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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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)

Original language [EN]

Metropolitan University College provides professional bachelor and academy programmes aiming at the welfare and private sector. Thus, the target groups for Programme activities indicated in this policy statement are within 1st cycle.

Mobility and international cooperation are central elements in the institutional policy. The institution is engaged in multiple international activities and is greatly benefitting from participation in activities of the Life Long Learning Programme as well as Nordplus and other cooperation and mobility programmes.

The institution has comprehensive experience engaging in both large-scale and smaller-scale European and international cooperation projects, as partner as well as project holder. Experience relates to a broad range of international project types (R&D, policy analysis, policy recommendation, capacity building).

Outgoing student mobility is strongly approaching the Bologna 2020 aims. Short term mobility included, approx. 19 % of the institution's students complete a study or placement period abroad.

Incoming student mobility has more than doubled in a few years. An international Bachelor's Degree in Global Nutrition and Health is provided and also open to exchange students.

A recent extensive strategy process involving all programmes and departments has resulted in an institutional 2020 strategy. The main vision is to be an important contributor to the development and renewal of the welfare and private sector. Therefore, high quality in both content and delivery of the programmes is a top priority as is close cooperation with stakeholders. The foundation for the professional programmes will be best practice within the respective professional disciplines and state of the art in R&D. An essential instrument is to increase the number of lecturers that hold a PhD degree as well as improving the integration of theory and practice. Priority will be given to R&D activities closely linked to practice needs, thus aiming at qualifying future professionals to provide better services.

Internationalization is considered to be a crucial driver in the institution's empowerment to meet these aims. Therefore European and international cooperation will be even more central elements in the future institutional policy.

Recognizing this fact, Metropolitan UC has primo 2013 initiated a process analyzing and evaluating existing international partnership activities up till now. The aim of this process is to strengthen knowledge-based cooperation and added value and to focus and strengthen cooperation with selected partners matching the general institutional and departmental strategies. Thus, the ambition is to promote synergy between mobility activities and other cooperation activities. Furthermore, attempts will be made to include employers within relevant sectors in cooperation activities aiming at mutual development of professional knowledge. This process is considered to be an important step towards identifying potentials for engaging in strategic partnership activities at institutional/departmental level and thus addressing key action 2 of the Programme.

An essential part of the process is to develop structures to further improve the number of lecturers and students engaged in mobility and focused international teaching/learning activities.

The present portfolio in courses, modules and placements taught in English will continue to be developed.

Institutional capacity building activities will also be addressed by facilitating knowledge exchange with international partners within key areas of technical, administrative support, for instance by organizing and participating in staff training activities and joining relevant projects e.g. targeting mutual development of IT and e-learning activities etc. Key action 1 will strongly support these activities.

Metropolitan UC has a global outlook and will continue to engage in close partnerships in as well as outside Europe.

Attempts are made to strengthen relations outside the EU, e.g. by providing a number of scholarships for highly qualified students.

Long time close cooperation with Nordic countries will still be a high priority including activities for developing the Copenhagen-Malmö Region. The main consideration for selecting partnerships will be strategic matching, bilateral benefit and added value. Therefore geographical priorities will develop continuously from the above-mentioned strategy process.

International network cooperation has high priority and also addresses potentials in key action 3. Through the Danish Rectors' Conference Metropolitan UC is member of EURASHE and UASnet, thus contributing actively to European policy development for HEI. Most of the programmes are actively engaged in European and world-wide international professional

and interdisciplinary networks, some holding board positions. These networks provide a strategic platform for selection and quality assurance of partnerships.

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)

Original language [EN]

The ongoing partnership evaluation is aiming at participation in strategic partnership projects. Thus a strategy on implementation of specific projects is still premature. The strategy is to strengthen the knowledge dimension, increase staff participation and add a European Dimension to the programmes. When participating in projects the institution's general procedures for cooperation projects will be applied:

All projects are centrally anchored. Great emphasis will be on sustainability, balance and compliance with institutional/departmental strategy. Objectives, task division, responsibilities and resources should be clearly defined and potential synergy with other projects and funding sources addressed e.g. ongoing activities within NORDPLUS, INTERREG etc.

For the internal organization on project activities the institution has implemented an electronic project portfolio management system aiming at monitoring and quality assuring project activities. This allows project leaders and -owners to continuously monitor the progress of projects.

Aiming at capacity building and professionalizing project cooperation targeted courses in project management and project coordination are provided thus addressing both managing and administrative support skills.

Time spent on project activities is compensated in staff's workload and recognized in their competence development.

Student participation is strongly supported. Potential accreditation of students' project activities is agreed beforehand and further recognition models for student participation is still worked on.

Additional models for implementation and dissemination of project outcome are still addressed. At present following strategies are in use:

Dissemination on website, internal meetings and international academic network conferences

Involving Communications Dep. from the very first phase of a project's life cycle

Project skills and outcome published at 'UC-viden', a knowledge portal for DK univ. colleges

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)

Original language [EN]

Metropolitan UC's 2020 strategy identifies 5 areas of action:

- More teachers practicing research
- Closer integration of practice into teaching
- Greater emphasis on training and practice
- Stronger students faced with more stringent demands
- Access to information 24/7

The strategy addresses the modernization agenda set out by the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education. Likewise it is monitored through the annual Development Contracts between the Ministry and the institution. Programme participation in mobility and projects will impact on all mentioned action areas and strongly contribute to achieving the ambitions.

Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europa needs.

Developing quality and options for student mobility are considered to contribute to promoting attainment levels and attractiveness of the programmes offered. The Programme's support to increasing engagement in obliged cooperation with strategic partners will impact the institution's capacity building aiming at achieving more teachers researching, strengthening competence development and improving quality.

Improving the quality and relevance of higher education:

The quality aspect is especially addressed through the improvement of strategically rooted teaching mobility aiming at developing innovation and quality of course content and teaching methods. Sharing knowledge through mobility and active partnerships will support the ambition on contribution to innovation on welfare solutions.

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

The Programme provides crucial support for the continuous improvement of student and staff mobility. Mobility and project activities will contribute to professional and personal empowerment of students and staff providing language skills, professional knowledge and intercultural competences. Mobility for placements has a specific attraction in providing new practice knowledge and skills with potential for innovation of professional practices after returning, including potential for innovation of teaching learning activities.

Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development:

The Programme opportunities to integrate relevant enterprises in strategic partnerships will support the institution strategy for high-quality partnerships and close relation between education, research and welfare stakeholders aiming at relevance, innovation and employability.

Improving governance and funding:

The institution is overall committed to enhancing governance structures. An important issue is added value and synergy across different international (and national) activities and funding sources. The Programme's impact will be essential by contributing to this with external funding.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM.2011.0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)