



Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020

Application Form Call: 2014

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.

UNIMI has for years put internationalization at the core of its purposes focusing its international strategy on excellence in education and research and the quality of learning and research results. To this end it operates also within European university partnerships having same purposes, as the League of European Research Universities (LERU) - a 21 European leading research-intensive universities association aimed at high-quality teaching within a research environment - of which UNIMI is one of the founders and sole Italian partner. This cooperation has generated studies and publications on the quality and features of II level university courses in Europe and led to the definition of shared guidelines for the establishment of joint masters and doctorates (www.leru.org).

A multidisciplinary university with competencies covering nearly all fields UNIMI enact international cooperation policies addressed to all its academic programs with a focus on advanced level courses. It operates within the framework of bilateral projects and international networks whose purpose is to promote academic cooperation throughout Europe and worldwide mainly on certain areas for their scientific potential (Brazil, China, India, Russia) or for their interest as study and research targets (Central Asia, South America) as well as for their development needs (North Africa, West and Central Africa, Horn of Africa, South America). UNIMI then does not neglect cooperation with the neighbors Balkans' universities. In line with the EU directives, that UNIMI has adhered from the beginning taking part in all EC programs till the current LLP with over 1000 bilateral agreements, the University prefers working in synergy with a multitude of actors seeking among European partners those sharing a same vision with the aim of developing joint strategies to promote European education and research policies. In this framework, (e.g.) it's member of the Europe China Research Centre at Beijing University (<http://a0020.srv.lu.se/info/pkueuc>) and of the Association of Europe India Study Centres (www.unimi.it/cataloghi/socrates/Memorandum_EAISC.pdf), aiming at fostering cultural and scientific exchanges, mobility of staff and students and the development of joint teaching and research activities. Within such initiatives, 2 Erasmus Mundus A2 (EMEA and IBIES) have been developed with China, India and South East Asia. UNIMI has established lasting relations with Russia also with its coordination of TEMPUS mobility and structural measures projects having as objectives the harmonization of curricula (Tuning). This experience is continuing with the participation in a new Tempus Tuning in Central Asia wherein UNIMI is strengthening its presence through a project in environmental health gathering leading universities and research centres therein. UNIMI has promoted a Russian and Italian Universities Forum due to a long experience of study and research in the country and is home to a Russia Center promoting Russian language, literature and art in cooperation with Russkij Mir Foundation. Environmental health, biotechnology, food protection, fundamental sciences and linguistic studies are some fields the University promotes in the Balkans area wherein it has coordinated and participated in some TEMPUS projects (www.unimi.it/ateneo/formint/1727.htm) and is now a partner of an Erasmus Mundus A2 (SIGMA).

In the same fields and in the fields of agronomy, medicine, science and technology, cultural studies, linguistic, socio-political and legal studies, it is making exchanges with Brazil and Latin America. In addition to numerous bilateral agreements with Latin and Central America, it has participated in Alfa and Alban cooperation programs launched in those areas and in recent years is partner in 2 Erasmus Mundus A2 (LOT 20b and MUNDUS17). To facilitate young researchers mobility the University has joined since its launch in the EURAXESS Network. It takes part in governmental and intergovernmental initiatives promoting higher education abroad such as “Science without Borders” (www.cienciasemfronteiras.it/en), for young Brazilians mobility to Europe, and “Marco Polo” for Chinese students enrollment at Italian universities. Relations with China are fostered through a Confucius Institute. Thanks to its Center for the Promotion of Italian language and culture, UNIMI organizes linguistic training for students and teachers, also from other universities. UNIMI is committed to the development of II and III cycle double, multiple and joint degree with EU/non-EU partners that have even been funded by the EU (EMA1 ALGANT, ALGANT DOC), the internationalization procedures for such courses are abiding by the Bologna Process’ principles. UNIMI’s international masters and doctorates are activated with partner universities offering study courses of same level in the same subject area, with educational programs to be harmonized and integrated, having as main objective learning outcomes.

UNIMI will operate in the new Program taking advantage of the expertise achieved during the many years of management of European cooperation and mobility programs. According to its internationalization strategies it will make agreements with EU/non-EU partners relying on well-established procedures. Unimi will enact the Bologna Process provisions for the implementation of mobility and strengthen its cooperation strategy with non-EU universities by assessing study plans and learning outcomes, academic credits and grades convergence to ensure full recognition of study periods abroad. It will strengthen its collaboration strategies networking with other universities, the business community and institutional actors, opening the participation of other EU/non-EU institutions in the many partnerships it has developed with national and international institutions and the work market. Building on the experience in the field of education it has gained through the collaboration with the business sector abroad, it will reinforce the participation of industrial representatives in teaching activities and in the definition of degree courses. The neighborhood and third countries cooperation will be organized within university networks with the help of local actors and NGOs with which UNIMI operates in several European projects developed in those areas. The knowledge of such environments and of their socio-economic and political systems summed up to the expertise gained working in partnership, has brought about UNIMI departmental pools of experts and professionals able to execute collaborations with partners efficiently and effectively. UNIMI will continue to give its own contribution in seeking best practices and new methods for training. In particular, the creation of joint courses will parallel with the participation of UNIMI experts in international initiatives for the harmonization of curricula to overcome the differences still existing in EU/non-EU higher education systems.

By participating in the Program, UNIMI wants to achieve the following objectives of modernization:

- 1) through cutting-edge research produce results transferable into innovative training models so as to meet the needs of the changing society and increase the quality and number of graduates and researchers to contribute to the Italian and European competitiveness; strengthen the links already in place with the upper secondary school to allow young people make a more informed selection of university courses and contribute to the lifelong training of school teaching staff; increase the number of students who enroll in university courses in the fields of sciences and life sciences through a dedicated approach involving laboratory training with the European educational institutions already in place for upper secondary students;
- 2) improve the quality and relevance of higher education cooperating in European universities networks to develop best practices for the harmonization of studies, the full recognition of training abroad, the creation of common models of doctoral training (in this context UNIMI will more actively participate in LERU work);
- 3) enhance quality through mobility and cooperation with third countries in the framework of the several international agreements in place; deepen the knowledge of the higher education systems of

other countries in order to improve the integration of study courses and come to a more perfect comparability of the results of the mobility abroad; strengthen the exchange of information with third countries, also through the already in place exchange of administrative staff, in order to facilitate the convergence of academic and administrative management systems; contribute to the dissemination of innovative solutions developed within cooperation projects aimed at solving structural problems in target countries;

4) connect the world of education, research and business through enhanced participation in: a) consortia of universities and research institutes of excellence for the training of II level qualified students (experience in Europe, China, Brazil) b) participation in industry - academia consortia (experiences in Europe) for industrial training and for the involvement of the business sector in the university training; encourage existing collaborations with regional and local authorities, trade and professional associations to identify solutions for the promotion of internationalization;

5) improve UNIMI procedures and administrative management and increase the resources made available in the Program; improve welcome structures for the reception of mobility students, researchers and teaching staff, with particular attention to disadvantaged groups; seek solutions for fund raising from national and international authorities and foreign and Italian public and private bodies and foundations.