

The University of Primorska (UP) adopted the Strategy for implementation of Erasmus mobility – Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) in 2013. In preparing the EPS, UP followed the commitments set in the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), objectives set in the Midterm Development Strategy of the University of Primorska 2009 - 2013 and the Programme of Internationalisation, adopted by UP in 2010. In 2014, UP adopted the new Midterm Development Strategy for the period 2014-2020. The strategy also defines objectives of the university's international cooperation, and consequently there was no need to prepare a new Programme of Internationalisation. In line with the objectives of the Strategy 2014-2020 and priorities of the "Agenda for modernisation" (with a focus on the following priorities: a) enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education; b) improving the quality with mobility and cross-border cooperation, c) effective triangle of knowledge: bridging higher education, research and private sector), **UP updated the Erasmus Policy Statement in 2017:**

**Strategy of the University of Primorska
on the implementation of the Erasmus+ mobility 2017-2020
(Erasmus Policy Statement)**

Since its establishment, UP concluded more than 70 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with universities from Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cyprus, Chile, Montenegro, Finland, France, Croatia, India, Iran, Italy, Israel, Japan, South Korea, China, Kosovo, Latvia, Macedonia, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine and United States of America. Memorandums of Understanding define student and staff mobility as key activities. UP implements the largest share of mobilities under the programme Erasmus+. Therefore, it signed interinstitutional Erasmus+ agreements with the majority of universities with which it already collaborated. In some cases, existing Erasmus+ interinstitutional agreements and regular implementation of mobilities are pre-conditions for establishing MoUs. In other cases, MoUs offer a sound basis for creating working Erasmus+ interinstitutional agreements.

Many connections are linked to the area in which UP operates – on the junction of Central Europe, South-Eastern Europe and Mediterranean. Therefore, majority of partner institutions are based in Austria, Italy and former republics of Yugoslavia (mostly in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro). Intensive collaboration has been developed also with **institutions from the United States of America, Australia, Russia, China and Japan.**

In the new **Midterm development strategy 2014-2020**, UP defined **facilitation of development and activities leading to the internationalisation of UP**, as a key priority, which includes:

- increasing the study offer in foreign languages (esp. in English),
- promoting the inclusion of foreign experts in teaching and research processes,
- attracting foreign students and improving recognition in international environments.

The Strategy defines two **objectives:**

1. Increased mobility and higher percentage of students and staff, which will be achieved with larger enrolment of foreign students, greater employment of foreign experts, internationalisation of curriculum and entry in foreign study areas;
2. Improved strategic role and greater financial successfulness of the university under EU and other international programmes for co-financing scientific, research and development activities for enhanced flow of international staff, knowledge exchange and improvement of research infrastructure.

Under the first objective, the following specific objectives were defined:

- Increasing short-term student mobility to 10% of all students;
- Increasing international mobility of higher education teachers and staff to 10% of all staff.

UP recognises the importance of **interinstitutional Erasmus+ agreements** as a basic pre-condition for creating and assuring quality institutional internationalisation. In each agreement, the study area, number of mobilities by categories (students, teaching staff and administrative staff) and length of mobilities are defined. **UP rigorously follows the ECHE principles and expects that the partners follow them** as well. A specific focus is placed on:

- 1) Respecting the principle of indiscrimination and guaranteeing equal access and opportunity for mobility participants from all environments;
- 2) Assuring quality language, intercultural and general preparation of outgoing mobility participants and offering relevant support to incoming mobility participants (with information on studies at UP, accommodation and life in Slovenia) to assure their smooth integration in new environment;
- 3) Guaranteeing equal rights and services for all students, without any charges;
- 4) Guaranteeing full recognition of concluded mobility programmes in line with corresponding ECTS.

UP is gradually increasing mobility numbers with an aim to achieve **more international study body and teaching staff. In order to develop intercultural competences of students, teaching staff and administrative staff as much as possible, UP is trying to create as wide partnership network as possible.** Therefore, we encourage UP students to choose different European countries for their mobility destinations (and not only Western European countries, where statistics show, majority of UP students attend mobilities). With our engagement, we also follow KA103's objective to create a **balanced network of partners** in Europe. Under the KA107, UP is trying to create a strong network of partners in all strategic regions, especially in **United States of America, Australia and China.**

Considering a large interest of students to attend mobilities **for training**, UP is trying to expand the network of partners, where students can work. **For staff mobility, UP decided to promote also mobility of administrative staff and not only teaching (academic) staff**, as our experiences prove how important is the good cooperation between administrative offices of sending and receiving institutions. Quality international relations guarantee complete and timely information flow in all mobility phases. Their importance increases when potential

complications emerge and when receiving and sending institution need to find fast solutions for mobility participant and both institutions. Besides, staff training achieved with international mobility importantly supports professional development of institution's staff.

Increasing the number of joint degree study programmes with other universities and **increasing the number of subjects implemented in English and other languages** remain the objectives of UP's internationalisation. Planned inclusion of international and intercultural dimensions in formal and informal curriculum for all students addresses the objective **Internationalisation at home and Curriculum internationalisation.**

Basic principle for planning and implementing the internationalisation is the **permanence and diversity of the cooperation with international partners,** while the key mechanism for improving internationalisation as an opportunity for increasing the quality of teaching and research and developing intercultural competencies of students and staff is the **evaluation of joint international activities.**