



**ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT of the**  
**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'INSUBRIA**  
**IVARESE02**

**INTERNATIONAL (EU AND NON-EU) STRATEGY**

Since its foundation in 1998, the Università degli Studi dell'Insubria has always been a HEI strongly linked with the territory and local stakeholders. Nevertheless the constant effort to improve the quality of research and teaching as well as the growing demand for internationalization by students and staff, naturally imply the adoption of policies and strategies focused on widening the boundaries of higher education.

Concerning that, a special Committee for Internationalization, composed by teaching, research and administrative staff as well as by students representatives, constantly deals with actions designed to the enhancement of the International dimension of the academic activities. In particular, a major priority of this institution will be a more targeted selection of partner institutions based on the following criteria: The consolidation of already existing agreements that have been proven successful in the context of students and staff mobility and in the field of scientific cooperation; The set-up of new agreements with institutions in developing countries, in accordance with the guidelines of national authorities such as the Italian Ministry of Education; The search of new partners with a special focus on meeting the educational, training and scientific needs of students and staff. Regarding this last criterion, our Committee is open to a wide participation of the different academic actors accepting and assessing suggestions and proposals for new cooperation agreements. Each agreement will be renewed or newly undersigned taking into account general and specific goals: On one hand a general objective is to increase the mobility numbers in relation to both outgoing and incoming students and outgoing and incoming teachers; On the other hand a specific goal is to improve the quality of the mobility in order to let its outcomes become an asset for the enrichment of the personal experience of students and teachers as well as for the growth of the whole academic community.

Such quality improvement will be pursued by the Committee for Internationalization with a careful individuation of target groups and the assessment of their needs, in order to let them match with the mobility opportunities. Concerning that, the main goals are: Extend existing agreements and undersign new ones in order to meet the growing mobility demand of first cycle students within the field of interlinguistic and intercultural mediation and, in general, find new

destinations offering programs in English to allow our students improving its knowledge; Undersign new agreements within the field of Medicine and Surgery to face the current mismatch between mobility opportunities and the medical students demand; Promote training and placement opportunities and develop double degree programs for second cycle students; Design new curricula, especially within the second cycle studies, to be offered in English in order to increase the interest of international students either on mobility or willing to regularly enroll at our institution; Select new EU and non-EU institutions distinguishing themselves with excellence in the research field to set up with exchange agreements for third cycle students, especially within the fields of sciences and technologies; Allocate funds in order to offer an adequate financial support to students and staff involved in mobility programs; Improve services for incoming students and promote the "Collegio Universitario Carlo Cattaneo" a newly built students house in the area where the future Uninsubria campus will have its seat with accommodation and sports facilities, study and computer rooms and libraries.

Regarding double degrees, the University of Insubria just started to participate in the development of such programs within the fields of Economics and Physics, in cooperation with German and Swedish HEI. Joint Teaching Boards have been instituted to design programs that allow an easy recognition of the results achieved by double degree students during their mobility period. Compatibility and flexibility are considered as the better tools to be used for a successful development a Double Degree Program: The compatibility of a core of subjects, corresponding to a defined amount of ECTS, will guarantee the recognition of activities performed abroad that are needed to achieve a specific competence in a scientific field; The flexibility in the accumulation of further ECTS will guarantee the students freedom in the acquisition of additional skills; both will drive the student to the attainment of an International title. Such methodology is included in specific agreements that have been undersigned with the above mentioned HEI and will be used for the institution of new double or multiple degree programs to be developed within different scientific fields.

#### **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**

Beside the increase of the mobility students and the improvement of the mobility quality a major task of our Committee for Internationalization is to promote the mobility of academic staff for teaching and training purposes and, concerning that, the Erasmus action has always been considered by this Committee as one of the best tools to pursue such aim.

Nevertheless further actions have been designed in order to boost the mobility of academic staff: special funds have been allocated to support the outgoing mobility of teaching staff and researchers, particularly towards non-UE destinations, either within the framework of already existing cooperation agreements or with the aim to set new joint projects; additional funds have been reserved to the different didactical and research structures in order to invite visiting professors and visiting fellows, from EU and non-EU countries, for teaching, training and research purposes. Both actions are publicized by means of internal call for proposals and the applications

are carefully assessed and selected by the Committee for Internationalization on the base of criteria such as: the capability to start up new cooperation projects; the accordance with internationalization strategies either at a National level or at the institutional one; the ability to exploit already existing cooperation, both within the framework of structured programs or in the cadre of inter institutional agreements, to design and implement teaching and research projects.

**EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME ON THE MODERNISATION OF the UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'INSUBRIA**

The University of Insubria is willing to reach high levels of quality in accordance to the key issues of the Modernisation Agenda. The participation to the LLP during the period 2007-13 has already proven as a fundamental tool to reach internationalization related objectives at the institutional, national and European levels. In particular the expected outcomes of our participation in the ECHE can be synthesized as follows: the increase of students participating to mobility programs could imply a relevant growth of the title attainment level in fact it is evident in our Institution that students having experienced international mobility have better results and they are more oriented to continue their academic career within second and especially third cycle studies approaching them to the research field; the design of new educational and training programs, according to the global society and economy needs, naturally implies that the international mobility of students and teaching staff becomes a fundamental step within the personal growth of the involved actors as well as a growth opportunity for the entire academic community; widening the international dimension of the HE within and beyond the EU, by supporting the outgoing mobility and by attracting selected international students as well as researchers and teaching staff will be an asset for the academic community and for the social and economic environment where the Institution has its seats; a link between the local and the global economic environment could be built by different actors but our institution has a relevant responsibility in such context, thanks to its strong connection to the territory and its ambitions towards the global dimension of higher education and research; the commitment to act according to precise internationalization policies, the recruitment of additional specialized personnel, the allocation of a larger amount of internal funds and the raising of external ones will be the fundamental resources to achieve all the above mentioned goals.

THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'INSUBRIA

(Prof. Alberto Coen Porisini)

*The paper document bearing the original signature of the Rector is filed at the International Relations Office of the Università degli Studi dell'Insubria*