

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Institution's international strategy

a) Choice of partners

The Graduate School of Government and European Studies (the School) is an independent university institution which specializes in government, European and international relations studies. The main priorities of the School in choosing the partners are educating students to perform normative function in accordance with the highest European standards and enable them to be able to communicate also in the international environment; strengthening its European pedigree and establishing itself as an important regional actor. Further factors, which are important in choosing partners are their excellence of teaching as well as their offer of teaching in foreign languages and also cross-border co-operation in Central European Region. The School has Erasmus cooperation agreements with Masaryk university in Brno, University of Dubrovnik and Budapest College of Communication and Business. The School is already affiliated with the European Faculty of Law; EMUNI University; Faculty of State and European Studies. The School is also a founding member of Glothro: Research Networking Programme, which joins, inter alia, the European University Institute, University of Antwerp, University of Oslo, University of Graz, University of Aarhus, University of Lund, National University of Ireland and is supported by the European Science Foundation.

b) Which geographical areas

The Schools aims to establish Erasmus co-operation with higher education institutions in all countries, which participate in the Erasmus programme. More specifically, the School is committed to enhance cross-border co-operation in the neighbouring countries, but also in the wider region of South-Eastern Europe. To this end, the School and its staff have, furthermore, concluded a number of formal and informal agreements on co-operation with other institutions, in particular in the neighboring countries (University of Zagreb, Scuola Superiore St'Anna, Pisa, etc). The School will aim to extend its network of Erasmus contacts to the to the fellow Mediterranean countries in Africa, Central Europe and Middle East.

c) The most important activities and objectives

The School has a rich tradition of organizing research conferences with international participation. Following the award of the Erasmus Charter, the School is going to invest actively in establishing formal bilateral exchange, educational and research relationships based on inter-institutional agreements with numerous academic institutions throughout Europe that several of its staff members have already co-operated with. This is line with the School's top priorities. First, to ensure a complete mobility of its students on all levels of the learning process. Secondly, thanks to the Erasmus program the School will be able to extend its visiting professors program. In so doing, even the students not participating in the exchange programs will benefit from the Erasmus scheme by learning from visiting scholars. Thirdly, the School will increase the mobility of its academic staff who will present their research abroad and disseminate their newly acquired knowledge to the future generations of students. Fourthly, the Erasmus program will facilitate and enhance the School's research activities by formally setting up research networks and consortia with its Erasmus partners. To do so the School has already been successful to secure funding for two Jean Monnet project ("The Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union Integration Context« and

“The Fundamentals of EU Law and Policy») and it has been successful in securing financing for two post-doctoral projects with the Slovenian Research Agency and has applied for funding for younger researchers. The School aims to apply for a range of their funding opportunities and several of such initiatives have already been implemented under the auspices of the Slovenian Research Agency and on the basis of other bilateral research relationships with research partners in Italy and Croatia. Finally, the benefits of the Erasmus program will be reflected in the School’s extra-curricular activities: summer schools, workshops, seminars, language courses and other life-long learning events. As for staff, the School encourages their mobility as part of their career development, making research and teaching abroad a prerequisite for promotion. The School offers grants to foster the academic mobility and acknowledges research and teaching activities abroad as part of the habilitation requirements. The IO and the Career Centre also help with the practical arrangements to facilitate the mobility of the incoming and outgoing academic and professional staff. Further, the School aims in the future to develop double and joint degrees with its international partners in Europe and beyond. All this will enable the School to preserve and strengthen its reputation as the leading Slovenian educational institution in European and international affairs

Implementation of international research projects

The School aims to develop international cooperation in teaching and training in relation to project under the programme in three stages. First, it aims to extend its international cooperation beyond the higher education institutions in the EU, particularly in the area of South-Eastern Europe and Mediterranean by organising joint international conferences and applying for European wide research project. The School has in this regards already established institutional links with institutions in Croatia and Montenegro and also EMUNI – Mediterranean university and takes part, for instance, in Glothro project. Secondly, it aims to further develop organisation of international summer schools with co-operation and participation of universities in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Thirdly, the School will enhance its international potential by organised special training events for its students and staff wishing to participate in the Erasmus activities. The School’s participation in these activities will strengthen its international profile and visibility. The benefits of the Erasmus program will be reflected in the School's conferences, summer schools, workshops and seminars.

Programme on modernisation of your institution

The School’s participation in the programme will contribute to its modernisation in relation to five dimensions of its activities. First, the School will aim to attract students from all level societies, including members of disadvantaged minorities, and also students who are already working, in order to achieve the increased number of graduates from layers and generations of society. Also it will attempt to decrease the percentage of students who do not graduate. Second, the School will attempt to improve the quality and relevance of teachers and researchers training by providing work-related instructions and organising specialized workshops and seminars on new innovative and creative modes of teaching (the School has already organised two work/practice related summer schools in 2012 and 2013 and it aims to continue with the participation of business representatives and researchers as one of the core activities). Further, the School aims to introduce innovative e-learning methods to its curriculum. Third, the School has been committed to offer additional skills to students through study and training abroad by taking part in international conferences, summer schools, workshops, seminars and possibilities that students conduct part of their studies and training abroad and has in this way improved its higher education performance. The School is committed to ensuring the highest quality in academic mobility activities and to openness when accepting students who finished their first degree on foreign institution. It will continue its commitment to ensure effective recognition of credits obtained abroad. To this end, the School has

been committed to openness when accepting students who finished their first degree on foreign institution. Fourth, the School has been so far active in connecting education, research and business and will strive to strength their cooperation. It has organised summer and winter schools, workshops and conferences with participation of business representatives and researchers as one of the core activities. It aims to develop this knowledge triangle further as it is committed to offer students and researcher the best possible integration between education, research and business. In this way it will support, promote and assist staff and students in the development of their entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills. Finally, the School is fully committed to upgrade the effective and funding mechanisms in support of excellence by conducting and applying for EU and non-EU projects. It will aim to develop centre of excellence in the field of public administration, European Law and human rights. In this way, it will seek alternative sources of funding by applying to not only to public institution but also to private foundations. All in all, the School has already been committed to include all five objectives in its modernisation agenda and plans to develop them even further diligently and in the profound detail in the future.