



Universitatea de Științe Agricole și Medicină Veterinară a Banatului din Timișoara  
Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Timișoara

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

The mission of the University is to provide a high level of learning, teaching, and research experience for all those who are studying and working into it, as well to ensure scientifically research, academic extension and consultancy. The University is committed to respect in full the principles of the non-discrimination set out in the Programme and ensure equal access and opportunities to mobile participants from all backgrounds.

Participation of our University in the Erasmus Programme is to be a part of the modernization of Europe's higher education systems, conceived to respond to the Europe 2020 strategy for supporting growth and jobs.

### *Objectives*

The strategic objectives of the University are to: stimulate the students to study and make placements abroad in order to increase their experience for an international working environment, encourage the students to develop their linguistic, social and intercultural skills, provide opportunities to continue the academic interaction, enhancing their scientifically and technological knowledge, increase staff international profile and perspectives, develop syllabi projects and international research partnerships, and reinforce mobility and cooperation based on Bologna process. An important objective is to develop cooperation with institutions from our region and also from Western Europe, countries such as UK, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, even that some universities from these countries are constantly refusing new entry contacts, due to a high number of agreements. The University is oriented also to attract students and staff from the Non-EU countries, from Middle East, India, and Africa.

### *Priorities*

The priorities of the University are to: actively promote of the Erasmus activities at University info-days, the university's webpage, posters, handouts, and information sessions in different subject areas, thus increase students and staff mobility flow; use the returning students and staff as a valuable resource to promote Erasmus actions for outgoing students and staff; provide a continue support both for outgoing and incoming students and staff; enhance the academic mobility for second and third cycle; attract the best students, academics and researchers from non-EU countries and develop cross-border cooperation; increase researchers mobility.

The University ensures that Erasmus activities are eligible for all students and staff, offering equal opportunities for study and teaching abroad. The full support services for disabled students and staffs are provided. Any individual or group will be treated equally, irrespective of their characteristics. Due to the positive social and cultural atmosphere in the University no any discrimination "based on sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation" are in place. The main target group represents the students of the first and second cycle of study, as well the PhD students.

### *International strategy*

The international strategy is oriented to strengthen the cooperation with partner institutions and to enrich this experience with universities from non-participating countries. The main goal of the University is to train specialists at a very high scientific and technological level which will help them to integrate as fast as possible on the current and future labour market, and stay in a competitive environment due to a great capacity of adapting to competition, change, and innovation. Due to a multicultural environment in Banat's region, where the institution is located, the University will enhance also sustainable and strategic relations with the universities located in this part of Europe.

The development of double, multiple or joint degrees at the undergraduate level is, for the moment, a desideratum, which has to pass through the joint curricula phase. Some degree courses are taught through European joint curricula, so it is very possible to develop joint degrees.

On the other hand, our university has a work in progress, in order to create a joint master degree in the field of Life Sciences, in the frame of CASEE Network, founded in 2010, which involves Life Science Universities in Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Serbia, and Ukraine. CASEE is the ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe, and the Life Science Universities of Central and South Eastern Europe are the basis for sustainable, ecological and economic development of the region. One of the aims of the network is to support the development (and later implementation) of the EU Strategy for the Danube region. A first important step will be done this year, when CASEE will organise a joint summer school, which will be held in our university.

Concerning the PhD joint degrees, we had and we have few PhD in co-direction, and we intend to strategically develop joint PhD studies, in order to develop future research cooperation. The base for realising this purpose is the Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe "Towards a common approach" from the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. Actually, 120 PhD of our students benefitted of grants from structural funds, which included a mobility component. We are looking forward to the Erasmus activities in support of doctoral candidates, but also the Marie Curie Actions and ERC activities in support of doctoral candidates, in order to provide support to our PhD students for a career in ERA.

Concerning the institution`s strategy for the organisation and implementation of the international projects in teaching and training is orientated to increase the number of both, incoming and outgoing of students and teaching staff participating in mobile activities. The relation with EU institutions will be enhanced, and will be developed especially the relations with non-EU institutions. In the field of teaching will try to harmonize the curricula in order to allow the students to get as many specializations they can, while for training, the students will have opportunity to see, learn and acquire the experiences of such non-EU countries. Based on this, common projects will set up, starting from the region where our University is located (i.d. Serbia, Rep. Macedonia, Rep. of Moldova, or countries from the Euro-Asiatic border).

The teaching staff is stimulated to participate in the non-EU mobility which will allow them to enrich their experience and enhance the possibility for new common projects.

### **Expected impact**

Participation of our students and staff in the framework of Programme will allow an increasing attainment levels based on the professional, social and intercultural skill acquired during mobility. All this will allow participants to adapt and integrate on the Europe needs.

Due to the success of the Programme the number of mobile participants, including people from disadvantaged backgrounds, those who are already in the labor market, but want a re-qualification, and students from third countries is expected to increase.

The curricula should be adapted so as to meet the requirements of the labor market, thus facilitates the transition to employment jobs.

We know that for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, Europe needs more graduates. Looking at the figures, we can observe that the percentage of Romanian persons with higher education is almost the lowest in EU - 14%, and the average is 26%. Also, because our country has 4 universities in the field of life sciences, and one of them is ours, we can estimate our national impact at about 25% - about 5 million inhabitants. The European scientific field with the highest funding level is the same field, which takes about 35% from FP7 funds. If the EC sustains the level growth of higher education through different tools like mobility and research funding, we can attract more students and researchers in the university through the number and the quality of the projects implemented.

The reform and modernization of Europe's higher education depends on the competence and motivation of academics and researchers. We motivate and reward excellent teachers through Erasmus teaching assignments. Their transnational mobility is a part of the second Priority, improving the quality and relevance of higher education, including through cooperation between higher education institutions and the labor market. This priority is sustained in our university also by involving employers and labor market institutions in the design and delivery of programmer through our consultative board.

Based on the previous exchanges within the Programme research activities in the regional and cross-border cooperation has started and results are expected to enhance due to development of integrated, and transnational teaching activities. The Bologna Process Implementation Report 2012 revealed that in the EHEA, South and Eastern Europe tend to have more outward students. It is a fact, and the Erasmus Programme is the most reliable for enhancing the academic exchanges, and offers to our institution a powerful tool to be integrated in the EHEA.

Making the knowledge triangle work - linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development - represents another priority. One of the tools for encouraging partnership and co-operation with business is to increase the number of the student placements, in order to develop skills demanded by potential employers, which relates the inter-sectorial factor mobility and agricultural growth. Also, the placements stimulate entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills and learning environments.

Improving governance and funding is to be developed through the administrative and teaching staff mobility, in order to improve strategic leadership and develop strategies to increase the efficiency of funding.