

**D****Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)*****D. 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]

The University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt, Austria (FHWN) is the first officially accredited University of Applied Sciences in Austria. It is strategically aimed at an internationalised educational concept, regionally anchored. Student and staff exchange with a significant volume as well as language competencies, intercultural competencies and transnational cooperation in teaching and applied research are an important part of this concept, borne and supported by the CEO and the University Council. A central International Office (IO) acts as interface to the management board and all departments university-wide regarding the implementation and continuation of the Bologna Process.

FHWN has always been a trendsetter regarding internationalisation of HEIs in Austria, the first student exchanges on a large scale beginning in 1998. The first English-taught degree programme "Business Consultancy International" started in 2003. Currently (2013) the degree programme "Business Consultancy International" on Bachelor and Master level as well as the Master programmes "MedTech" and "Aerospace Engineering" are offered in English. The Bachelor-/Master-system was introduced in 2004. Internationalisation is integrated in the strategy of all degree programmes (for a list of degree programmes see <http://www.fhwn.ac.at/en/Studies/Study-Programmes>) and realised due to the specific curricula.

Internationalisation is also actively pursued on the satellite campi in the town of Wieselburg and the town of Tulln. The objectives and priorities for student and staff exchange are positioned in all degree programmes. Incoming and outgoing staff mobilities per academic year help to foster relationships with partner institutions. In 2013, 66 partner university contracts world-wide have been realized. The partner university contracts consider the real needs and mobility interest of students and staff.

Partners are chosen following an internal approval process where the institution as well as its course offer are analysed in detail by the degree programme manager in question and the IO. The institution has to be accredited and holder of the Erasmus Charter (EU) and course equivalencies have to fit in order to guarantee recognition of course units.

Regarding geographical areas FHWN acts world-wide taking into account institutions conducting degree programmes in English language and the fitting of course equivalencies of degree programmes.

Most important objectives and target groups of FHWN mobility activities are student and staff mobility and training on first and second cycle, followed by short cycle activities.

Future strategic goals will focus on the continuation of active fulfillment and widening of cooperation possibilities of inter-institutional agreements and a well-balanced student and staff exchange situation, which influences strongly the intercultural understanding of all players at the FHWN. International activities are published broadly on campus and on the inter- and intranet. All target groups have easy access to detailed information on internationalisation, goals and procedures.

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]

FHWN mainly participates in international cooperation projects as project partner.

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. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Regarding the Modernisation Agenda priority 1 'Increasing attainment levels to provide graduates and researchers Europe needs'

FHWN's objective is to reduce mobility obstacles (such as questions of recognition, the social dimension etc.) and to follow a transparent information policy to outreach to underrepresented groups of students.

Mobility opportunities for all student groups (e.g. Master students, part-time students) and the outcome-oriented use of study mobility and traineeships are important to guarantee the transfer to the working environment.

Applied research is an essential part of the curricula to prepare students for a potential future research employment.

Priority 2 'Improving the quality and relevance of higher education'

Quality assurance has always played a major role at FHWN. On-going evaluation of cooperation partners is a must and guarantees sustainability and added value of the cooperation. The teaching staff consists also of company representatives to enrich the curricula with a practical view. The use of ICTs such as blended learning opens up for new opportunities for learning and applied research.

Priority 3 'Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation'

FHWN intends to focus on transnational mobility and to include mobility windows in each of the curricula, e.g. international projects, blocked weeks etc. in addition to study mobility and traineeships for study and research purposes.

Efficient recognition of credits gained abroad is guaranteed due to the use of ECTS and DS by sticking to the national qualifications framework linked to the European Qualifications Framework.

Priority 4 'Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development'

The knowledge triangle at FHWN is given due to the links to regional companies and research institutes. FHWN itself has a research subsidiary where applied research is realised. The learning environment is an interactive one and knowledge-transfer is guaranteed.

Priority 5 'Improving governance and funding'

A clear communication strategy regarding funding exists. Students and staff have easily access to possible funds provided nationally and on EU level.

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