

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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.

1.) UC South Denmark's international (EU and non-EU) strategy

UC South Denmark has signed a development contract with the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education. Some of the targets are compulsory, some of them can be chosen by the institution. The present development contract (2013-2015) contains two self-elected targets: Focus on supporting the students and promoting internationalization. The three indicators on internationalization are:

- Increasing the in- and out-going student mobility
- Entering into strategic partnerships.
- Launching new courses and full-time study programmes in English.

By combining the two self-elected targets "Focus on the students" and "Internationalization" an action programme has been developed. It consists of three intertwined initiatives:

- To develop international study environments at the campuses
- To ensure international experiences for all students
- To ensure that members of staff acquire international experiences

UC South Denmark mainly offers study programmes targeting public enterprises: Hospitals, schools, day care centers, public administration etc. Traditionally such study programmes are national oriented and there is no tradition for out-going mobility. We would like to ensure that also students staying at home develop intercultural competences. This is being done by offering Erasmus courses and full time study programmes in English in order to mix international students with the Danish students.

Every year UC South Denmark takes part in at least 30 international projects most of them involving students – LLP projects, Nordplus, Interreg etc. We know from evidence that the teachers are the keys for student mobility and internationalization. Teachers' attitudes are crucial for the student's interests. This is why we do a special effort to involve the teachers in international activities as guest teachers, at training visits and in international projects. We also welcome individual guest teachers or groups of teachers visiting the campuses.

University College South Denmark is situated close to the German border. The institution would like to strengthen its relations especially with HEI's in Schleswig-Holstein. Since 2012 UC South Denmark is a partner in a consortium supported by the Interreg-programme consisting of University of Southern Denmark, University College Lillebælt, University Flensburg, Christian-Albrecht University in Kiel and the two universities of applied science in Kiel and Flensburg. The

aim of this consortium is to develop summer schools, joint modules and double degrees in different areas of study. We are arranging more structured exchanges of students in work practicing together with regional public and private enterprises.

Already now we attract more than 300 German students at full time studies and would like to increase the number. UC South Denmark was among the first HEI's in Denmark to offer distance learning. Today for instance more than 1/3 of the students at the department for teacher education in Haderslev are distant learners. For the time being UC South Denmark has signed bilateral agreements with 140 partners. When the Erasmus Charters have been signed we will go for a lesser number of agreements, however still ensuring that all our studies have a satisfying number of partners to cooperate and exchange with.

We would tend to avoid mono-professional institutions and choose institutions offering a vast palette of study programmes matching those we offer. We will choose these preferred partners among those we have already good experiences with. We would like to maintain partners from many European countries thereby ensuring diversity among the in-coming Erasmus students. We also accept students at full time study programmes from countries outside Europe. As for partners outside Europe we are interested in working together with the neighbouring countries and also a limited number of overseas partners. Thanks to a national grant we can waive their study fees and offer them a grant to support their living. Next to exchange of teachers and students on studies and traineeships we would aim at developing joint courses and double degrees with preferred partners in strategic partnerships. At the moment university colleges in Denmark are not allowed to offer masters' studies, which is a barrier for cooperation on equal terms.

UC South Denmark is a regional centre for knowledge and innovation in the professions. We offer a broad programme of Continuing Professional Development and has department for Applied Research and Development with peak competences on distance learning, digital learning resources, health promotion, welfare technology, inclusion, communication and entrepreneurship. UC South Denmark has already signed Knowledge Alliances with regional municipalities and some national and multinational private enterprises. We would like to intensify cooperation with public and private enterprises in an international perspective.

2.) UC South Denmark'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.

During the last ten years international cooperation projects have been prioritized at the institution. In 2012 UC South Denmark was involved in 33 projects either as a leader or as a partner. On purpose we go for projects under many different programmes: Nordplus, Interreg, EU Health Programme, and LLP. We are involved in Comenius Multilateral projects, Erasmus IP's, Grundtvig and Leonardo da Vinci, and this year we have applied under Erasmus curriculum, Tempus and the Nordic-Russian programme. Thereby we try to meet the teachers' various interest and to involve as many study programmes and campuses as possible.

In ideal projects both teachers and students take part. In 2012 more than 70 teachers and approximately 60 students were involved.

Very often we are invited into upcoming projects by one of our partners - and we seldom refuse. The organisation and implementation of projects is decentralised. The teachers involved take the responsibility. They'll ask for support and help in the central office if necessary. At projects which UC South Denmark takes the lead the central office is a member of the project leading team. For each project a new account number is opened in order not to mix the allocated means and to make accounting and reporting easier.

The impact of international projects for the teachers and for UC South Denmark was externally evaluated in 2012 showing that international projects contribute to increased mobility, establish professional international networks and improve the teachers' ways of teaching. Some of the current international projects will form the first steps towards common CPD courses, summer schools, joint modules and double degrees. In the future we would like to extend our international projects activities with partners in the neighbouring countries.

3.) The expected impact of UC South Denmark's participation in the Programme on the modernisation of the institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives the institution intends to achieve.

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

1. Increasing attainment level to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs.

In 2020 the national goal is that 60% of a cohort should graduate from an institution of higher education. During the last six years University College South Denmark has developed three new bachelor study programmes and six short cycle study programmes after having examined the needs at regional and national level. Parts of the bachelor study programmes are offered in English. Thanks to cooperation with partners supported by the Programme more new study programmes will follow.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

The very first compulsory aim of the development contract is Increased quality in the studies. This is being done through students' systematic evaluation of their competence development, through close cooperation with the employers and by maintaining the high level of the use of ICT and digital learning resources at the study programmes. All three indicators will be further strengthened through international cooperation.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation.

UC South Denmark is striving to live up to the expectations of the Bologna Treaty, that by 2020 20% of all students undertake a stay abroad of a duration of at least 15 ECTS. Recent investigations of Erasmus students have shown that next to the professional outcomes students acquire intercultural competences and language proficiency which will increase their job and career opportunities. Most of our outgoing students go for work placements which can be even more demanding than being enrolled in a class at a university. Students on traineeships in kindergartens

and hospitals are supposed to establish positive relations with colleagues, children, parents, and patients in new and unpredictable settings.

We would like to investigate the outcomes of work placements abroad together with partners supported by the Programme.

4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.

UC South Denmark is allowed to undertake applied research. However for the time being few national means are allocated to research at university colleges. Already now UC South Denmark has very good experiences on working together with regional and national enterprises. These relations will be strengthened in the future thanks to the Programme's focus on knowledge alliances.

5. Improving governance and funding.

A main criteria of succes is to ensure sustainability. Succesful international projects and relations to partners should continue after the end of project periods and become embedded into the institution's day-to-day provision. This requires close cooperation between the international coordinators and the heads of study programmes. We mix of external funding from the Programme, from national support and from the institution's own means for internationalisation to achieve our goals.