

UGD EPS (Erasmus Policy Statement)

The University Goce Delcev has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2014-2020. The Erasmus Policy Statement (below) sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.

The University Goce Delcev is a young university situated in an area with good socioeconomic and development prospects. Since its creation and after a process of analysis of functions and capacities, the UGD policy incorporates internationalisation on its management plans as a matter of priority, supporting any initiative with programmes and calls and advising about opportunities. Considering internationalisation as a transverse process, it impels and develops the global strategy of the University, in which Erasmus activities have a main role. The aims of the UGD International Strategy are:

- To establish strategic plans for international relations on each degree based on current mobility experience, its academic and the researcher projection on areas that offer added value on teaching.
- To foster new partnerships and visibility in order to improve teaching and research activity as well as the attraction of international students.
- To elaborate mixed Study Programmes that might lead to offer double degrees.
- To spread the results of international activities fostering the getting together of methodology, surveys and pedagogical material to be translated into other languages.
- To promote widening and strengthening actions in order to increase the student mobility.

From 2014 the UGD has actively promoted student exchange programmes as a result of our commitment to the Erasmus Programme. The number of students and teachers taking part in exchanges is increasing every year. Our ambition – based on our high standard of education - is to be an attractive alternative for foreign students. UGD will continue to give priority to partnership projects within EU programmes.

Concerning the promotion of the ERASMUS activities, the University has developed several computer tools for the information and management of programs and agreements as well as a Mentor Programme in order to improve the academic and cultural immersion of international students. The International Office has its own web page with all the Lifelong Learning Programme information; the Erasmus University Charter and our institution EPS will be published in this web.

As we can see from the exchange results, our Institution ensures to comply with non discrimination objectives by making actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled

students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism.

To ensure high quality in mobility actions, UGD develops a global strategy that reinforces the action lines used last years: continuous improvement of the mandatory internal regulations; evaluation and improvement of the agents management (coordinators, international offices, student services); facilitating the management of the academic recognition, coordinating the central administrative structures from the home and foreign University; updating management procedures of coordinators and students; updating of the international area on the web page; improving integrations of incoming and outgoing students through previous contacts, open days, free language courses, cultural and sportive offers, participation on the Mentor Programme and the use of surveys to evaluate exchange periods. Our internationalisation efforts provide a good basis for the development of educational programmes in line with the Bologna Declaration. We have improved the academic offer for international students by making the whole program available on English.

We work in partnership with business and industry, including regional associations, to exploit our intellectual capital and create a highly-skilled workforce.

Working with industry translates research into innovations that shape our world, tackling global challenges and transforming lives. We will develop our research collaboration with industry and the public sector, and will seek to increase opportunities for integration of industrial experience into degree programs.

As we continue to diversify our funding sources across the range of our activities, our priority will be re-investment in the academic mission and strategic vision of the University.