

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Pavia has been awarded the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2021-27**.

The Erasmus Policy Statement sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.

### General preface

Strengthening the achievements of the past, while engaging in the challenges of the future, the new Erasmus programme represents an exceptional range of opportunities that the University of Pavia intends to seize in order to face today's demands via reinforced internationalization and renewed European values, keys for our collective success as one unique European reality.

In the last decade, the University of Pavia has strongly committed to implement its internationalization, by fostering incoming and outgoing exchange programmes, both for students and staff, with EU and extra-EU HEIs, as well as by implementing several International Master Degrees and increasing the number of projects with foreign countries. The major goal of internationalization has also been pursued through the participation to Erasmus+ Programmes KA1 Learning Mobility for Individuals and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, as well as Cooperation activities in the frame of Key Action 2, such as Capacity Building projects and Strategic Partnerships, Jean Monnet Actions and Sport.

In October 2019, the commitment to strengthen internationalization has received further impulse by the new University governance, that has appointed a Prorector for International Affairs coordinating the activities of three Rector's Delegates for Europe, America and Far East/Mediterranean regions, respectively, holding office until 2026. The new task force will manage the collaborations with HEIs worldwide, in a more specific and yet widespread manner. The strategic objective for the next 7 years focuses both on consolidating the international role and relevance of the University of Pavia, aiming for a more comprehensive and incisive international presence, as well as on integrating the intercultural and global dimensions in its training, research and innovation activities "at home".

This double approach, that emphasizes our worldwide reputation while enhancing our internal skills, is crucial to efficiently implement our institutional mission of improving the quality of education and future employability of our students and staff as part of a unique European Higher Education Area (EHEA), still preserving our own cultural heritage. Inclusiveness and equal opportunities will continue to be pivotal to our policy: nobody with economic or physical needs will be left behind. Conscious of the environmental challenges that the world needs to face, sustainability will be addressed as a transversal and essential element, to be mainstreamed in any of the activities above, it will be the driving force in our strategic action, making our participation in the Erasmus activities and our international mobility sustainable for the planet.

We fully embrace the concept of creating an education system that overcomes national borders and opens to EU and extra-EU opportunities. We also move forward aiming to:

- (a) offer international career opportunities to students;
- (b) create the best environment for the development of scientific activity and of the competencies of the teaching staff;
- (c) gain visibility and international support for the development of national and international initiatives.

## Our 6 key-goals

The priorities that we will pursue in the next 7 years can be summarized in the following 6 key goals:

### **A. Strengthening the international level of educational experience**

A student-centred learning approach will be adopted. We will focus on the qualitative improvement of study and traineeship exchange opportunities with EU and Extra-EU partners. This strengthening process will be supported by the creation and development of an international environment “at home”. We will consolidate our relationships with EU and Extra-EU institutions: university and research organizations, pointing to the quality, to ensure our students study and training opportunities abroad and to our teachers and administrative staff the possibility to collaborate in prestigious contexts. Mutual exchanges will be encouraged. A particular attention will be paid in establishing double/joint Master degrees and joint PhDs.

A careful evaluation of the existing agreements as well as the establishment of new ones will be followed by dedicated personnel of the international office in synergy with the governance.

New mobility schemes will be considered, associated with traditional long-term physical mobility. To this purpose, UNIPV already participated and implemented with great success the Erasmus Virtual Exchange pilot programme.

Short-term physical, blended and virtual mobility will be stimulated with the activation of summer and winter schools around topics of relevant interest for the local and international community. These actions will ensure that students and staff will have the opportunity for human and educational experiences at the international level increasing the chances of entering with success in the dynamic and competitive international job market.

### **B. Enhancing the future employability of the academic community and creating a territorial cluster for innovation**

The development of a territorial cluster for growing innovation and knowledge outside academic environments will be a main objective of our actions. The participation in the Erasmus programme will support this mission, by connecting academy and society at local as well as international level. Employability of students and staff will benefit from this “fertilization process” and particularly by expanding traineeship opportunities, both in EU and outside EU, by embedding internships in the study path through a deeper involvement of enterprises and other labour market stakeholders, by offering tailored training opportunities for administrative and teaching staff.

### **C. Implementing simplification and digitalization of Erasmus administrative processes**

The digitalization and simplification of all administrative activities will be pursued by the implementation of the European Student Card Initiative, and the promotion of the programme’s Erasmus+ mobile App among students.

UNIPV commits to implement full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during a mobility period abroad/ a blended and or virtual mobility.

Improvement in pre-departure preparation and assistance during the mobility period, specific attention to safety and security of participants and simplification and amelioration of the reporting system will be ensured.

Particular attention will be paid in monitoring activities in order to promote a rational agreement management.

#### **D. Improving the University reputation**

The creation of international double/joint degrees will pave the way for strengthening international networks aiming to lay the foundations for the opening of a European and even overseas University Campus. To this aim, a more active participation to HEI networks (i.e. COIMBRA Group, EUA, CUIA, UNIMED, SAR...) initiative and working group activities will be pursued and stimulated.

Bottom up and top down approaches will be undertaken to fulfil exchange with strategic partners as well as take advantage of already established collaboration among the academic personnel. The involvement of colleagues from other universities to participate in our university courses and academic activities will be sponsored.

The University will also encourage these experiences in order to increase relations and opportunities for access to EU funding for research (Horizon Europe), which represents a complementary aspect of academic education.

In this context, UNIPV strongly commits to support and actively participate in the new European Universities Initiative aiming at promoting European values and identity, and revolutionizing the quality and competitiveness of EHEA. Sharing of innovation and good practices among HEIs will be central for our University.

A more active participation in joint and structural cooperation projects with other universities and international stakeholders will be promoted in order to address challenges in the management and governance of HEIs.

#### **E. Promoting the European civic engagement and implementing environmental friendly policies**

With the upcoming years being crucial for the endorsement of green behaviours, the University intends to play its part strengthening its environmental policies via a set of innovative activities that allows for the mainstreaming of the Green Deal guidelines into the campus activities, in particular those related to internationalization. From fostering green transportation, to balancing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, from implementing circular economy practices to sensitizing students, a solid programme aims at improving environmental sustainability while triggering students' proactivity and engagement, promoting their participation in the University initiatives and, in turn, their growth as conscious European citizens. These activities indeed fall within a wider framework of promotion of active citizenship and civic engagement that our institution pursues within three dimensions: research and academic programs that directly benefit communities, public service by students and faculty, and business practices that support local and regional economic development.

#### **F. Enhancing inclusiveness of young people with fewer opportunities**

UNIPV strongly believes that the diversity of its student and staff community represents one of its major strengths and that the inclusiveness of students with limited opportunities in international exchange is essential to guarantee equal access to equal education.

Therefore, specific actions to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff will be pursued. UNIPV ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities. We will implement personalized support to address the specificities of a variety of target groups (low income students, special need students, part time students, working students, students and staff with family responsibilities, independent students, students from developing country, refugee students).