



UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

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)

The strategic objective of UNIZD is to become regional academic and research centre, developing not only traditional study programmes of humanities and social studies, but also study programmes in natural and technical sciences. The partners are chosen with the aim to fulfil this goal. Most of our partners are from EU countries where most of the outgoing mobility is realized not only through the Erasmus programme, but also through other programmes like for example CEEPUS. The latter programme enables us to link another geographical area of interest- the Balkan countries. The strategic orientation of the University of Zadar, and especially now when the accession of Croatia to the EU is imminent, is to strengthen the cooperation with the region and to represent the point of transferring knowledge in the less developed neighbouring countries which will surely become EU members in the future. We are proud to say that our participation in LLP, although short, was successful and we feel that we gained benefits and experience that we want to transfer to others. Another geographical area of our interest is Russia, where we have already established contacts and signed agreements that will enable us to further develop our plans to introduce more study programmes in natural and technical sciences. We consider that those study programmes will educate competent young people who will gain skills and competencies that will enable them to become leaders in economic growth of Zadar and Zadar County. In the past few years there was regular incoming mobility of US academics coming to the University of Zadar as Fulbright scholars usually for one semester and holding lectures to our students in English, which is considered to be an added value for our students.

The mobility of academic and administrative staff and student mobility in particular was promoted from the foundation of the University of Zadar because, in our opinion, it is the most efficient way to create new international environment at the University. The staff members that participated in mobility abroad, most of them younger teachers and teaching assistants, represent the leading force in the academic and research development of the University. From the start, the student mobility was also encouraged. Besides the Erasmus financial support, the University and their home departments provide additional financial support for the outgoing mobility of undergraduate, graduate and also doctoral students. Thus, the undergraduate and graduate students get the opportunity to gain the experience of education in international environment and to grow both socially and personally. On the other hand, the mobility of doctoral students is also considered to be important because it enables them to do the research for their doctoral thesis at the Universities where most of the data that they need could be found. Special emphasis is put on promoting the mobility for purpose of placements, which is considered to be important as preparation of our students to entering the labour market. In order to enhance this type of mobility some of the departments

have established partnerships with institutions abroad which regularly accept our students for placements. Currently, there are four joint degree study programmes at the University of Zadar, three graduate study programmes and one doctoral study programme. One of them is developed under Tempus project JoinSEE and the experience and expertise gained in this project contributed to the successful implementation of the joint study programme. In the view of further growth of the Universities, implementation of other joint degree programmes will be encouraged, especially the interdisciplinary ones and those dealing with economic and social progress of the local community. The procedure for the implementation of the study programme in Underwater Technologies, which will be held entirely in English, has already started. It will be the first study programme taught entirely in English at the University of Zadar and offered also to the international degree students.

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)

At the University of Zadar there are two offices strictly dealing with projects: Science Office and Office for Infrastructure Funds and Development. The experience gained in implementing Tempus projects build capacity for further development of FP7 projects, IPA projects and future Horizon 2020 projects. With respect to the projects implemented under the Programme, the University of Zadar participates in two Erasmus IP projects: Geography of Water and European Wilderness Entrepreneurship. In both of these projects the University of Zadar participates actively as partner. In July 2013 the seminar on Water policies in karst areas will be held. The participants, students and academics, besides attending various lectures on topics that deal with water management on the islands of Zadar archipelago and in karst areas will also participate in field trips to several interesting destinations, national and nature parks close to Zadar. The participants will be able to see on the spot how the environmental issues are dealt with in these areas and meet the local stakeholders. Another Erasmus IP project is dealing with agricultural land use in various parts of Europe. In the framework of this project, several students of the University of Zadar participated in two-week seminar in Spain and Portugal during March and April 2013. The aim of this project is to try to combine the entrepreneurship and nature conservation offering new directions which will enable the sustainable development. We find the participation in this project very important because it can provide the local community, most of all in Lika (a Croatian region where the Centre for Sustainability founded by the University of Zadar is situated) a new insight in how to grow economically preserving the nature resources.

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 (1. increase the number of HE graduates, 2. improve quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competence they need to succeed in high-skill occupations, 3. provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, encourage cross-border cooperation to boost HE performance, 4. strengthen the “knowledge triangle” – education, research and business, 5. create effective governance and funding mechanism in support of excellence) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)



The University of Zadar participated in the Programme from the academic year 2010/2011 and in the past three years we noted more and more interested students, both in outgoing and incoming mobility. We feel that the possibility of spending a study period abroad is encouraging element for our students who try harder to achieve better results. Also, the students who have already spent the study period abroad confirm that it was a very important experience for them which made them feel truly as part of the European/international environment. The participation of the teaching staff in outgoing mobility, whether in teaching assignments or training, brought many changes in the everyday university life. They have introduced new, international element in their work with students advising them about the possibilities of spending study period abroad and helping them to decide about their future educational and career choices. This new element is very important in view of the accession of Croatia to the EU, being the cohesion factor not only in higher education, but also in economic development and labour market. In this respect, the possibility of the placements in international companies and institutions is invaluable. Therefore, the students will be even more encouraged to apply for placements, because the experience of working in the European labour market will give them an added value in developing their careers. These European experiences of both, academics and students will be transferred to other, less developed neighbouring countries, through CEEPUS programme, Tempus and Erasmus Mundus projects. The project Arhipelagos predicts the revival of islands and inland by building the net of the centres of excellence together with the City of Zadar and local community. The technological solutions developed by the academics of the University of Zadar are successfully offered to the world of business. The University of Zadar educates students with adequate competencies and skills for the strategic development of Zadar region, especially in the areas of tourism, agriculture and maritime studies. A strong impetus in achieving higher level of excellence at the University of Zadar will be achieved by building the new university campus and university library and by development of new study programmes in the fields of natural, technical, biotechnical and biomedical sciences. The University participates in founding of the Centre of new technologies, with purpose of creating developmental and innovative centre of competences, as well as business incubator in the fields of mechatronics and robotics.