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## **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.

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]

According to the "Long-term Strategic Plan of the University of Economics, Prague (VSE)", internationalization is one of the main priorities of its development. To fulfill this objective VSE increases the number of exchange students and visiting professors every year. Joint Programmes as well as common research are the basis for the development of its internationalization.

VSE is a member of a wide range of international networks, such as the Global Alliance in Management Education (CEMS) or the Partnership in International Management (PIM). It has active bilateral agreements with more than 200 partner universities. The main focus is on European partners (over 120 agreements), however, VSE also has bilateral agreements with many overseas universities. Before signing bilateral agreement, new university and its course offer is always closely reviewed and compared to VSE programmes to assure compatibility for the outgoing students.

Demand for the exchange programme among VSE students remains high and therefore students have to undergo a selection process (where their study results, language skills and motivation to study abroad, are considered and examined). The number of exchange slots offered by the partner institutions continues to grow and it is very diverse (VSE students can currently study in 6 different languages and choose from 47 countries). Due to high interest of VSE students, the priority has been given to sending mainly master level students abroad. However following one of its priorities of increasing the number of student mobility, VSE launched an exchange programme targeted at bachelor level students. In addition, all VSE students with good study results (bachelor, master and doctoral level) can apply for a Freemover programme, spend a semester at non-partner university and receive a grant from special VSE funds.

To increase its competitiveness and ability to accept more incoming students, VSE focuses on increasing the quality offer of English taught courses. Its professors are strongly encouraged to teach courses in English or other foreign languages. A high priority is also placed on visiting foreign professors. Incoming academic staff is provided not only with an accommodation but also with fully equipped offices and lecture rooms. The strategy of VSE is to focus on teaching mobility within the Erasmus framework and on cooperation with both current and new member universities. Teaching abroad is positively promoted as a part of one's academic career. The university helps to arrange the practical issues (transport, accommodation).

VSE is aware of importance of turning academic experience and theoretical knowledge into a professional experience and therefore internships/trainings are becoming a part of some of its programmes (i.e. CEMS MIM, selected programmes at Faculty of International Relations).

VSE also aims at increasing the offer of English taught master and bachelor programmes. Three International Bachelor Degrees taught in English were recently launched – Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of International Business and Bachelor of Corporate Finance and Management. Another bachelor programme at the Faculty of Business Administration is offered in Russian language.

VSE currently offers six international master's degree programmes fully taught in English. The Master's Programme in International Management is organized by the Faculty of Business Administration. The starting point of the Programme is CEMS MIM (its graduates receive also an internationally recognized certificate of the CEMS MIM, Master in International Management). Study exchange and internship are obligatory parts of the CEMS MIM programme.

VSE also takes part in the European Joint Studies Programme M.A. in Economics of Globalization and European Integration, which was selected as an Erasmus Mundus Programme in 2012/2013.

Another joint degree organized by the Faculty of Finance and Accounting is FINAC: Finance and Accounting for Common Europe, programme implemented by association of four European universities.

VSE also offers International Business – Central European Business Realities, a two years Master's program, whose students have an option to accomplish their second academic year at one of the four double degree partner universities. The full-time International and Diplomatic Studies master's degree program is offered by the Faculty of International Relations. A mandatory semester abroad at a partner university is an integral part of this programme.

The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) of the Faculty of Economics offers a full-time, two-year Master's Programme in Economic and Regional Studies of Latin America. Students have an option to obtain a double degree at one of the Latin American partner universities.

VSE's aim is to implement at least one international study programme in English (or other foreign language) at each of its six faculties.



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]

Participation in international cooperation projects is one of the main priorities of internationalization at VSE. Based on the initiative of individual departments and faculties VSE is involved in many international projects (LLP/ ERASMUS, LLP/ Leonardo da Vinci, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus – Aktion 1 and 3).

Professional contacts and experience in the frame of the existing bilateral cooperation with various partner schools have become a key factor for engagement in international projects especially with current partners.

Furthermore, new contacts established in the starting phase of the projects are used as a base for further bilateral cooperation in terms of teaching and students mobility.

Within these projects VSE organizes various meetings, workshops, presentations and conferences. The main objective of most projects is to improve the quality of educational and research processes by developing sustainable cooperation.

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)By increasing its offer of courses taught in English (and other foreign languages) and therefore its competitiveness, VSE aims at attracting both more Czech and more international students for its programmes taught in English and thus increase its number of graduates. This should contribute to the internationalization and modernization of VSE.

b)By sending more academic staff abroad and receiving more incoming teaching mobility, VSE will facilitate an exchange of the knowledge and help to transfer this knowledge to its graduates who will then easier succeed in the high-competitive job market. An increased teaching mobility will have a direct impact on the courses offered to mixed groups of students (both VSE and foreign incoming students). Students will be able to experience a different teaching approach even before spending a semester abroad.

c)One of VSE's priorities is to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad. Increasing number of students with an exchange experience will contribute both to internationalization of the University and its graduates. By implementing strengths of different education systems, its internationalization will help to improve VSE programmes and stay competitive.

d)VSE will support a closer cooperation with business -i.e. inviting speakers from international companies to VSE lectures, sending more students for internships. A focus will also be on supporting research in order to link it closer to education. This will help to produce more competitive graduates but also speed up VSE's modernization. A close cooperation between education and business is a vital part of International Management – CEMS MIM programme. Students of this programme are working on business projects which reinforce the partnership between universities and companies in jointly shaping international management education globally. For students they represent a real life learning experience. International student teams solve real business consultancy-like projects co-tutored by academic and corporate representatives.

e)In order to assure effective governance of the Programme, VSE will continue to closely review all its bilateral agreements and thus provide its students with a quality exchange programme which will help to widen their horizons. Programmes of all new partner universities will continue to be very carefully examined and compared to VSE programmes to guarantee compatibility. Focus will stay on supporting highly motivated students and staff to further extend a quality of the programme and support its excellence.

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