



Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) 2021 – 27

Internationalisation is one of the most important principles and priorities for Ca' Foscari University of Venice (UNIVE). It is clearly stated in its official Charter (*Statuto*), in the Fundamental Principles, under article 5 “Internationalisation”, according to which the University:

- promotes the international nature of research and training activities including through the mobility of all its members, contacts and agreements with academic institutions worldwide, adhesion to networks and consortia, the exchange of scientific knowledge and training experiences;
- recognises the value of mobility as a means of enhancing scientific knowledge and professional development at all stages of its staff career and promotes national, international and interdisciplinary mobility;
- assumes and promotes the international nature of its research and educational programmes, including through the provision of Course Programmes in collaboration with Universities of other countries for the achievement of joint or multiple degrees, revision of curricula and the widespread use of languages other than Italian;
- simplifies all administrative procedures in order to facilitate access to its research and educational activities for persons and institutions from other countries.

The Erasmus+ Programme still represents one of the most relevant and important opportunity to develop UNIVE's internationalisation and modernisation strategy. Ca' Foscari strategic objectives mostly coincide with the Erasmus+ ones, in the framework of the EHEA. UNIVE is working to shape a full-fledged international outlook, as stated in its current Strategic Plan (2016-2020), which stems from a careful analysis of the specific University profile, strengths, weaknesses and which takes into account the EU and national policy priorities for higher education. UNIVE is striving to implement and develop an international environment, enhancing its international standing and creating



an open, global mindset in students, academic and administrative staff. Specific internationalisation and modernisation objectives have been identified and are being pursued:

- **international recruitment:** a strong investment in international recruitment has been launched and it is contributing to enrich UNIVE community. It targets students, research fellows and faculty staff;
- **internationalisation of the curriculum:** the objective is the development of integrated, structured transnational teaching programmes, such as joint and double programmes and modules, issuing double, multiple and joint degrees. A successful involvement of UNIVE in designing and implementing EMJMDs (E+ KA1) and Capacity Building (KA2) projects has so far been essential;
- **high quality research:** UNIVE is striving to shape a world-class scientific profile, leveraging the best skills in the fields of tradition to explore new, cutting-edge research directions at the borders of disciplines. A new research agenda has been set and designed around a selection of well-defined themes of global scope and impact, aimed to attract outstanding scholars, enhance research output, promote collaboration among groups and individuals at the departmental level and increase access to competitive research funding;
- **a transformative learning experience:** UNIVE is working to renew the curricula to prepare students to work in diverse settings and in a global society and to develop multidisciplinary knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving as key elements of a full rounded educational experience. They are shaped according to the research drive of departments and the expectations of graduates and stakeholders, to encourage their personal and professional development and provide them with the best career opportunities;
- **rankings:** being aware of the role of university rankings as proof of quality for international students, scholars and employers looking for graduates and also using the same parameters as a basis for its own evaluation, UNIVE is working for improving its positioning on the main international university rankings;



- **partnerships:** UNIVE benefits from a wide international network of institutional partnerships: 600 Erasmus+ KA103 agreements; 5 Erasmus+ KA107 ICM grant from 2015 to 2019 (a total of 91 country-projects and 142 IIA); 2 EMJMD of which 1 still active; around 800 Overseas exchange agreements and 200 agreements for non-Erasmus mobility Programmes; 11.000 internship agreements with host partners located in Italy and abroad, a large number of partnerships with embassies and other diplomatic agencies, cultural institutions, NGOs, chambers of commerce, small, medium and large enterprises and corporate bodies worldwide, which are involved in study abroad programmes, placements and career services.

Investing in partnerships is more and more crucial for UNIVE. Partnerships are identified by taking into account relevant EU and national policy priorities, the University Strategic Policy and Plan - with its geographical and subject area priorities - outcomes from previous projects and the institutional capacity to participate. An active involvement in international networks such UNIMED, UNIADRION and the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) are successful examples, which brought an increasing involvement in new collaborations, mutual project design and implementation.

A new approach to bilateral cooperation is also being pursued and will further be implemented: UNIVE is planning to focus on the quality of cooperation by monitoring and evaluating existing partnerships and by applying specific requirements to new ones. In 2017 a quality process started with the Academic Senate approval of specific "Guidelines" for the establishment and renewal of international agreements, to implement only those agreements meeting specific requirements in terms of quality and attractiveness for students and beneficiaries. According to this new institutional approach, successful Erasmus+ KA103 and KA107 IIA should become the first step of a more articulated cooperation. Those "new" partnerships shall involve Strategic Partnership projects, EMJMDs, Double and Joint Degrees, thematic seminars, joint research, Horizon projects, exchange of administrative and didactic methodologies, exchange of permanent staff, etc. A successful experience is underway with the Higher School of Economics (Moscow) and the University of Klagenfurt.



