

## 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?

(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 Area<sup>1</sup> 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)

In participating in the Erasmus programme, Università per Stranieri di Siena (from now on UniStraSi) has the following aims:

- (1) to establish cooperation agreements with other institutions, in order to promote mobility and inter-institutional collaboration and to strengthen cross-border cooperation;
- (2) to promote the activation of double and joint titles/degrees at both Bachelor's and Master's level; to promote co-tutoring for PhD students;
- (3) to improve the quality and relevance of higher education by promoting the exchange of good practices and by encouraging the use of skills and growth projections in course design, delivery and evaluation;
- (4) to develop active labour market policies, by ensuring an efficient validation of credits gained abroad and by improving access, employment and development opportunities for students, researchers, and teachers from Italy and other EU and non-EU countries;
- (5) to raise attainment levels by providing more transparent information on educational opportunities and outcomes and ensuring financial support for the mobility of students from lower income background, especially students from immigrant families living in Italy;
- (6) to promote policies for connecting higher education, research and business, by working across the traditional boundaries of research, business and education and promoting an innovative system in higher education through more interactive learning and training environments;
- (7) to encourage the systematic involvement of Higher education institutions in the development of integrated local and regional plans and policies, aimed to create regional hubs of excellence and specialisation;
- (8) to improve governance and funding in order to facilitate access to traditional and alternative sources of funding and modernise their human resource management.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

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

Sustainability and multidisciplinary are the key-words which will lead the action strategies of UniStraSi regarding the Erasmus Programme.

As far as sustainability is concerned, the goal is to provide a mobility grant for all students who will apply for the Erasmus Programme for both study and traineeship. Over the last years, the number of students who participated in the Erasmus Programme has grown. This is also due to the internationalisation policies adopted by UniStraSi and the increase in the number of foreign languages taught in both the Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes. These policies have also allowed UniStraSi to sign many new Erasmus agreements for both student and staff mobility with new universities and to open cooperation exchanges with new countries. UniStraSi intends to continue to increase the number of Erasmus partners by also extending partnerships to other countries.

The second action aims to promote multidisciplinary in both teaching practices and traineeship. UniStraSi is involved in many international cooperation projects in teaching, training and research with a special focus on linguistics, Italian language and culture, European and extra-European languages and cultures, linguistic and cultural mediation, language contact, and multilingualism. These disciplines have important relationships with many different business fields such as education, policy, economy etc.

The monitoring and implementation of cooperation projects in both study and traineeship will be achieved through several meetings between UniStraSi and its partners (involving Skype conferences and face-to-face meetings) with a view to supervising the different phases of cooperation and to encouraging their successful development.

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.

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

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will have a positive impact on students and staff mobility as well as on UniStraSi's internationalisation. In the last years, UniStraSi has signed cooperation agreements with new universities and has reinforced its cooperation with many countries such as the Czech Republic, Poland, Greece, France, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries. Furthermore, the introduction of new foreign languages taught in both Bachelor's and Master's degree courses (Portuguese, Catalan, and Korean) has allowed expanding the network of cooperation agreements to countries that were not previously included.

Therefore, the participation of both students and staff in Erasmus mobility has increased in the recent years. Given this positive trend, UniStraSi intends to promote actions to obtain an increase in the number of Erasmus students at the rate of 10% per year during the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027.

Another noteworthy aspect concerns the promotion of joint degrees. UniStraSi intends to increase the number of joint degrees at both Bachelor's and Master's degree levels. Besides the already available joint degrees (with the European universities of Erlangen-Nurnberg, Caen, Paris-Nanterre, and the extra-European universities of Nankai, Hanoi, St. Petersburg:

[https://www.unistrasi.it/1/10/4100/l\\_doppi\\_titoli\\_dell%E2%80%99Universit%C3%A0\\_per\\_Stranieri\\_di\\_Siena.htm](https://www.unistrasi.it/1/10/4100/l_doppi_titoli_dell%E2%80%99Universit%C3%A0_per_Stranieri_di_Siena.htm)), UniStraSi plans to sign new joint degrees. Preliminary negotiation is in progress with universities in Spain, Poland and Austria, and new joint degree agreements will be signed in the next years.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Implementation of the new principles

Please explain the measures taken in your institution to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. Describe how your institution ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.

Compliance with the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff is guaranteed by the *Comitato Unico di Garanzia* (CUG), which publicizes its annual report on the university's website ([https://www.unistrasi.it/1/87/561/Comitato\\_Unico\\_di\\_Garanzia\\_-\\_CUG.htm](https://www.unistrasi.it/1/87/561/Comitato_Unico_di_Garanzia_-_CUG.htm)).

Among the actions planned to contrast discrimination and encourage inclusion, UniStraSi actively took part in the Prize "Analisi e contrasto degli stereotipi di genere" (Analysing and fighting gender stereotypes), promoted and financed by the Tuscan Administration in 2017-2019. The project rewarded PhD and Master's theses dealing with gender discrimination.

