

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

Hedmark University of Applied Sciences (HUAS)

Institutional code: NELVERUM01

Institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy

HUAS Strategic Plan 2013-16 statements regarding international (EU and non-EU) strategy:

- HUAS collaborates with HEI regionally, nationally and internationally and the institutional competence building policy is the core of this cooperation
- HUAS with its campuses offer a study- and research profile with high quality emphasizing interaction with the labor market and the wider society. Internationalization and pluralism is underlined in this context.
- Study programs at HUAS are research based and they offer international and multicultural perspectives.
- HUAS offers PhDs of good international quality in Applied Ecology and Teaching & Teacher Education in cooperation with strategic international partner institutions.

HUAS work plan for internationalization (under revision May- June 2013):

A) International institutional partnerships:

- HUAS will give priority to strategic partnerships that include student mobility, faculty/ staff mobility and development work on education and research collaboration.
- In the Nordic and wider European context HUC will continue to be flexible and innovative in establishing new cooperation agreements.
- HUAS aims to be an active partner in the search of collaboration projects and joint programs with other Norwegian and international HEI.

B) The strategic work plan for internationalization at HUAS builds on cooperation with selected international partner institutions. Priority geographical areas of cooperation in the nearest future are Sweden/ Nordic countries, wider Europe, North-America, Sub-Sahara Africa and Indonesia.

C) International collaboration on education and research/ goals and objectives:

- Strengthen academic and administrative cooperation with international partners.

- Make more visible how faculty and disciplines are internationally related and acting.
- Increase of research activity related to strategic international partner institutions and consortia.
- Increased mobility of teaching and administrative staff, outgoing and incoming.
- More strategic use of digital learning platforms and communication in ongoing communication and collaboration with partner institutions.
- Stronger and more strategic focus on recruiting international teaching and administrative staff.
- An international perspective is to be an integrated part of all study programs at HUAS and a central element of the students graduate competence
- HUAS offers the students international experience and intercultural experience through various kinds of study abroad programs (semester studies, student placements, intensive courses and study trips) in all degree programs.
- HUAS aims to use the competence of the study abroad- students more after returning home more systematically (internationalisation of campus- international student buddies).
- HUAS aims to be an attractive and well prepared study destination for international/ incoming students.
- At faculty level HUAS offers various high quality courses for international students with English as language of instruction, particularly designed for exchange student (1-2 semesters).
- HUAS offers high quality Norwegian language training for international staff and students.
- International and Norwegian students are in mixed student groups as much as possible (internationalisation of campus and curriculum).
- The welfare program for international students and the International Student Buddy program is emphasized.
- The global perspective including development support/ cooperation is to be a visible part of the HUAS profile.
- HUAS will continue supporting development projects in education with strategic partner institutions in Indonesia and Sub- Sahara Africa.
- The Quota program <http://www.hihm.no/English/Studies/Quota-Programme> is to be strategically used in strengthening the cooperation between HUAS and partner institutions in the South and East. As of January 2016 the Quota program has been ended and will be replaced by a new "Partner-program". HUAS plans to apply to the new program as soon as this is announced to continue our cooperation with countries in the South and East.
- HUAS intends to play an active role in the Nordic- Southern-African network SANORD <http://sanord.uwc.ac.za>.
- HUAS is hosting the administrative core unit of the Erasmus Academic Network PERL (Partnership for Education and research about Responsible Living) <http://www.perlprojects.org>

with an extensive network of partner institutions in Europe and overseas. PERL has of January 2016 been awarded the UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Living, which is currently the only UNESCO chair in Norway.

D) Swedish-Norwegian cross-border cooperation (Interreg):

HUAS is an active member of UNISKA (University Alliance Inner Scandinavia) since 1998 www.uniska.nu. A series of Interregional projects (Interreg A/C) have been conducted over the years, and HUAS is cooperating with Karlstad University on several Interreg projects.

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 Program.

The Erasmus Academic Network PERL <http://www.perlprojects.org> (building on the Erasmus Thematic Network CCN- Consumers Citizenship Network) has been an important experience for Hedmark University of Applied Sciences in how to establish and maintain international projects on teaching and training. The initiative to organize a project on consumer education (CE) came from teaching faculty at the HUAS Faculty of Education and Natural Sciences more than 10 years ago. The cross- disciplinary perspective has been a main focus, the same with the inclusion of different partners/ actors in the networking: HEIs, research institutes, consumer organisations, civil society/ NGOs + UNEP/ UNESCO.

CCN/ PERL has a wide network of project partners, and the majority of the partners have dedicated individuals contributing in workgroups delivering papers, learning materials and innovative grass root models for practical use in CE, but also taking part in conceptual and ideological debate on "sustainable living". The active participatory model has been one of the strongholds of this project model, as well as a main method for educational use in CE. Financially the working hours from the network partners have been vital as in kind contribution in a strict project budgeting.

Administratively the CCN/ PERL core unit in Hamar thanks to stability on the staff side has built up an extensive experience in handling EU funded projects and dealing with UN bodies as collaborative partners. Particularly the application and reporting competence on external project funding is something HUAS institutionally is gaining from on a more general basis.

On the institutional side a challenge now is to secure competence and partners in a transition from project based to "ordinary" program activity without losing the innovative approach.

Expected impact of HUAS participation in the Program on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives intended to achieve.

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs
According to the Norwegian Act relating to universities and university colleges one of the main purposes of HUAS is to provide higher education at a high international level. This includes education of researchers at PhD level. This purpose is repeated in HUAS's Strategic plan for 2013-16. The main basis of HUAS's educational profile is profession based, meaning that HUAS provides students with higher education ranging from bachelor to PhD level which is developed in close dialogue with the industry and public sector. Increased focus on international exchange of both students and staff, through participation in the Programme, will give us valuable input and help us to further develop our studies.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of HEI
There has been a strong focus on the improvement of quality and relevance of higher education in Norway during the recent years, especially since the Quality Reform of 2003. Improving quality in education is one of the main, and ongoing, goals of HUAS. One of the ways to achieve this is through a systematic strengthening of educational leadership in order to make higher education at HUAS more relevant. Also an emphasis on research is seen as an important way to improve quality of education since all education at HUAS is research based. Participation in the Programme will help us with this work, especially through knowledge exchange with other institutions in Europe with the same goals.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation
A strengthened internationalization of both education and research are major goals at HUAS expressed several times in the Strategic plan. Participation in the Programme will greatly help us reach these goals.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work
HUAS plays an important role in the general development of the region, its public sector and businesses. In order to make the knowledge triangle work, a co-operation with the region's business and public sector is vital. Here HUAS contribute with excellence in internationally oriented education and research and cooperates with the established regional council and actively hosting municipalities (also implementing their internationalisation agendas). Participation in the Programme will make it easier to establish such international cooperations within the knowledge triangle.

5. Improvement of governance and funding
This is one of the strategic goals in HUAS's Strategic plan. To achieve this HUAS needs highly competent employees and a professionalization of the administration. This is essential in order to be

a professional institution which, through its ambition to provide excellence in education and research, has to rely more and more on external funding to succeed. More international co-operation is an important way to attain this: participation in the Programme will be important for HUAS and inspire to increased mobility of administrative staff.