Key issues of UNIVE internationalisation and modernisation strategy are also central to the E+ Programme and the EHEA, in particular:

- **Mobility:** an essential element of any educational programme as well as of any professional academic and administrative career. UNIVE is working to enlarge the geographical, cultural and didactic scope of destinations beyond Europe towards institutional partner countries located especially in Asia, Eastern Europe and the MENA region. Besides the geographical scope of mobility, UNIVE is also working to improve its quality by connecting student mobility to educational programmes, thus designing embedded and structured mobilities for study and placement, for academic and administrative staff. New forms of mobility, such as virtual and blended mobility for study and placement, are also being explored, not only as a consequence of the recent pandemic emergency (e.g.: due to the recent outbreak of Covid-19, the Career Service Unit has launched two brand-new projects to help students experience an international vocational training, to be entirely carried out online);
- **Recognition:** widespread actions have been launched to meet EU's recognition requirements and adapt internal regulations and procedures to ensure automatic mutual recognition of student learning experiences of study and placement and qualifications obtained abroad. Internal procedures to recognise academic and administrative mobility have also been discussed. The central administration, departments and campuses converge to ensure the smoothest procedures to manage E+ KA103, KA107, Consortia (KA108), EMJMDs, and Overseas and placements University-funded projects;
- **Multilingualism:** as a traditional language-teaching university where almost 40 foreign languages are currently taught (including the sign language), UNIVE is devoted to the promotion of language learning, linguistic diversity, language awareness and the development of language competences in a variety of ways. Besides boosting student, academic and administrative mobility, much is being carried out to offer educational programmes, courses and didactic activities both in Italian and English in all the disciplines, identify and develop innovative multilingual teaching methods, such as the inter-comprehension methodologies



in innovative language didactic and research laboratories. Besides KA103, KA107, Consortia (KA108) and EMJMDs, an intensive participation in Strategic Partnership (E+ KA203) projects is being pursued;

- **Digital skills:** a massive investment has been undertaken to support digital and technology-based competences for students, academic and administrative staff. In particular on-line and MOOC platforms are being implemented to support the digitalisation of teaching and learning with curricular credit-awarding and blended courses. New procedures which may combine administrative national and institutional regulations are also being launched towards dematerialisation;
- **Innovation in teaching, learning and research:** great efforts are being made to identify, test, implement and promote innovation in teaching, learning and research, which necessarily implies but may go beyond the use of digital skills. New innovative didactic centres, hubs, training programmes, tools and methodologies for students and faculty staff are being implemented to facilitate learning and teaching, combining theoretical, transversal and soft skills, to facilitate employability and career opportunities. Curricula assessment schemes have been modified, by integrating the indices defined by the university accreditation system (AVA), including student questionnaires, employer reputation and employment records (mostly provided by external surveys). Particular attention is paid to the development of student interpersonal skills, their ability to adopt new competences and above all entrepreneurship, which implies relying on synergies between university and enterprises. An enthusiastic participation in Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnership and Knowledge Alliance projects is being experienced as an essential opportunity;
- **Social inclusion:** UNIVE is committed to offer higher education to all students, regardless of their socio-economic or cultural background. It also offers a whole variety of financial and didactic aid such as scholarships, fee waivers and reductions, student loans, prizes for outstanding dissertations, student collaborations involving paid jobs within the university, part-time courses, etc.



Social inclusion, inclusive education and intercultural awareness are the key objectives of some EMJMD and Strategic Partnerships projects;

- **Civic engagement and active citizenship:** UNIVE is implementing a rich programme of cultural and social events aiming at bringing together teaching and administrative staff with the local community and cultural stakeholders, in order to shape an environment capable of undertaking challenges associated to the contemporary global society. Particular attention is paid to a broader dissemination and exploitation of research and educational EU-project results. In this way, European values and ideas are spread not only to the beneficiaries of the E+ and Horizon Programmes, but also to a much wider - both geographically and socially - audience;
- **Sustainability:** UNIVE is committed to sustainability values. Through the “Sustainable Ca' Foscari” programme it promotes sustainability and include it as a perspective within all University activities. Sustainability, besides being a central theme of E+ and H2020 projects, is also a common objective of any UNIVE project, whose outcomes are meant to be implemented even after the end of the project.

Legal representative of the institution
Prof. Tiziana Lippiello, Rector