

Erasmus Policy Statement

The improvement of international cooperation has been set as one of the most important objectives in the LUM University strategic plan 2014-2020, given the importance of cross-cultural learning for the increase of professional, social and intercultural skills for students, faculties and staff members.

By signing this Charter, LUM University undertakes to contribute to the European Union's modernization and internationalization agenda in higher education through the promotion of students and staff mobility within EU and non-EU countries, the participation in European and International Cooperation projects, the improvement of the quality of higher education programmes and student experience.

The development of International Cooperation of LUM University since its establishment in 1995 has been carried out through several phases in order to reach its current stage of internationalization. As a result it is institutionally present in the European educational environment as well as in other parts of the world. LUM University obtained the ERASMUS Charter in 2004. So far we have been working with several EU higher education institutions from different countries (France, Spain, Romania, Polonia, Unghery, Germany, Greece, Portogallo) and we recently signed new bilateral agreements with other developing European Countries like Lituania, Slovenia and Turkey. According to international joint programmes, we started an International Ph.D programme in Economics and Management of Natural Resources in cooperation with Megatrend University of Belgrade (Serbia), Alma Mater University and Saint Petersburg State Forest Technical University (SPbSFTU) – Russia.

In May 2012, we promoted the establishment of the Adriatic Linked University Network (ALUm), which involves 10 countries around the Adriatic-Ionian basin (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Macedonia (FYROM), Greece, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Italy) and whose aim is to foster international cooperation in research and education through joint projects (Msc, masters, Ph.d programmes, international staff and students mobility and credit recognition, research programs). LUM University has been named as the leading institution and official seat of the network for the next 3 years. So far, we have promoted two international conferences among ALUm partners in order to define priorities and cross-competences in the network.

Our institutional strategy for international cooperation is based on 3 pillars:

- Increase the number of mobility opportunities in EU and non-EU countries for our outgoing students from the Departments of Economics and Law;
- Improving the quality of teaching and scientific research in the Departments;

-Creating an attractive international environment for incoming students from EU and non-EU countries by focusing on strategic partnerships and innovative joint degree programs.

In order to be effective, we have decided to play a double-sided strategy for incoming and outgoing students, that puts the capacity building for international teaching and research at the center. With regard to geographical areas, according to the 2014-2020 period we will focus on:

-Western European Union Countries (France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Austria, UK, Germany, Ireland) and Northern-European countries (Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway) and attractive non-EU countries (USA, Latin America, India, Russia, China), in order to give outgoing students new learning opportunities from developed countries or international attractive countries. We have already established Bilateral Agreements with some countries and we are actively working on others;

-Countries from Eastern and South-Eastern EU (Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Greece, Turkey) and South-Eastern neighbors (Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, FYROM), mainly through the ALUM network.

In the choice of the partners, we privilege flexibility, quality of research, organization and faculties. Good strategic partners are little and flexible universities, where we can also activate a dialogue with faculty members for scientific projects. So far, we have had a very successful track record of partnerships established with developing countries where we can play a real first mover role. Concerning target groups, we believe that our core is in the 1st and 2nd cycle, even if we started in recent years a significant international relationship within PhD programs (3rd cycle). We observed that mobility carried out in the 1st cycle is easier depending on the field of study where students can find more corresponding subjects. In the 2nd cycle (Msc) the number of corresponding subjects is lower and students prefer the Erasmus Placement Programme. In the 3rd cycle, we expect a growth of mobility according to the Ph.D. policy that requires a semester of exchange. According to the international capacity building, we also consider staff members to be a priority target.