In order to detect any situation of discrimination, both administrative staff and teachers are invited to fill in a questionnaire on well-being in the workplace every year.

As far as students' well-being is concerned, UniStraSi has been offering and promoting free psychological counselling for students since 2017, to help students in their everyday student life.

Students' inclusion is also guaranteed by the so-called "carriera Alias" (Alias career), which offers gender-transitioning students the possibility to obtain double identity for their university career.

For the inclusion of students with fewer opportunities, there are different possibilities: enrolment with no or reduced tuition fees, part-time contracts for students, grants for international mobility and scholarships for PhD students ([https://www.unistrasi.it/1/387/2257/Sovvenzioni\\_contributi\\_sussidi\\_vantaggi\\_economici.htm](https://www.unistrasi.it/1/387/2257/Sovvenzioni_contributi_sussidi_vantaggi_economici.htm))

Please explain what measures your institution will put in place to implement the European Student Card Initiative, and promote the use of the programme's Erasmus+ mobile App to students. Please refer to the timeline indicated on the European Student Card Initiative website<sup>2</sup>.

**Strumenti informazione studenti : Elisa Trastullo**

Canali istituzionali: sito web ufficiale, pagina FB ufficiale, canale instagram ufficiale, comunicati stampa, materiale promozionale ufficiale

Altri canali: pagina rappresentanti studenti

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en)

Please explain how your institutions will implement and promote environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ programme.

UniStraSi promotes the dematerialisation and recycling of goods.

As for dematerialisation, in the last years UniStraSi has promoted the use of the website and social network pages for announcements and communication with students.

UniStraSi also encourages recycling and promotes sustainability policies. The building is carbon free, in accordance with SDGS 2030's good practices and sustainability objectives (<https://www.aics.gov.it/home-ita/settori/obiettivi-di-sviluppo-sostenibile-sdgs/>).

The use of plastic materials is discouraged; UniStraSi plans to distribute drinking water bottles to all students and staff in order to discourage people from using plastic bottles.

UniStraSi's environmental policy is also available on UniStraSi's Facebook page.

Please explain how you will promote civic engagement and active citizenship amongst your outgoing and incoming students before, after and during mobility.

Together with the University of Siena and the municipality of Siena, UniStraSi promotes public meetings, conferences and debates on issues related to the European Union, cultural heritage and the history of Europe. These activities are advertised and promoted on UniStraSi's website.

Outgoing Erasmus students attend several meetings organized by the Erasmus Office together with the Erasmus Referent in order to promote European active citizenship. During these meetings, students who have already completed their Erasmus mobility programme are invited to report their experience to younger students. This facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience and promotes students' active engagement in the Erasmus Programme.

## 2.2 When participating in Mobility Activities - After mobility

Please demonstrate your commitment to implement full automatic recognition in your Higher Education Institution.

Please describe the concrete steps you will take to ensure the full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during a mobility period abroad/ a blended mobility, according to the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition<sup>3</sup>.

**PER ELISA TRASTULLO**

Please describe your institution's measures to support, promote and recognise staff mobility:

Staff mobility is promoted and supported by the following actions. Every year a call for Staff Mobility for Teaching is published on the website and sent by email to all lecturers/teachers. Staff Mobility applications are examined by the Erasmus Committee and eligible candidates are selected. Staff Mobility is financially supported by the grant by the Erasmus Agency, which covers the costs for travel, accommodation and meals.

<sup>3</sup> The text of the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition may be found at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210(01))

### 2.3 For the Purposes of Visibility

Please provide the web link where you will host the Erasmus Policy statement in the future. Please reflect on how you plan to regularly promote the activities supported by the Programme.

The Erasmus Policy Statement is available on the UniStraSi website, where detailed information about the Erasmus Programme can be found ([https://www.unistrasi.it/1/160/550/ERASMUS\\_PLUS.htm](https://www.unistrasi.it/1/160/550/ERASMUS_PLUS.htm)). All information about annual calls for application for students mobility (for study and traineeship) and staff mobility is available on this webpage, in addition to the corresponding application forms and European partners (both universities and traineeship partners).

Students are also asked to report their Erasmus experience during the meetings which UniStraSi organizes each year to present the calls for application to Erasmus for study and traineeship in February and in June respectively.

Aggiungere network studenti Erasmus (per Elisa)

Please describe how you will ensure that the principles of this Charter will be well communicated and applied by staff at all levels of the institution.

The principles of this Charter will be publicized through:

- 1) publication on the UniStraSi website;
- 2) discussion with students during the meetings presenting the calls for application to Erasmus Mobility for study and traineeship;
- 3) discussion with staff (both administrative staff and teachers) in Department meetings.