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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy 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]

International (EU and non-EU) strategy and objectives

HUB-KAHO encourages professional contacts with people and organisations of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds in the fields of education and services to the community. HUB-KAHO adopts a broad internationalisation strategy which aims to increase, integrate and embed international, intercultural and global dimensions in all educational processes.

HUB-KAHO wants to be an international learning environment in which:

- 1.Sustainable work is delivered with local, regional and international organisations;
- 2.People from all over the world work, study and live together in an atmosphere of respect and equal access to information and facilities;
- 3.Mobility windows are embedded into the curricula, which are internationally validated and stimulate the development of international competencies of students & staff members;
- 4.Students receive equal opportunities to develop into internationally competent workers and citizens
- 5.All staff members are supported to gain international knowledge and experiences;

HUB-KAHO addresses the following Erasmus intentions:

- 1.Maximising internationalisation at home experience (by offering courses with an international dimension and organising international activities);
2. Maximising mobility opportunities (by offering study and placement mobility windows within our study programmes);
- 3.Maximising the development of international competencies of all students by strengthening personal growth, enhancing (foreign) language learning, gaining insight into other cultures and behaving as active citizens.

Partner policy

By 2020 twenty percent of our students should participate in a mobility abroad experience, as derived from the Leuven Communiqué (April 2009). Realising this goal not only implies to transform co-operation with our existing partners into sustainable active partnerships, but also means expanding partnerships, especially concerning placement mobility opportunities within Europe and study mobility opportunities outside of Europe. Our partners should be compatible to us and offer education and training that meet the accreditation standards required (e.g. level 6 of the EQF when it comes to study mobility partners).

Geographical scope

Located several cities in Belgium (Aalst, Brussels, Dilbeek, Ghent, Schaarbeek and Sint-Niklaas), the country that hosts the European Union's Commission and parliament, HUB-KAHO has always been paying attention to the European side of internationalisation. Nevertheless our policy of internationalisation aims at worldwide contacts.

Students and staff members should be confronted with an educational setting that is becoming increasingly international and multicultural. Therefore we will evaluate existing partners on a permanent basis and set up new partnerships both with institutes of higher education as well as with other relevant organisations.

HUB-KAHO is also aware that the co-existence of the Dutch, French and German speaking communities in Belgium offer opportunities for enriching exchanges in the fields of study and training.

Target groups of your mobility activities

Research has revealed that study/training/teaching abroad has a positive effect on one's personal development. International experiences at home or abroad, broaden horizons. HUB-KAHO promotes student and staff mobility as an exquisite instrument for developing international competences. HUB-KAHO intends to offer as many opportunities as possible to as many students as possible to include useful international experiences in their local study degree programme, e.g. by participating in an EU or non-EU study or placement mobility window within their study programme or through a personal initiative. HUB-KAHO intends to encourage staff members to develop competences, attitudes, and relevant international activities. Moreover HUB-KAHO intends to take initiatives to develop its staff members' international

competences and will valorise these competences and activities when selecting or promoting staff members.

Our institution intends to create a stimulating environment to study and live in and to develop high quality study programmes that are attractive to students from abroad. HUB-KAHO is working on the development of mobility windows in all its study degree programmes, accessible for both local students and students from abroad. Incoming teachers are encouraged to contribute to the courses offered within the mobility window. We encourage the integration of local and incoming students/staff from abroad actively.

Participation in the development of joint degrees

The Bologna Declaration aims at constructing a European Area of Higher Education that makes the different systems of higher education more comparable and compatible. In doing so overall mobility in education and on the labour market will be promoted. Special attention will be paid to developing joint degree programmes with partners from abroad.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

If not applicable, please explain (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Under the previous EU Lifelong Learning Programme and its predecessors HUB-KAHO already co-ordinated and participated in various European co-operation projects. Both students and staff showed to have developed international competences through their participation in these projects. Therefore HUB-KAHO will continue applying for international (EU and non-EU) co-operation projects. The mobility office, which operates as a project office as well, has many years of experience in setting-up, executing and evaluating projects.

Staff members will be informed about the funding opportunities to apply for international (EU and non-EU) co-operation projects. The project office will assist staff members during the application, implementation, dissemination and evaluation phase of their European/international co-operation project. Furthermore, the budget will also be centrally administered.

In order to make these co-operation programmes more sustainable, HUB-KAHO tries to embed them into the study degree programmes whenever possible. Making sure many students can easily participate and academic recognition is assured. As project participation does not necessarily involve a long term period abroad, projects can more easily guarantee more students to have an international experience. HUB-KAHO also realises that setting-up European/international co-operation project enhances the international compatibility of education.

The management of HUB-KAHO promotes staff member to initiate such projects. Participation enables staff members to acquire international competences and offers them opportunities to disseminate their work internationally. Involvement in these projects is registered at HUB-KAHO's Human Resource Department, and may account towards future promotion.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda *and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.(max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Priority 1: Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates Europe needs

We will provide information on mobility possibilities at HUB-KAHO to future students and supply them with tailored information stimulating them to start studying at HUB-KAHO and benefit from our mobility opportunities.

Priority 2: Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

HUB-KAHO is convinced that our study or placement mobility exchanges with our partners contribute to deliver graduates that meet European Qualification Framework level 6 standards, thus delivering graduates Europe needs. Moreover, these graduates have acquired international competences because of the exchange, enabling them to better functioning in our globalised world.

We will use Europass for formal registration of all mobility experiences enabling future employers to clearly recognise learning and training experience gained abroad.

In line with the EU Digital Agenda we intend to increase the use of virtual learning platforms. Guidance of all our placement students abroad should be facilitated by using virtual learning platforms during their exchange period. For those students who stay at home we intend to increase virtual mobility by exploiting ICT technologies enriching local teaching internationally.

Priority 3: Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

HUB-KAHO has been offering courses with a specific international character for many years. The management of our institute promotes embedding mobility windows for learning and training into the curricula of all its fields of study. This facilitates the exchange of mobile students between higher education institutions (HEI) and stimulates consistent use of ECTS, i.e. a mobility window often comprises a certain amount of successive courses, with a clearly defined workload expressed in terms of credits and thus enhancing the transparency between HEIs. Moreover, HUB-KAHO makes sure that all mobility experiences gained abroad are mentioned on the Diploma Supplement.

Priority 4: Making the knowledge triangle work: linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

Within HUB-KAHO's professional Bachelor programmes, maximum use is going to be made of transnational university-enterprise co-operation. HUB-KAHO is planning to increase its placement mobility with enterprises, and centres of health care, social service and training abroad. We are convinced by co-operating with enterprises and centres more intensively, we will improve transfer of knowledge to the market more effectively and thus positively contributing to jobs and growth.

Priority 5: Improving governance and funding

To better the social dimension in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), we will together with our social service office at HUB-KAHO screen for those students who most need a grant, and ensure that financial support reaches mobile students from lower income backgrounds.

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