

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Klaipeda University is committed to conducting research, developing innovations and arts, and graduating educated person. Significant priorities of the University mission are devoted to strengthening of research, as it leads to the smart growth, fosters excellence and affects the quality of education. The University applies interdisciplinary approach and main strategic aims of the University are: 1) to develop biomedical, physical and technological sciences and studies; 2) to develop humanities, social sciences and studies, to foster creativity and arts; 3) improve the governance of the University. Main goals and objectives of the University strategy are determined (1) by establishment of the Integrated Marine Science, Studies and Business Centre as it can streamline links between education, research and business and in this way enhance jobs, growth and international attractiveness; (2) and by development of history, culture and languages, education, health and social welfare, economy, politics, communications and arts of the Baltic Sea region. Klaipeda University seeks to maintain and enhance quality assurance in all activities and processes. Therefore, self assessment methods and monitoring of international mobility and cooperation activities are important for further development. Mobility, cross-border cooperation and participation in international projects are very important elements of institutional policy of Klaipeda University as it makes institution more open, more international, and more efficient. The University encourages students and staff mobility for studies, training and other learning, and mobility of young researchers, as well as jointly developed and delivered education and training programmes with partner institutions in other countries, via active participation in EU programmes. The University recognizes that learning mobility helps young people to strengthen their future employability, professional and intercultural skills and their personal development. The University promotes and supports mobility of learners, teachers and researchers at all study levels, first, second and third cycles, and of all study fields that are developed at the university, including participants from under-represented groups and in compliance with non-discrimination policy. Learning mobility is implemented according formal procedures. Recommendations of European institutions how to facilitate and promote mobility (Quality charter for mobility, European Qualification framework, etc.) are applied. The recognition of credits and learning outcomes gained abroad is ensured. Instruments to facilitate mobility is used such as Diploma Supplement, European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System. The University recognizes the lifelong learning and formalization of non-formal and informal education. Klaipeda University has the chapter of the University of the Third age, which strives to improve social integration. The development of joint

degree programmes with partners in other countries and added value of it with stronger focus on international cooperation is very important. The University participates in implementation of joint Master programme which is the successful follow-up to joint Erasmus Mundus Master programme that had been conducted. University participates in Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate programme. Strategically institution fosters participation in international and national projects for establishment of joint/double degree programmes, modules and courses with foreign partners. Partnership and international cooperation is significant in University's policy and strategy. It comes from the vision of institution where participation in international and academic networks is highlighted. Klaipeda University is a member of European University Association (EUA), Baltic Sea Region University Network (BSRUN), European Union Universities of Small States (EU²S²), Baltic University Network (BUP), Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI University). In the framework of institutional agreements, international programmes and project activities the University cooperates with partners not only from EU countries but from Russia and EU's eastern neighbors as well. In Erasmus partnership for mobility University strives to develop mobility with all geographical regions. Developing further international partnership Klaipeda University aims to enhance and develop existing cooperation in EU and non-EU countries and broaden the partnership with institutions from EU and third countries according the strategical goals of the University. Moreover, the University maintains and promotes the exchange of good practices via cooperation, mobility and project activities. The University provides visibility to the results of student's mobility and results achieved by staff members engaged in individual mobility or in cooperation projects with strategic partners using all possible dissemination tools.

Strategic priorities of Klaipeda University are committed to develop and enhance the participation in international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects. The University has successfully participated in international cooperation projects in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme. The acquired experience and partnership might be exploited for further development. Therefore, Klaipeda University determines strategic cooperation extremely important for seeking contribution to modernization agenda of Europe's higher education systems. According its main strategic goals and specific needs with partners from EU and non-EU, Klaipeda University aims active participation in project activities for funding from European Union programmes. Therefore Klaipeda University fosters project activities: (1) which intensifies structured and long term cooperation with key stakeholders; (2) capacity building projects with Partner countries (i.e. third countries) with the

objective to support the modernization and internationalization of Higher Education in the Partner countries; (3) which would promote creativity and knowledge alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering relevant learning opportunities.

Klaipeda University undertakes to contribute to the European Union's modernization and internationalization agenda in higher education and will strive to support all corresponding initiatives in accordance with national policy of international development of higher education and science. The expected impact of participation in Programme on the internationalization and modernization of the University according each priority of the Modernization Agenda: (1) Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs: to find solution how to reduce drop-outs; to develop the recognizing learning and experience gained outside formal education and training; to widen the participation of diverse groups of learners; to enhance collaboration with private sector and stakeholders; train and re-train researchers in line with the Union's R&D targets; to develop joint/double programs; (2) Improving the quality and relevance of higher education: to exploit potential of ICTs; to develop variety of study modes like continuing education, distance learning and etc.; to enhance career guidance and make graduates more employable; to develop the competence and motivation of teachers and researchers; to accept the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training; (3) Strengthening quality through mobility and cross border cooperation: to attract more students, academics and researchers from outside the EU and to develop cross-border cooperation; to intensify the learning mobility; (4) Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development: to develop the establishment of the Integrated Marine Science, Studies and Business Centre; to attract business for the investments; to effect the regional development; to promote innovation in education and develop entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills in all disciplines and in all three cycles; (4) Improving governance and funding: in accordance with strategic aims of the University to improve the governance and management of the University and its accountability.