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)

Translation language [EN]
The University of Florence traditionally dedicates a particular attention to the internationalisation process and to the development of the cooperation with Institutions all over the world.

From the start of the Bologna Process the University has acted with remarkable energy in this sector. We can affirm that the internationalisation policy has become a dominant strategic objective in our Institution's life, involving all sectors from research to didactics, from the organization of degree courses to the mobility of teaching and administrative staff, researchers and students. Among the strategic goals we count in fact both the internationalization of research, through the participation to European programmes and the negotiation of Bilateral Agreements with Higher Education institutions, and the internationalization of didactics, based most of all on the mobility of teaching staff and students. Our main goals are on one side the development and implementation of international projects and the creation of an European Space of Research and, on the other, the creation of an organized cooperation network aiming at activating first, second and third cycle degrees of international value, keeping in mind the role played by international exchanges starting from the very first years of study at the University, such as the Erasmus Programme which at present counts more than 650 partner Institutions. As to the choice of partners, this is usually made by Departments in accordance with the strategic guidelines of the Institution.

As a rule, international agreements are activated upon proposal of the Departments which, by means of this tool, put in writing cultural and scientific cooperation in specific fields of study. In our Institution many agreements involve more than one Department.

In these agreements parties establish the common research and/or didactic sector, the method of exchanging teaching and administrative staff and students, on a basis of reciprocity; some agreements include activities aimed at implementing common degree courses, others plan the realization of integrated research projects and the transfer of technical and scientific experiences.

Up to date there are more than 260 cultural and scientific cooperation agreements validly stipulated with a corresponding number of partner Institutions, the number of agreements being tripled with respect to the year 2000.

Every year the University of Florence indicates the geographical priorities and the selection criteria, if any, within the framework of the international strategies it intends to pursue. In the year 2013 the University of Florence has chosen the following prioritary geographical areas:

1. Latin America, with a particular attention to sustainable development-related issues
2. Eastern European countries, with a particular attention to transition economies (especially Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, former Yugoslavia);
3. Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Israel, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Algeria, Libya and Lebanon);
4. Northern America, with a particular attention to agreements involving the activation of international postgraduate degrees and master's programmes which lead to jointly recognized qualifications, on a basis of reciprocity.
5. China, India, Korea, Kazakhstan;
6. Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea)

The main target groups of the international strategy of the University of Florence and of its actions dedicated to incoming and outgoing mobility are and will mainly be the first and second cycle students from EU and non-EU countries, focusing the attention on geographical areas such as Brazil (with this country the University is developing a project named “Science without Borders”) and China.

Among the actions aimed at promoting mobility, our University is planning to invest resources also in the development of postgraduate exchanges (our University is already counting many international double-degree PhD courses) and the mobility of researchers and teaching staff who, by means of these activity, can give a fundamental contribution to the implementation of international agreements and of joint academic qualifications. In this framework a particularly important role is played by the projects involving the integration of courses of study which lead to joint/double and multiple degrees, which in our University are already quite numerous (with prestigious European Higher Education Institutions: Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne, Friedrich-Wilhelms Universitaet Bonn, Eotvos Lorand University Budapest, Sts Cyril and Methodius University Skopje, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona). In the near future the University of Florence expresses its will to pursue these goals and to intensify these strategic targets with the aim of widening the academic offer in an international direction.

Original language [IT]
L'Università degli Studi di Firenze tradizionalmente dedica particolare attenzione al processo di internazionalizzazione e allo sviluppo dei rapporti di collaborazione con Università estere.

Dall'avvio del processo di Bologna l'Università di Firenze si è mossa con notevole dinamismo in questi ambiti. Si può oggi dire che la strategia dell'internazionalizzazione è divenuta un aspetto strategico e dominante della vita dell'Ateneo: nella ricerca, nella didattica, nell'organizzazione degli studi, nella mobilità di docenti, ricercatori e studenti.

Fra gli obiettivi strategici si collocano, infatti, sia l'internazionalizzazione della ricerca, attraverso la partecipazione ai programmi europei e la stipula di accordi bilaterali con le Università straniere, sia l'internazionalizzazione della didattica, basata principalmente sulla mobilità dei docenti e degli studenti. Scopi primari sono, da una parte, lo sviluppo di progetti internazionali e la creazione dello Spazio Europeo della Ricerca, e dall'altra, la costituzione di una rete sistematica di collaborazioni intese a realizzare titoli di studio a valenza internazionale, dalle lauree ai dottorati di ricerca, senza dimenticare il ruolo che hanno gli scambi internazionali fin dai primi anni della formazione universitaria, a cominciare dal Programma Erasmus che attualmente vede la collaborazione con oltre 650 Atenei partner. Per quanto riguarda la scelta dei partner, essa viene effettuata dai Dipartimenti in linea con le diretrici strategiche individuate dall'Ateneo. Gli accordi internazionali sono infatti attivati di norma su proposta dei Dipartimenti che, con questo strumento, formalizzano rapporti di collaborazione culturale e scientifica in determinati settori. Numerosi accordi coinvolgono più Dipartimenti.

