

D**Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)****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)

Original language [EN]

a) SLU has three main strategies for international collaboration and partners are chosen based on:

- i) Similarity (scientific fields, reputation, size, geography) – allows for efficient use of mainly teaching (but also research) resources, sharing student populations etc. SLU is a part of two prioritized networks. NOVA is a network between eight leading Life Science universities in the Nordic countries. ELLS is a network between seven leading Life-Science universities in Europe, which also has strategic partners in non-European countries (USA, China, New Zealand, Israel). Thanks to the similarities it is relatively easy to organize joint courses and programmes where world leading teachers are involved, and which can attract a critical mass of students (especially beneficial for small disciplines).
- ii) Excellence (world leading universities in SLU's scientific fields) – allows for cutting edge research. As an example, SLU has recently initiated "The Global Challenges University Alliance", a project that aims to bring together about 25 world-leading universities to work on emerging urgent issues within areas such as climate change, sustainable food and bioenergy production, environmental science, green urban development.
- iii) SLU's strategy for global development (based on the Swedish Governments Policy for Global Development) – aims at using SLU's expertise in education and research for capacity building in low-income countries, and also provides SLU's students and staff with new competences and widened perspectives. SLU established the programme Agricultural Sciences for Global Development (SLU Global; www.slu.se/slu-global) to implement the university's strategy for global development, and has the aim of identifying a smaller number of close and strategic partners in mainly Africa.

With the above strategies in mind, all cooperation at SLU should consider reputation and quality, demand from academic staff and students, administrative processes and national regulations, accreditation of the partner university, administrative capacity, mutual benefits, code of conduct of the partner university and regulation of liability issues.

b) In accordance with the three strategies described above: i) The Nordic and EU countries; ii) Globally (currently mainly the US, Japan, China, Canada); iii) Low-income countries, mainly in Africa.

c) The most important objectives are to educate employable and innovative global citizens that can work towards a sustainable future. SLU intends to engage all students and staff in international cooperation. The aim is to reach strategic partnerships through which excellence, resources and teachers/students can be shared, and to gain widened perspectives.

d) SLU works actively in creating joint and double degrees educations within programmes like Erasmus Mundus and mainly together with strategic partners. In order to create an open environment the V-CO has implemented a fund for academic staff that wish to make contact visits to prospective partner universities within the programme (see C6 above). In order to reach the goals SLU has established a policy for how to develop and implement joint degree programs (<https://internt.slu.se/en/research-education-ema/phd-education1/joint-or-double-exam/>) and also a policy for quality assurance for mobility agreements (https://internt.slu.se/Documents/internwebben/sus-docs/ISO/2010/ISO_Kvalitetssakring_avtalsprocessen.pdf; in Swedish). In both documents criteria to be met in order to choose partners are listed (see above).

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]

SLU has an overall strategy to use the possibilities provided by the programme to deepen prioritized collaborations with in particular the NOVA and ELLS networks (see above). Synergy effects are achieved by connecting the three strategies described above [based on i) similarity, ii) excellence, iii) strategy for global development] to several of the EU-programmes. For example, within the network NOVA and ELLS collaboration is strengthened by Erasmus mobilities (staff and students) and Erasmus IPs. As a tool to strengthen the collaboration, the ELLS universities have agreed on a policy of unrestricted student flows, using Erasmus mobilities, among them. Furthermore, the NOVA and ELLS networks are usually the backbones for partnerships within Erasmus Mundus Action 1 and 2 initiatives. SLU is currently partner in five EMMC programmes, two EMJD programmes and three EM Action 2 programmes – all but one of the EM Action 1 programmes and all but one of the EM Action 2 programmes include one or several NOVA and/or ELLS universities. When it comes to collaboration with world-leading universities in the US and Canada, SLU takes advantage of the possibilities within EU-USA Atlantis and EU-Canada. Finally, to strengthen collaboration with universities in low- and middle-income countries SLU has coordinated an Erasmus Mundus Action 2 application for the ACP lot (submitted in 2012 and 2013) and this year (2013) we are partner in four additional applications to EMA2 strand 1.

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]

1: SLU has long experience of working with widening participation. The programme contributes to a multicultural classroom. SLU is also part of a national network that works for widening participation, throughput, diversity and equality. SLU has a special needs coordinator.

2 & 3. SLU is specialized within the Life Sciences, being the only agricultural university in Sweden. In order to enhance the excellence even more SLU cooperates within the programme with other Life Science universities. E.g., to reach a critical mass of students in small specialized fields, SLU is active in creating intensive courses with other EU Life Science universities. In order to enable students to take specialized courses at other NOVA and ELLS universities SLU has installed special scholarships for short mobility. SLU is also investigating the possibilities to implement a one semester mobility window, for all programs at all educational levels.

In order to create employable global citizens SLU introduced teaching in English at the 2nd cycle together with the Bologna process. It helps students who are not able to be mobile to get an international education and it also enables student exchange. To give non-mobile students an international education, IaH is carried out by participation in the programme. Visiting teachers give different aspects to academic questions and an international classroom with local and international students give diversity in group projects.

Within the ELLS network an annual scientific student conference gives students an opportunity to present their degree work in an international context and thereby get an interest for research studies, to network, and to encourage exchange between the universities.

4: SLU Holding is an SLU aims to support commercialization of innovations, to contribute to an entrepreneurial culture and to involve students in real business projects. Students get a chance to conduct market operations under supervision, to gain work experience, to establish business networks, and to participate in courses and events. A consulting business has been established which offers services, conducted by students, to the private market, authorities and private persons. Students get qualified working experience by using their educational knowledge and the international exposure provided by the programme.

5: In Sweden HE is publically funded and free of charge for all EU/EEA citizens. Nevertheless, it is important for the HEI to find external funding for research and educational collaboration. The Grants Office and ISO assist applications to the programme for research and educational collaboration. SLU focuses on activities within one field- the biological natural resources. SLU is actively working for rationalizing the administration and providing good planning conditions for heads of departments. According to SLU regulations there must be student representatives in all governing bodies.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)