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.

Signer of Magna Charta Universitatum Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava (USV) has adopted and implemented the principles stipulated in the Bologna Declaration, concerning the European higher education area. The USV vision is consolidation of its position in the European space of education and research. The objectives of the university are centered on the three fundamental functions (research, teaching/learning and training) under circumstances of institutional autonomy and academic freedom and on adjusting the content of education to the dynamic national and EU labor market. USV institutional policy will focus on mobility and cooperation as main values. Internationalization is part of the strategy for the future development of USV and the following objectives related to internationalization are mentioned in the Strategic Plan: training of specialists according to Romanian and European competences, further development of scientific research in compliance with the current international standards, proactive development of strategic partnerships, constant improvement of teaching and scientific research for successful integration in the EU academic environment.

The main objectives for the last decade of the international strategic development were the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the harmonisation of the academic and scientific standards with those of the partner universities throughout Europe.

The institution’s international strategy for the next period is centred on the constant development of excellence in teaching, research and training, the consolidation and advancement of the
partnerships with EU and non EU countries, and the development of joint/double/multiple degrees. The USV will disseminate the results achieved by individuals engaged in mobility and cooperation projects and will permanently adjust the quality of cooperation activities through an internal monitoring system. The guiding values on which the international activity will be based are transparency, focus on quality of all mobilities and Erasmus activities, equal treatment of students and staff and the prevention of any kind of discrimination.

Strategic partnerships and geographical areas.
As an important public university in Romania, the University of Suceava is an European and international university, given its extended collaborations with EU universities. The main criterias for choosing partners are: previous cooperation in education, common/joint research projects, common objectives and excellence in education and training in the study fields of USV. Due to its strategic position at the border of the EU and its common experiences, USV is drawing in an increasing number of international students each year, from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. Thus, USV is a focal point of information in research and academic fields in the Eastern part of Europe. We have worked towards maintaining a geographical balance in the partnership agreements. In most cases, the international cooperation was initiated through bilateral discussions, visits and exchanges, LLP or research projects and extended to Erasmus agreements for staff and students exchange.

Objective and target groups of mobility activities.
The Erasmus Program has positive effects on the main target group: beneficiaries of staff/student mobilities, and also indirectly benefits the non-participants to the program, due to the improved quality of education, research and training. The most important objective of the USV in relation to the Programme is to increase the quality of the mobility activities. USV will monitor the individual beneficiaries throughout all the stages: before mobility, during mobility and after mobility.
Since 1998, the Erasmus program has provided equal chances for personal and academic development abroad to students from the first, second and third cycles.
One of the most important goals for the next period is to consolidate the cooperation network with international partners, to develop joint degrees for the selected fields of study in order to encourage the access of international students to the academic programs of the university. USV will undertake the following activities: expand the majority of the bilateral agreements to the 2nd
and 3rd study levels; increase of the number of bilateral agreements with institutions from Central and Eastern Europe; enhance the compatibility between the USV and the partner universities education areas in order to facilitate academic recognition; increase the number of placement mobilities by signing the inter-institutional agreements with partner institutions from the industry and the economic environment for a continue adjustment of competences to the European framework and national labour market needs.

USV will extend the existing double degree programs. First discussions and contacts were established for the development of joint degrees in three study fields.

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

International experience is of great value for both staff and students of the University of Suceava. In this respect, the university encourages the participation of students and staff in all available EU programs. The aim of the international development for the future is to constantly adjust the academic offer to the demands of the European labour market, to promote the conduction of scientific and community oriented research, to ensure high quality and to support academic performance in every type of activity.

The consolidation of the international dimension of USV is one of the most important priorities for the following period. With this goal in mind, the organisational framework was changed in 2012, additional staff was employed and the position of Director of the Office for European Affairs was specifically created in order to increase the number and the quality of Erasmus programmes. Moreover, the programme is supported by Erasmus coordinators for each of the nine faculties of the university. The implementation of education and research projects also benefits from the support of the Department of Project Management.

The University Senate has furthered the improvement of the activities of the international department by appointing a working group that audits the activity of the international office and also suggests future development schemes. The activity of the office is organized in the project
management approach, for a more beneficial use of resources and for a goal oriented process. Further essential guidance and recommendations for the established objectives are settled in the operational plan.

The strategic approach for the development of the international dimension is ensured through the constant benchmarking of similar universities, in the field of academic research, education and training. Moreover, the international environment and trends (national and international) are also considered when the annual international policy is developed.

*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 to achieve.*

The Programme will support the innovative adjustment of the academic programmes and will increase the attainment level.

The USV: will attract a large number of prospective students and will continue to implement the policies related to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; promote the access routes from vocational and other education levels; maintain the logistic and financial support provided to students with lower income backgrounds; continue the funding of the scholarships for national ethnic minorities and Roma students and encourage the participation in the Programme of students from under-represented groups and non-traditional students; encourage the mobility and exchange of students and staff involved in joint-research programs in order to increase the R&D performance of the university.

The programme will improve the quality and relevance of higher education delivered by USV. Erasmus for All will significantly encourage the provision of higher quality in education, research and training and the constant adjustment and compliance of the qualifications provided by the university with the EU qualifications in terms of competencies, skills and knowledge, according to the EU 2020 strategy. The Programme will help the improvement of the motivation of the human resources, by promoting quality and excellence throughout all academic activities; The USV will: involve employers and labour market institutions in the development and delivery of the programmes; will continue to use the Alumni program to track the employment of USV
graduates; enhance the ICT systems in order to improve the learning experience; activate the staff training placements in order to ensure excellence in training and constant professional development; involve the Doctoral School in the activities of Erasmus for All, in order to encourage the research activities as well as the cross-border projects.

The programme will improve the quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation.

The USV will: encourage the mutual recognition of qualification awarded abroad in relation to the European Qualifications Framework; consolidate the Erasmus cooperation by means of additional grants and funding opportunities; attract good students, researchers and academic staff from outside the EU; consolidate the existing cross-border cooperation with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

Education is an important engine of regional development and academic institutions are essential players. The USV is connected with important research institutions, industry clusters and SMEs associations. The USV will: develop entrepreneurial and innovation skills in all three cycles, by improving the academic curricula according to the needs of business sector; encourage the development of start-ups and spin-offs.

The priorities will be a flexible and efficient governance, the identification of alternative sources of funding. Focus on excellence will be the leading principle in all activities of USV.
Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: SUCEAVA   Name: VALENTIN POPA   Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14.05.2013

☑ I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the institution (as identified in section A.2 above)

[Signature]

Original stamp or seal of the institution

[Stamp]