Negli accordi i partner stabiliscono, secondo criteri di reciprocità, il settore di ricerca e/o di didattica, le modalità di scambio del personale docente, tecnico-amministrativo e degli studenti; taluni accordi prevedono attività per la individuazione e realizzazione di percorsi formativi comuni, altri prevedono la realizzazione di progetti integrati di ricerca e il trasferimento di esperienze tecniche e scientifiche.

Al mese di maggio 2013 si registrano oltre 260 accordi di collaborazione scientifica e culturale in vigore con altrettante Università estere, con una triplicazione degli accordi in vigore nel 2000.

L'Ateneo individua annualmente le priorità geografiche ed eventuali criteri selettivi nell'ambito delle strategie internazionali che esso intende perseguire.

Per l’anno 2013 sono state individuate le seguenti aree geografiche prioritarie:
1. Paesi dell’America Latina, con particolare riguardo ai temi dello sviluppo sostenibile;
2. Paesi dell’Europa orientale, con particolare riguardo ai temi dell’economia in fase di transizione (in particolare Albania, Azerbaigian, Bielorussia, Russia, Ucraina, ex-Jugoslavia);
3. Paesi dell’area mediterranea meridionale e orientale (Egitto, Marocco, Tunisia, Giordania, Autorità Palestinese, Israele, Afghanistan, Iran, Siria, Turchia, Algeria, Libia e Libano);
4. Paesi dell’America settentrionale, con particolare riguardo ad accordi che prevedano la progettazione e la realizzazione congiunte, su base di reciprocità, di corsi di studio post-laurea (dottorato internazionale, master);
5. Cina, India, Corea, Kazakhstan;
6. Paesi del Corno d’Africa (Etiopia, Eritrea).

I destinatari principali della strategia di internazionalizzazione dell’ateneo e delle sue azioni per la mobilità in ingresso e in uscita, saranno anzitutto gli studenti di I e II livello dei paesi UE ed extra-UE con particolare attenzione per certe aree geografiche quali ad esempio Brasile (con cui l’Ateneo sta sviluppando il progetto Scienza senza Frontiere) e Cina. Nelle azioni di promozione della mobilità saranno investite risorse anche nel promuovere lo scambio a livello di dottorati (già l’Ateneo ha numerosi dottorati internazionali a doppio titolo) e di giovani ricercatori nonché docenti che attraverso la mobilità contribuiscono all’implementazione degli accordi internazionali e dei titoli dotti. In tale ambito occupano un particolare ruolo i progetti relativi a percorsi integrati di studio che portano al rilascio di titoli congiunti, dotti o multipli che nell’Ateneo sono abbastanza numerosi (con prestigiose Istituzioni universitarie europee: Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne, Friedrich-Wilhelms Universitaet Bonn, Eotvos Lorand University Budapest, Sts Cyril and Methodius University Skopie, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Universidade Complutense de Madrid e Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona). Nel prossimo futuro l’Ateneo intende proseguire ed intensificare tale linea strategica di ampliamento dell’offerta formativa in direzione internazionale.

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)

Translation language [EN]
The University of Florence is planning to implement an organization of the activities related to international relations which involves the Research and International Relations Area and the Didactics and Student Services Area, charging them with the following tasks 1) promoting the participation in research and cooperation programmes financed by the European Union and supporting the participation of academic staff and researchers, informing them on the Calls regarding the areas of didactics and research, providing the necessary documentation, drafting the guidelines and other information material on the participation to projects, planning and organizing Information days and continuing education or training courses, publishing web pages dedicated to international projects and providing mentoring and support on application procedures, recording grant agreements and conventions relevant to projects financed by the European Union, disseminating the results of the participation to approved projects 2) strengthening and developing international cooperation agreements with HEIs located in foreign countries, outlining administrative procedures for Bilateral Agreements (Erasmus and non Erasmus), 3) coordinating, supporting and monitoring international programs promoted by the University, by the Ministry of Education or other Institutional bodies, 4) managing the allocation of University funding to international activities, such as participation in UE programmes, promotion of exchanges in the framework of didactic, scientific and cultural cooperation agreements, organization of lectures by visiting professors and welcome to foreign delegations. Since 2002 the University of Florence has set up a specific item cost in its budget with the aim of supporting the internationalisation process of the University, covering the expenses relevant to the implementation of international cooperation agreements focusing on research and education-related projects.

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)

The achievement of the policy objectives and strategies of internationalization of the University of Florence indicated in the above sections will make it possible for our Institution to give a fundamental contribution to the modernization of Higher Education, increasing the level of the academic qualifications of both students and researchers. Thanks to transnational cooperation and mobility activities it will be possible to foster excellence and regional development, creating a network connecting higher education, research and enterprises.