



University of  
Zagreb

*prof. dr. sc. Aleksa Bjeliš*  
RECTOR

Class: 605-01/13-22/60  
Nr.: 380-153/114-14-2  
Zagreb, 08 January 2014

## *Erasmus Policy Statement*

### International (EU and non-EU) strategy

University of Zagreb founded in 1669, is the oldest and strongest higher education institution in Croatia consisting of 29 faculties, 3 art academies and the Centre for Croatian Studies. It offers a wide range of academic degree courses leading to Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in: Arts, Biomedicine, Biotechnology, Engineering, Humanities, Natural and Social Sciences. It is a strongly research oriented institution, contributing with over 50 percent to the total research output of Croatia. Further development of the University of Zagreb as a research and teaching institution is a central strategic issue. Its aim is to remain the main national university preserving the academic traditions of the Croatian society, promoting the Croatian culture and at the same time to continue to develop as a leading university in the region. The set goals are stressed in a number of strategic documents accepted by the Senate of the University. All the goals are all in line with the Bologna Process and the current Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). The University of Zagreb has a long tradition in international cooperation, in both education and research and internationalization is a key-issue in its development. The University is making a great effort to strengthen its international cooperation. Since the academic year 2011/12 Croatia became a full member of the LLP and University of Zagreb signed over 700 Erasmus bilateral agreements with over 400 partner higher education institutions (HEI) in 24 countries of the European Union. Additionally University has over 100 bilateral agreements with HEI institutions in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia regulating different types of cooperation and activities in order to improve the academic cooperation. The existing collaboration with regard to education and research is intensified and extended wherever possible and one of the strategic priorities is the cooperation with neighbouring countries. University of Zagreb is continuously trying to improve the quality and to increase the number of mobilities at all levels including staff mobility. A high emphasis is given to student placements since practical work experience is a crucial added value for students and their future careers. The University goal is to reach the mobility target, in number of students going abroad for studies or training formulated at Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Ministerial conference. The University also cooperates with partner universities through different projects as well as through university and student networks and associations (AUDEM, AUF, CASEE - ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe, CEI UniNet, DRC, EPUF,

EUA, IUC, SEFI, UNICA and AARC). It is especially active in UNICA and DRC networks. It is the aim of the University to further develop its international dimension in accordance with the Bologna Process and use European programmes as an instrument to improve academic quality and performance in view of faster integration into the European Higher Education and Research Area. Further objectives include: internationalization and strengthening European dimension (with regard to education, research, administration); enhancement of quality culture and quality assurance; continuous development of existing and new study programmes in order to ensure the quality, but also the employability of its graduates, in closer cooperation with industry; development of continuous education courses; promotion and support of mobility programs for students, academic and administrative staff, researchers, especially in the context of Erasmus cooperation (mobility: studies/placement, intensive language courses, intensive programmes, multilateral and thematic networks); promote diversity in student and staff as well widening participation issues. The University supports the establishment of joint study programmes, primarily on master and doctoral levels (facilitated through the Centre for Advanced Academic Studies established in Dubrovnik) and other forms of cooperation with international institutions such as co-tutelle and joint research networks. In this context, together with participation in international networks, the University supports regional networks (i.e. cooperation among regional universities in doctoral programmes).

*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.*

University Senate approved Guidelines for Development and Restructuring of the University of Zagreb in which one of the objectives is the internationalization. The University is currently in process of developing an internationalization strategy which will include the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training.

*Expected impact of the participation in the Programme on the modernisation of University of Zagreb*

In a number of strategic documents the University adopted an learning outcomes-based system in accordance with the Croatian Qualifications Framework. A procedure for recognition of learning and experience gained outside formal education and training (in form of extracurricular activities for students) was established. The University is determined to develop diversity and widening participation for students and staff and due to that to actively work to ensure that everyone should have equal opportunities for learning and personal development, including lifelong learning. The University will continue to offer scholarships to students coming from lower income background, students with disabilities and to excellent students. One of the strategic aims of the University is to increase the number of graduating students at Master level as well as those graduating in some specific fields such as STEM fields as well as Biomedicine, Biotechnology, ICT ect. Committee and Office for Quality Management defines standards of study programmes and monitors their implementation. Additionally, the University will continuously work on increasing the influence of student evaluation of teachers and quality of teaching. Handbook on Quality Assurance defines

quality assurance system, mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the QAS development level, and the plan of activities aimed at improving the system. One of the main strategic aims is internationalization. In this regards, the University will work to improve the quality and to increase the number of mobilities. The University will continue to support and encourage students coming from lower income background and other underprivileged groups to participate in mobility projects. Furthermore, the University aims to increase the level of cooperation with partner institutions and quality of the programmes by participating in number of projects and sharing the best practices. In order to attract more international students, the University is each year increasing the number of study programmes and courses taught in English or some other EU language. In the research domain, the University organizes innovative and creative workshops to improve entrepreneurial and research skills. One of the central goals of the University is to be a research oriented institution with teaching of high quality. Direct public funding is the most important income source for the University. Additional sources of funding come from other science education activities including student fees, R&D and professional activities, donations and publications. Agreement on public funding of student fees between Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the University defines aims and measures to be taken in the next three years in order to assure quality of teaching and learning.



Prof. dr. sc. Aleksa Bjeliš  
Rector

Handwritten initials in blue ink, possibly "Sj", located to the left of the official seal.