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## **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.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The AUO is a private university, legal entity of public utility, founded in 2000 and fully recognized by the Romanian official institutions by the Law no. 59 from 29th March 2012. AUO has in its academic structure the Law and Economics Faculty and 4 programs of study, 1st Cycle: Law (4 years, 240 ECTS), Management (3 years, 180 ECTS), Accounting and Administration Informatics (3 years, 180 ECTS) and Local Police - 3 years 180 ECTS. The AUO adhere to the ideals and principles enshrined in Magna Charta Universitatum, adopted in 1988 at Bologna and acts towards transition into the higher education and scientific research space of the values, norms and regulations promoted during "Bologna Process". The national and international prestige of the AUO is confirmed by the quality of its graduate students, by the collaborations relations established with similar national and international institutions from Asia, Europe and USA and by the international collaborations with our scientific journal: IJCCC (ISI journal - <http://univagora.ro/jour/index.php/ijccc>), AIJJC (<http://www.juridicaljournal.univagora.ro/>) and AIJES (<http://www.economicaljournal.univagora.ro/>) indexed in international catalogues and databases. The AUO as part of the scientific, cultural and educational values international circuit promotes partnership and collaboration with similar universities in the country and abroad, based on the principles of academic freedom, equality and reciprocity. Based on the strategic plan and research strategy, AUO developed and signed inter-institutional agreements with educational and research institutions: from EU states (France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain) and non-EU states (Albania, China, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunis and USA). By the conclusion of inter-university cooperation agreements are aimed: organizational knowledge of teaching and research experience from other universities to integrate these in AUO own teaching and research activity; gradually align of curriculum and scientific content of disciplines by applying European Credit Transfer System; teachers, researchers and students involvement in the educational, training research and consulting trans-European projects and programs, in order to improve performance in the educational process and integration into the international academic community; promoting and supporting student and teacher exchanges through inter-university programs and projects and through development of collaboration relations in the "visiting professor" system; promoting the exchange of scientific publications and textbooks with partner institutions etc. In the future, the AUO international strategy targets the EU space but it declares its opening at international level. The AUO international partners are chosen based on the following basic criteria: respect for the democratic values and promotion of excellence in higher education; respect for the EU and national norms and principles regarding the higher education and research; a high quality of academic management implemented in the institution; an efficient communication strategy; similarities between the domains of the programs of study offered (Law, Management, Accounting and Administration Informatics, Local Police); similarities of the research and teaching strategic plan and of the human resources professional development plan etc. For the AUO the most important objectives of mobility activities are: to increase the professional skills and knowledge of the students in order to become very good specialists in their work domain; to enlarge the knowledge and perception horizon of our students and staff by offering contacts with divers cultural patterns through international relations; to improve student's and teachers' language skills; to contribute to the permanent adaptation and optimization of teaching methods applied by our teachers through international training courses and teachers' mobility periods; to develop our institutional research plan through knowledge alliances; to develop joint masters programs in economic, public administration and law domains, in order to enrich the European labour market through highly specialized work force; to strengthen our institutional capacity by adopting successfully applied academic management measures in mobility-partners institutions. The main target groups of our future mobility activities are the students from all the four 1st Cycle study programs, administrative and teaching staff, selected on the non-discriminatory bases, in a fair in a fair and transparent way. Because AUO is presently getting through national and legal process in order to provide master's courses which we hope will successfully finishes till the end of the year, we intend to include our master students in the mobility activities. AUO will contribute with any human, technical, financial and other institutional resources in order to develop double/multiple/joint degrees.

If applicable, please describe your 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 Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

AUO strategy regarding international projects includes organization and implementation of: students and staff international (EU and non-EU) mobility programmes, double/multiple/joint Master programmes, strategic partnerships with other international HEI and key stakeholders, knowledge alliances with enterprises, programmes for IT platforms development for peer learning, virtual mobility and exchanges of best practices. Since AUO had successfully implemented 2 Jean Monnet projects – “Economic and Monetary Union” <http://www.uemprogrameuropean.univagora.ro/> and “Free movement of persons within the European Union” <http://www.lcprogrameuropean.univagora.ro/>, we are aiming to apply for creation of a “Jean Monnet Chairs”. Also, one important goal of our institutional strategy is the application for European and international mobility programs that support studies and traineeships for students and staff. We consider these kinds of activities to be vital for the formation of our students and staff. In fact, during the “STAPROS” project <http://www.stapros.ro/despre-proiect/obiective.html> our belief that student’s work placements count a lot for their professional formation was strengthened. Also, we realized once more the importance of the dialogue between universities and enterprises. This is why AUO intends to extend these types of partnerships to an international level, closing strategic partnerships with international partners (enterprises, education and research institutions, local/regional authorities) in order to provide to our students and also to our staff opportunities for professional improvement and development. Another AUO target is to participate in knowledge alliances with national and international enterprises for creativity promotion, innovation and entrepreneurship. These alliances will be a beneficial step in improving university curricula including the demands coming from enterprises, future employers of our students.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

We strongly believe that AUO participation in the Programme will have a beneficial impact on the modernisation of our institution. In accordance with the 1st Principle, AUO objectives are: to improve our educational offer in order to attract more high school graduates; to attract and encourage to continue their 1st Cycle studies with Master studies not only AUO bachelor graduates, but also adult population that need to continuously improve their professionals’ skills and knowledge by offering them double/multiple/joint master programmes; to continue the Agora scholarships plan in order to encourage students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups to attend. In accordance with the 2nd Principle, AUO objectives are: to continue the correlation and adaptation process of the AUO academic curricula and the content of disciplines taught to current and emerging labour market needs by keeping a close relationship with its graduate students through ALUMNI Department and by strengthening and initiating new communications channels with regional employers; to improve and to apply on a broader activities types (including virtual mobility and research programs) the use of “Agora University Moodle” e-learning platform; to encourage and to support the continuous professional development of AUO staff by offering new opportunities for continuing professional development (participation in the Programme, especially mobility of staff and projects of good practices, will help AUO to achieve this goal). According to the 3rd Principle, AUO objectives are: to involve a large number of AUO students in international (EU and non-EU) mobility for studies and traineeship; to recognize, in accordance with the national in European legal framework, the courses followed and academic qualifications gained abroad; to meet all legal requirements in order to certificate the mobility periods even through releasing of Mobility Europass; to encourage and support our staff to participate in mobility programs for teaching and/or training that will lead to improvement of institutional management, teaching methods and techniques and research activities; to attract students, academic staff and researchers from outside the EU through mobility programs, joint master programs, knowledge alliances and international cooperation projects. In accordance with the 4th Principle, AUO objectives are: to strengthen the partnerships between AUO and local and regional business sector by organizing informal and formal events in order to link enterprises needs to AUO research programs and academic curricula; to involve and consult public and private sector actors in setting AUO research agenda; to stimulate the development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills in all disciplines. In accordance with the 5th Principle, AUO objectives are: to find and attract additional financial support for the AUO strategic objectives set; to apply for EU and national competition based funding programmes.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)