China and these collaborations are still well active.

In the recent years the University of Siena has been part of 4 Consortia in the frame of the Erasmus Mundus/Action 2 managing the projects activities and the mobility with South-Africa, Russian Federation and Maghreb countries. These areas are all of great interest for a further implementation of the positive collaborations raised within the partnerships.

As far as mobility is concerned, the University of Siena has always participated in all the activities of the LLP/Erasmus programme.

It has always been a priority to promote mobility of all the envisaged target groups and for the implementation of teaching, study and traineeship activities.

The objectives of mobility are fully shared by all the University relevant parties with special attention of the International Relations Office, the Vice-rector for the International Relations, the Erasmus exchanges coordinators and the Department academic referees.

The main general objectives are the internationalisation of the curricula of the participants in the mobility activities and the development of the existing collaborations also in view of further common actions aiming to improve the partners quality both under the academic and services offer.

In particular, concerning staff mobility, a very relevant objective is the apprenticeship and exchange of good practices, whilst teaching staff mobility has the main target of creating thematic networks for further collaborations in didactic and research fields. With regard to students' study and traineeship mobility, the envisaged objectives are various and strictly linked to each student's profile even if the common aim of mobility is to give an added value to the academic and personal curriculum of the student. In addition to this common aspect, mobility for traineeships also aims to establish a connection with the labour market, which is considered a priority perspective in the University general policy.

With regard to the development of double/multiple/joint degrees, the University of Siena, in the recent years, put in action important measures to achieve the creation of such programmes which constitute one of the objectives in the internationalisation plan mentioned above.

The development of courses held in English (<http://en.unisi.it/teaching/degree-courses-held-entirely-english>) was one of the main steps towards the establishment of this kind of programmes leading to the release of double/multiple/joint degrees.

Currently, among the double degree courses offered by the University of Siena, we can mention the MSc in Finance and the MSc in Economics.

The MSc Programme in Finance is a two-years course on modelling and applications of quantitative methods in finance.

The programme covers the most important technical and quantitative aspects of finance in regular use in financial institutions.

The MSc in Economics is a two-years graduate programme that aims to provide an advanced level of education in economics. The program is built on four core courses — mathematics, microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics — in order to provide students with advanced tools for economic analysis, and offers a wide array of specialized topics in most fields of modern economics.

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]

The University of Siena intends to put into action and participate in projects on teaching and training within the frame of and according to the priorities envisaged by the Programme.

The activities of teaching and training will be planned in cooperation both with European and non-European Institutions starting from the already existing cooperation projects and fostering them as it is in the case of the existing Erasmus partnerships and Erasmus Mundus running projects, so as starting new collaborations. The selection of the European and non-European partnerships will be operated according to the direction of the University of Siena's strategic geographical plan. The teaching activities will be organised and implemented in accordance with the main fields of interest characterizing the

University of Siena's academic offer and research activities among which it is worth to mention the theme of Sustainability.

Training cooperation projects will go in the directions of building and consolidating new competences also through the implementation of mobility of the different target groups (students, staff, teachers) and will be organized also with the objective of increasing and improving participation in thematic networks.

As far as cooperation is concerned, especially with non-European Institution, a sort of preparatory work will be also necessary in order to overcome possible difficulties in the implementation of teaching and training activities due to the major differences when dealing with these themes and related matters.

In particular, the University of Siena is working on international networks concerning Sustainability, and Employability and career guidance (Coimbra Group Task Force). The University of Siena is organising its internationalization by choosing partnerships abroad with institutions willing to engage both in training and research issues which are the aims of these networks.

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

According to the EU Commission Modernisation Agenda there are five key policy issues to be addressed by national higher education institutions and the University of Siena is fully aware of the strategic relevance of these issues. The Europe 2020 education headline target stipulates that, by 2020, 40% of young people, should successfully complete higher education or equivalent studies. The University of Siena considers the participation to Erasmus Programme as a means to stimulate the interest of the students to complete their courses. In fact on average the students participating to the Programme have shown good results in terms of grades and completion of their studies.

1. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education through the increase of international relations in one of the main strategic objects of the University. The participation

to the Programme also by developing with our international partners system for e learning activities is considered to be a means also to reinforce the commitment of teachers.

2.Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation of the mobility among students as well as among teachers and staff, on the one hand, and create a more international environment for the students within the University's courses, on the other, are among the priorities achieved via the participation to the Programme. For this reason the University organizes interviews, seminars and summer schools in order to encourage the students to participate to the Programme as both as a part of their academic curriculum or as training experience. The University of Siena as 2 central bodies: the International Relations Committee and the Committee of the International Departmental Referees which take care of all issues pertaining the promotion of internationalization as well as the mobility scheme.

3.Making the knowledge triangle work and linking university education, research and business is crucial at the University of Siena. The University has thus started a project USienaOpen aiming precisely at reinforcing the knowledge triangle offering courses and tutorials for the students in order to increase their job research competences and to improve their possibilities to participate to programmes such as Erasmus Placement and Leonardo.

4.The choice done by the new 2012 Statute of the University of Siena is clearly centered on internationalization as the creation of the above mentioned special Committees demonstrate. These changes represent a clear improvement of the governance of the Institution and should have also a positive impact in strengthening the active participation of the University to the Programme. At the same time such new organs will particularly benefit from the participation to mobility schemes for both teachers and staff giving them the opportunity to increase their competences on international programmes and exchange best practices with partner universities.