

Erasmus Policy Statement

I. Introduction

University of Maribor (in continuation UM) is a public openly oriented institution standing for excellence in education and knowledge transfer through basic, applied research and artistic expression and endeavours to become a sustainable and socially responsible university in line with the goals of strategic documents on education and training of the EU. Following the principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, we foster international interdisciplinary cooperation and fair competition, guarantee equal opportunities to students, and set freedom of thought and expression as well as non-discrimination in the core of our values. We stand for the highest standards of honesty and integrity. UM is oriented towards enhancement of partnerships with higher education institutions, economy, governmental and non-governmental organisations and society as a whole, with the intension to enrich teaching, research creativity and mobility directed towards the up-bringing of engaged citizens, strengthening democratic and ethical values and civil responsibility, respect for environmental topics, fostering sustainable development and contribution to the public welfare.

II. Principles of Modernisation and Development

In line with its Strategy of Internationalisation and the Strategy for Research Development, University of Maribor enhances international academic and scientific cooperation, develops study programmes adapted to the European labour market and fosters mobility of students and staff, what shall prevent unemployment of graduates after the end of education and fill the gap in the supply chain in knowledge transfer from idea to innovation. There, we adapt the principle of Open Access to knowledge or Innovative Open Technologies, respectively. Aiming for excellence, UM shall continue improvement of institutional mechanisms of quality assessment and assurance, with respect for international standards of quality in higher education.

As a bridge between different highly developed European regions and by the help of its unique connections from the aspect of European macro-regional policies, University of Maribor shall connect students and staff from all parts of the world. For entrepreneurs and companies aiming for creation of a basin of the brightest minds of the region, University of Maribor is building a key innovation centre for the whole environment of UM, for a cohesive and modern European region within the European Education Area and with active inclusion in international networks for knowledge transfer. A modern organisation of university management and structure based on rational use of resources and optimisation of consumption within set priorities shall also be our guideline for a mor effective financing of research and education as well as interest by stakeholders from economy, as well as the returning home of mobile students.

For students and staff not directly participating in mobility, University of Maribor shall conduct a programme of internationalisation at home with an emphasis on development of international study programmes, connecting international students and staff with domestic, an international staff and enrolment policy and consequently an increase of quality in research and education at home.

III. Central Elements of Institutional Policy

In order to ensure the mentioned organisation and development, University of Maribor shall concentrate its wide network of bilateral partners from European higher education institutions and beyond their limits into strategic university networks for cooperation in European Union programmes dedicated to the formation of the European Higher Education Area, with special emphasis on regional development by the roof document on internationalisation of UM. By these partnerships, University of Maribor shall conduct activities for increasing student and staff mobility. Erasmus Student Network at University of Maribor (ESN Maribor), Student Organisation of University of Maribor, Association of Handicapped Students of UM and other student associations at University of Maribor taking care of international experiences of their members, as well as the Student Council of UM are supporting the university in enabling mobility for all students, but especially for students with fewer opportunities, as there are socially weaker students, where equal rights are guaranteed, disregarding gender, or religion of ethical groups. At the university, all are always informed on the fundamental principles of University of Maribor, i. e. disregarding their origin from academic or administrative staff, and UM informs all on success stories within its structures and networks. At UM, special emphasis shall be put on practical training and recognition of soft skills within existing study programmes.

Following established needs for interdisciplinary approaches and international integration of UM, the Strategy of Internationalisation in the field of education names priorities of international interdisciplinary study programmes on all levels, with an emphasis on criteria of international quality and recognition of prior agreed and successfully achieved study obligations by the use of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). University of Maribor is an active supporter for the overcoming of all obstacles in the creation of such programmes.