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]

During the up-coming years, LIU will develop its participation in international networks and strive for an increased cooperation with strategic partners. The university finds it more important to have a qualitative cooperation with a limited amount of strategic partners than to have a large amount of agreements.

EU is the most important geographic area for LIU and incoming European students constitutes a main target group. Thus, the university aims to maintain and strengthen the European cooperations. Apart from the European cooperations, LIU also reaches out to selected partners in other areas. LIU will strive for a more developed cooperation with partners in the important regions of growth. The university will also continue to work on international partnerships with close connection with study programmes to enable the validation of credits at the home institution. New features, e.g. a summer school for incoming exchange students, will be taken into consideration.

LIU is going to establish and maintain a closer and strategic partnership with a limited amount of partner universities; a cooperation that goes deeper than the traditional exchange agreements. The expected outcomes of this are increased research cooperation and mutual research grant proposals, better opportunities for exchange of researchers, teachers and other staff and in some cases for shared posts. The prioritized partner universities will be the main channel for recruitment of international students to LIU.

Important objectives of our mobility activities are to enhance education quality, to support innovation and to meet the demands for skilled graduates on an international labour market. The most important target groups of our mobility activities are:
- Students on undergraduate and advanced level: The goal for year 2020 is that the majority of the LIU graduates have studied at least one semester taught in English in Sweden or abroad. Most of the programmes on the advanced level will be taught in English.
- PhD students: In 2020, most of the PhD students spend a part of their studies abroad. International co-publication is common and participation in international conferences is a matter of course.
- Staff: All academic vacancies will be announced in international competition, thus increasing the share of teachers and researchers with an international background. More teachers are participating in international exchange focused on undergraduate/advanced studies. International experiences will be given a distinct internal merit value.

The double degree programmes that LIU currently are soon to be evaluated. The strategy emphasizes that LIU will strive to increase the number of double degree programmes since a double degree can enhance the employability of the student and provide him/her with knowledge from two possible future countries to work in.

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]
LIU considers EU a prioritized geographic area and opportunities such as Erasmus mobility, EILC, Erasmus Mundus and Jean Monnet thus forms an important part of the new LIU international strategy. As seen in the strategy for 2013–2020, some of the goals related to international cooperation projects are to:

- Increase teaching staff mobility. It is a priority for LIU to stimulate international cooperation and exchange among teaching staff and reduce organizational barriers to staff members spending periods of time working abroad. One of the methods that LIU is going to use is to give distinct internal merit value to international experiences such as teacher exchange and participation in transnational projects.
- Supply students with an international dimension of their education. Many former LIU students are working in international companies and organisations and it is important to supply the current students with the qualifications they need to be employable in such an environment. LIU strives to encourage students to studies or training abroad and to take part in international projects. The university will also increase the number of education programmes that offers a semester taught in English and analyse the need for a bachelor programme taught in English. This is a way of ameliorating the choice of courses for incoming exchange students but it also contributes to internationalisation at home for national students who for different reasons choose not to participate in international exchange. EU is the most common destination for out-going LIU students and that makes European cooperation projects especially interesting when considering this target group.
- Encourage PhD students to participation in international research cooperation and conferences, as well as give them opportunities to spend a part of their studies abroad. To give the junior teachers the opportunity for new perspectives will, among other things, impact the general learning environment.

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]

a) Opportunities for studies and study-related training abroad are important aspects in the recruitment of new undergraduate students.

EU funding for organization of mobility and for staff training makes it easier to prepare for new exchange agreements and to monitor and evaluate the existing ones. This saves the participating students from administrative difficulties e.g. with their choice of courses, thus reducing the number of students who drop out without completing their courses.

b) Erasmus is an incentive as well as an important economic support for teachers participating in international projects and pushes the internal discussion forward to overcome other challenges related to teacher exchange. Teaching exchanges give opportunity to compare teaching methods, discuss learning outcomes and improve the quality of the curricula. A developed networking between researchers also contributes to students’ learning outcomes since it enables teachers to present the latest findings in their respective subject areas. Exchange possibilities for teachers have been and will be included in almost all existent Erasmus exchange agreements to confirm the relevance of faculty exchange.

b) The Programme forms an important foundation for the cooperation between LIU and its European partner universities. This is not only fruitful for exchange, IP’s and other forms of mobility but also for e.g. benchmarking and quality assurance. Through years of student evaluations, students have made it clear that they regard the Programme as contributing to critical thinking, improved language skills, new perspectives on learning, professional self-confidence and improved chances on the labour market. A continued and widened participation in the Programme will give new students batches these opportunities.

d) A more internationalized labour market demands graduates with international experiences and we strive to match that demand with opportunities for training and studies abroad as well as with internationalisation at home. Training abroad is also a valuable experience for graduates who choose to join the internationally influenced research environments of today. Since the incoming international students show a growing interest in future careers in Sweden, LIU will continue and further develop the career support and labour market contacts for incoming students.

e) In order to create effective local governance of the activities related to international projects, LIU is going to further develop methods for selecting exchange students and to keep working on reducing barriers for experiences abroad. To improve the methods for informing and inspiring students and staff and to monitor and evaluate the exchange agreements are also important parts of effective governance. As mentioned before, Staff Training is one of the important tools in the endeavour for effective administration of mobility activities.

Endorsement of the application

I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,

certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;

agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;

agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission

Place: Linköping

Name: [Signature]

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 3/5/13

☑ I have read and accept the Privacy statement

Original signature of the legal representative of the institution (as identified in section A.2 above)

Original stamp or seal of the Institution