

## Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

International cooperation comprises relations with foreign universities with which UP has already signed cooperation agreements, establishment of new contacts and cooperation with foreign higher education and research institutions as well as membership and participation in international associations and organizations. UP is member of 13 associations and networks, including the Rectors 'Conference of the Alps-Adriatic Universities and the Danube Rectors' Conference. Many relations are tied to the area in which the university operates - at the crossroad of Central Europe, South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Therefore UP is very active in cross-border programs and is also included in the network of universities from Adriatic countries and from countries gravitating around the Adriatic area (ALUm). Most of the partner institutions are from Austria, Italy and former Yugoslavia (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro). Since the establishment, the UP has signed almost 60 bilateral cooperation agreements with universities in Austria, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Chile, Montenegro, Finland, Croatia, India, Italy, Israel, Kosovo, Latvia, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Taiwan and the USA. New international contacts are established primarily when preparing the submission of international development projects, with a special emphasis on strengthening the cooperation with universities from the Alps-Adriatic area. UP is in the process of preparing a new development strategy, as the existing Medium Term Development Strategy 2009-2013 will expire. The same applies for the Program of Internationalization of UP 2010-2013. The UP was the first Slovenian university that adopted the Program of Internationalization, in which the following 10 objectives were set:

- 1) Increasing the volume of lectures and courses in English and other foreign languages;
- 2) Design and implementation of international study programmes and programmes that lead to double or joint degrees;
- 3) Providing scholarships for foreign students studying at the UP, with an emphasis on students from the region of Southeast Europe;
- 4) Increasing the number of obtained international research projects involving members of the UP;
- 5) Confirming the obtained medium term growth rate of international mobility 2004/05-2008/9 in the period 2007/8-2012/13 (50% average annual growth),
- 6) Establishing a structure for quality design, operation and management of European programmes and projects at the UP and its members which is partly self-financed (UP International Centre);
- 7) Gaining European funding for the establishment of international centres as organizational units of the UP, which integrate partner institutions and experts from abroad and are partly self-financed;
- 8) Dismissal of legal obstacles to the internationalization of the UP;
- 9) Establishing the UP as a renowned university for areas of natural and cultural contact;
- 10) Providing infrastructural conditions for the development of international activities of the UP and its members.

The new strategy for international cooperation will be based on the evaluation of the existing Program of internationalization. One of the main goals remains to raise the number of courses taught in English, which is a prerequisite for the

increase of number of enrolled students from foreign countries. In doing so, we will primary orient to students from the adjoining regions. We will also continue to rich the goal of increasing the number of joint degree programs with other universities. In this area, UP was the first in Slovenia that in 2005 developed and successfully implemented joint Master's program. In 2013, we successfully accredited a new joint Master's program. In the preparation of joint study programs, the attentive selection of partner universities based on mutual trust and the quality experience of previous participation, is crucial. The draft of the new strategy 2014-2020 comprises a short-term objective of increasing the mobility of students; namely 10% of the number of students enrolled at UP. With this, we aim to raise the international composition of the student population and the teaching staff at the university, and create a university environment that stimulates cultural and linguistic diversity.