

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1. Institution's strategy, objectives, and priorities for its Erasmus activities

The Council of Europe challenged in Lisbon to the knowledge society, which became the programmatic statement of the Italian current Government as well as the goal of Università degli Studi del Molise, the scanty investments in education and research notwithstanding, due to the unfavourable economic trend. Our University aims at improving the quality of course offerings, implementing the new LLP program, and more generally rebuilding the governance system in order to increase the quality of services, motivation and enthusiasm of the involved people, and an higher competitiveness. Transnational mobility, already experienced through Erasmus, Leonardo and Grundtvig Actions, has shown that the encounter between different cultures and systems a remarkable impact on both personal growth and on one's own training process. Hence, our University will give more and more space and support to the mobility of persons, the promotion of a linguistic culture, the reception and integration of incoming students, the development of technology (especially e-learning) to improve communication and appeal of teaching offering and services, the pursuit of excellence in teaching and research activities. The LLP program will play an even more crucial role, for instance through the foreseen realization of Jean Monnet activities, with the purpose to establish working teams and multilateral networks aimed at strengthening the relationship between teaching and research. The EPS Charter and all related activities will be given visibility and publicity through the Internet, the local newspapers and television networks, the institutions working in the field of vocational training and education, including schools. These actions will aim both to give the widest information in order to arise increasing interest and favour, and to show to the general Italian public their centrality for further development of the society of knowledge in a European perspective. An on-line questionnaire and a Netletter are in the trial phase, as a basis to build a database of strength and weakness points in the management of exchange programs; and a Forum devoted to foreign students is already working. Last but not least, in planning, realizing and communicating all activities, Università del Molise is and will be more and more careful to avoid and sanction, even resorting to specific actions when necessary, whatever kind of discrimination aiming to marginalize differences in physical and psychic abilities, in sex, gender and sexual preference, in ethnicity, in religious beliefs, and so on; we are convinced that the widest inclusive policies alone may give rise to effective and fruitful development of knowledge inspired by mutual exchange and respect among all possible stakeholders.

2. Quality of academic mobility activities

- 1) Linguistic support: preparatory Italian course (40 hours, to be increased), articulated in two semesters. English, French, and Spanish courses for outgoing students (June-July, to be extended to German)
- 2) Outgoing students: University-teachers coordinators of the exchange programs as tutors and counsellors for activities to be realized in the related countries; printed and on-line Guide, periodically revised. Teaching modules in English (for incoming and outgoing students) to be soon activated, as well as improvement of communicative actions for wider visibility.
- 3) Incoming students: In the next course offerings program the ECTS credits related to each discipline as well as an English description of their program will be indicated. The placement activities in foreign countries will be implemented, especially for students coming from East European countries (Agrarian Sciences and Teacher Training). An ECTS catalogue of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences is in progress, while a conversion scale of ECTS notes for the entire University will be adopted as soon as possible.

4) A wider visibility and information relating to Teaching Staff Mobility programs is envisaged, with the support of the International Relations Office. Possible forms of acknowledgment are currently under study.

5) Main student services: a) accommodation guaranteed before arrival, in private houses with the aid of a local student's association. b) First welcome services and organization of the "Erasmus Day" (presentation of the University and first socialization). c) Access to technologic equipments: Multimedia room, individual password for accessing the Web and the Library's archives. d) Extended Library and multimedia spaces, International Relation Office flexibly opened and extra-availability of its staff. e) Agreements with shops and transport companies. f) Disabled students and teachers: A University centre for reception and orientation of disabled persons is operative. Possibility of an *au pair* tutor. Dedicated Internet station and other services.

3. Quality of student placement activities

The placements organized by the Università del Molise are not a proper work-contract, but a kind of field experience useful to choose the future profession by means of a concrete experience in the working context. They are integrated within the formation process offering the opportunity to apply the theoretical notions, to acquire the different aspects of profession, technology and work organization, and to discover one's own professional interests.

Placements ('tirocinio' and 'stage') are open to students enrolled at Università degli Studi del Molise, to graduated within 18 months from graduation, to Ph.D., Master, and different specialistic courses students within 18 months from obtaining the relating title.

The applicant can rely upon the data bank (Stage on Line) provided by the Stage and Training Office, or looking for a suitable organization by him/herself alone.

In each Degree program a Stage and Training Committee is established to find and select suitable local, national, and international companies/institutions. The Committee also selects the applicants, by means of an individual interview and a report in which the training activity is planned and the CV evaluated. In case of a positive match, the agreement between the University and the Institution/company is settled. The University provides a tutor for organizational and monitoring activities, as well as to guarantee the fulfilment of contractual obligations. At the end of the activities, a fixed number of ECTS credits is recognized to the student useful to complete the requested amount of ECTS credits to achieve the final title/degree.

Recently a dedicated Office, the "Industrial Liaison Office" has been established for coordinating the activities linking university to productive organizations. It will collaborate with the International Relations Office to organize the international student placements indicated in the LLP program, whose benefits are to be found mainly in the improvement of linguistic abilities, diversified working experience, quality of institutions/companies.