

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 Portuguese Red Cross (CVP), through its two Higher Education Schools, the Portuguese Red Cross School of Health (ESSCVP) and the Portuguese Red Cross Nursing School from Oliveira de Azeméis (ESENFCVPOA) has been steadily building and consolidating a strong international network with both EU and non-EU countries in the last four years.

Regarding the Red Cross international strategy, and taking into consideration the undergoing changes that Erasmus For All will bring, there are two main axes, that influence the choice of partners, geographical areas and target groups: within the EU cooperation and with countries outside the EU.

Within the EU, the strategy is to focus on activities with fewer partners, but with a more intense, effective and structured cooperation. Main goals are to increase student and staff mobility within the first cycle. The partners are chosen taking in account the already existing working relation and common projects, which are based on mutual trust and allow an efficient recognition of credits gained abroad through effective quality assurance, comparable and consistent use of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement. Geographically in Central and Northern Europe, these strategic partners provide a mobility experience for our students which offer curricular compatibility and a contact with a different work environment, enhancing the development of a European citizenship and also providing a real experience of potential new employability solutions for the students. The main strategic partners are: HAN University of Applied Science; Metropolia University of Applied Science; University College of Northern Denmark; Consortium of Institutes of Higher Education in Health and Rehabilitation in Europe (COHEHRE).

Staff mobility will be mainly targeted towards educators and researchers, and will have as main objectives the possibility to develop innovative and successful teaching/learning methods, raise the performance of learners, foster quality and compability in the curricula, promote the exchange of good practices, and increase the links between education and research.

Student mobility in both first and second cycles will aim to promote student's professional, social and intercultural skills and employability, as well as provide them with the widest range of education possibilities possible, towards a more individual and idiosyncratic personal and professional development.

These objectives will be pursued through study and training motilities, but also through short cycles of studies. The Red Cross will also be committed to exploiting the transformational benefits of ICTs, creating knowledge platforms that can bring several advantages: enrich teaching, improve learning experiences, facilitate access through distance learning, and virtual mobility.

Cooperation with non-EU partners will contemplate a strong bet on existing relations with the Portuguese Speaking African countries (Angola, S. Tomé e Príncipe and Mozambique) and with Timor. This cooperation is essentially aiming at capacity building with Third Countries, promoting student and staff mobility. It is a purpose for consolidating this collaboration to further explore the involvement of other strategic partners such as enterprises, regional authorities or policy stakeholders, in order to allow a wider knowledge alliance. We are also implicated in a Tempus application, for a project intended to provide capacity building in neighbour countries from the EU, namely Russia and Tajikistan.

Given the raising number of Portuguese students seeking for employability opportunities abroad, it is part of the future Red Cross international strategy the progressive opening of the education curricula to methods, practices and technologies used in other countries, in order to provide a more work-based learning experience that can constitute an advantage for a future transition to the job market. In order to achieve this goal, not only the link to other higher education institutions is important, but also an active search for partnerships with the professional institutions and potential employers, promoting a smoother transition for both knowledge and students between the academic and professional world.

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]

Concerning the teaching programmes, in the first cycle, we have invested in Intensive Programmes (IPs). We have three programmes running, and all have a scheduled renewal application. We are also applying to a new IP in Portugal, which if approved provides a better balance between incoming and outgoing mobility. For the second cycle students and teacher exchange we have a Grundtvig program running, aiming to bridge formal and informal learning in health environments. We are working closely with the COHEHRE Consortium, and namely its Academy activities; we have co-founded and intend to be an active part of the European Network of Education in Global Health (www.enegh.eu), which ensures mobility with its two annual 18 ECTS courses.

Concerning training programmes, we intend to strengthen the bilateral agreements, particularly with the partners from Northern Europe whose schools have merged and now are more interested in the resources from partners for finding placements to a larger number of students. The Red Cross school is also committed in consolidating its cooperation with other Red Cross institutions, namely the professional and humanitarian organizations. Given the common mission and vision we aim to create more informal and formal learning opportunities, that can lead to spin-offs, with a particular emphasis in volunteer work, which is one of our institution structural principles.

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]

Attainment levels: One of the main reasons for the number of drop-outs in our schools is the present lack of perspectives about career and employability. Being in the programme will allow to better provide for students transparent information on educational opportunities and outcomes as well as a wider range of options for career path development in a global economy.

In order to attract more students from vocational and other education types into higher education, it is also crucial to further develop clear procedures for recognising learning and experience gained outside formal education and training, as well as developing more informal learning opportunities that can contribute to the social European project.

Improving the quality and relevance: Participating in the programme will allow the Red Cross to pursue its continuous attempt to modernise and enhance the quality of its education: by ensuring the staff mobility, there are means to subject our staff to enriching experiences that can provide them with renewed competences to face the demands of knowledge production and transmission; by creating partnerships with potential employers and professionals, that can ensure that our education is updated and in line with the job market demands; by investing in ICTs and projects that can ensure a richer variety of learning opportunities through the use of technology, ensuring innovative and more flexible environments for the staff and students.

Quality through mobility: By working with a more restricted network, we intend to increase the mobility ratios within our schools, both concerning incoming and outgoing. Through the use of European quality assurance tools such as the European Quality Assurance Register, we create a safer environment with our partners, potentiating mutual trust, academic recognition and mobility (study, training and short term). Regarding the network of Portuguese speaking countries, the plan is also to increase mobility, namely by attracting best students, academics and researchers and developing new forms of cross-border cooperation.

Making the knowledge triangle work: Through the Programme, we intend to consolidate the international network with the Red Cross health institutions throughout the world, for strengthening the link between education and professional institutions. Priority will be given to research partnerships that promote the entrepreneurial skills of the students and produce knowledge that is useful to the health institutions.

Governance and funding: We expect to potentialise resources in order to get additional funding: our international network has shown interest in increasing mobility for practical posts, as students consider Portugal an attractive country for mobility. By providing these, in a more flexible way, increasing the incoming number of mobilities will result in a raise in funding, that we intend to allocate to increasing internal competition by creating a performance reward system.

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

E

Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

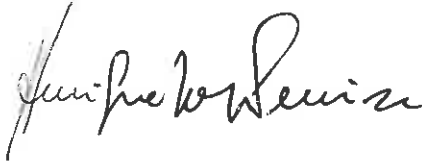
agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: *Oliveira de Azeméis* Name: *Henrique Lopes Pereira* Date (dd/mm/yyyy): *14/05/2013*

I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)



Original stamp or seal of the Institution

