



*Università per Stranieri di Siena*

# ***EPS***

## ***Erasmus Policy Statement***

### ***2014-2021***

#### ***(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.*

- 1. 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.***

The University for Foreigners of Siena (Unistrasi) is a public institution open to Italian and foreign students, professors, researchers. The University undertakes research in the field of Italian language and culture - in contact with foreign languages and cultures- plurilingualism and pluriculturalism. In line with the promotion of an intercultural dialogue between institutions, students, professors, researchers, Unistrasi promotes the internazionalisation of teaching and training following 2 main strategies:

- Unistrasi chooses international partners (from EU and non EU) involved in the same field (plurilingualism and pluriculturalism, linguistic and cultural mediation, language contact, sociolinguistics, language teaching and assessment, teacher's training etc.) and international partners involved in different fields, strictly interrelated to linguistics (anthropology, ethnography, demography, linguistic economy, language policy and planning). The objective of this strategy is to create and develop new form of cross-border cooperation and attract a broader cross-section of society into higher education
- Unistrasi chooses partners from EU (in particular from high instruction institutions involved in the same field) and non-EU. Inside non EU-partners, Unistrasi aims to select institutions from emerging countries (mainly BRICS countries), in order to analyze and improve their interest in learning and teaching of Italian as FL. In this case, the objective is to promote the intercultural dialogue between students, professors, researchers, and, at the same time, learning and teaching mobility in help individuals to increase their professional, social and intercultural skills.

The previous strategies involve researchers, professors and students in first, second and third cycles and include study and training, and aims to reinforce basic skills, to acquire advanced skills, particularly valuable for knowledge-intensive jobs and research.

Professors, researchers, students involved in short cycles have the possibilities to participate to short time cooperation programmes aimed to promoting mobility inside the EU countries.

- 2. 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.***

From 1995, Unistrasi is involved in international cooperation projects in teaching and training, with special focus to linguistics, Italian language and culture, linguistic and cultural mediation, linguistic contact, plurilingualism and pluriculturalism.

Many different strategies were adopted by Unistrasi. The first strategic objective is to involve different partners in project design and construction, from public and private institutions and from very different fields (education, policy, economy etc.). This strategy aims to open the project from beginning to end to cross-stakeholders and directly improve their awareness of importance of higher education for the prosperity and human society.

During the international cooperation projects in teaching and training, Unistrasi works at the implementation of the projects asking for the collaboration of the public and private partners. Unistrasi organizes several meetings (Skype conferences and meetings in presence) aimed to evaluate the different steps of cooperation projects and also to encourage their successful continuation.

**3. 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.**

Participating in the Programme, Unistrasi expects to achieve the following impacts:

- increasing attainment levels; providing more transparent information on educational opportunities and outcomes; ensuring financial support for potential students from lower income background, especially students from immigrant families resident in Italy; training and re-training researchers to be able to provide new researches with a direct impact in design and implementation of national policies and strategies;
- improving the quality and relevance for higher education; encouraging the use of skills and growth projections and graduate employment data in course design, delivery and evaluation; creating a direct link with the labour market institution contributing to develop active labour market policies;
- strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation; ensuring an efficient recognition of credits gained abroad; improving access, employment and progression opportunities for students, researchers, professors from Italy and other EU and non-EU countries;
- linking higher education, research and business; working across the traditional boundaries of research, business and education; promoting and realize an innovative system in higher education through more interactive learning and training environments; encouraging 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.
- improving governance and funding; facilitating access to traditional and alternative sources of funding; working to modernise their human resource management.

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\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)