

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)¹

INTERNATIONAL (EU AND NON-EU) STRATEGY

Erasmushogeschool Brussel's international strategy is developed along the lines of (1) quality assurance of study programs, (2) competence development amongst students and staff and (3) contributions to the development of the knowledge triangle.

- 1) In order to work on quality assurance of study programs, EhB
 - benchmarks the study programs internationally and aims at high quality ranking
 - defines international learning outcomes for all programs
 - develops internationally comparable programs
 - promotes multilingualism

- 2) to contribute to a sense of European & global citizenship within a globalized knowledge society among students and staff, EhB
 - encourages student & staff mobility within Europe
 - promotes student mobility outside of Europe
 - structurally embeds intercultural learning outcomes within the curricula
 - develops internationalisation@home
 - capitalizes to the opportunities Brussels is offering as the capital of Europe & a diverse and multicultural metropolis

- 3) to contribute to the advancement of the knowledge triangle and the development of Flanders and Brussels as competitive and internationally networked regions, EhB
 - develops international, entrepreneurial, innovation and research skills among students & staff
 - actively participates in international (research/artistic) projects & thematic networks

OBJECTIVES & TARGET GROUPS OF MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

EhB's strategic plan for 2013-2016 targets the following groups for mobility and sets the following goals:

By 2016:

- an outgoing student mobility of 16% of the number of graduates, further aiming at 20% in 2020. This mobility can be realized either through study abroad or through international internships
- a mobility window for outgoing mobility within every study program

¹ This strategy supports the application of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020, call 2014.

- an academic offer of at least 1 semester for incoming students within every study program
- participation of at least 1 teacher per year per study program in the Erasmus teacher exchange program
- integration in the curriculum of the teaching by at least 1 incoming Erasmus teacher per year per study program
- regular international benchmarking to ensure the quality of all programs, at least once every three years

In addition to bachelor programs in applied study fields, EhB is also home to a conservatory of music, and a film & drama school. As these schools of arts also operate at master level, are involved in advanced artistic research work at PhD level and already enjoy an international reputation, their internationalization policy also includes competing internationally to attract the best international students, faculty and researchers.

PARTNER SELECTION

International Coordinators (IC) either actively search for partners themselves or are approached by foreign institutions to partner with them. Affiliation and participation in international thematic networks often leads to the identification of suitable partners. For those fields of study where EhB is not affiliated to such a network, partners are identified through desk research or staff contacts during international events such as conferences. The following criteria are used during the evaluation process: degree of compatibility between programs; opportunities for collaboration (mobility, research, curriculum); balanced geographic spread; faculty needs.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

In order to realize the European international strategy as outlined above, bilateral agreements within the LLP program have been signed with other European HEIs for all study programs within EhB. The International Office (IO) encourages departments to observe a balanced geographical spread.

In order to realize the broader global international strategy, collaboration is set up with institutions in regions outside of Europe. They are selected on the grounds of matching needs and the potential for future productive mutual collaboration tailored to specific fields of study. Africa, the Maghreb countries, Central Asia, Brazil and Vietnam are current regions of collaboration covered through TEMPUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS and Flemish university cooperation programs.

The Programme and the action plan for mobility which the Flemish government will soon release will most likely provide opportunities to intensify collaboration with partners in regions beyond Europe.

STRATEGY FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL (EU AND NON-EU) COOPERATION PROJECTS IN TEACHING AND TRAINING IN RELATION TO PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE PROGRAMME

International projects are key to the realization of EhB's international strategy as outlined above. Participation in such projects is intended to lead to:

- advances in curriculum development within EhB's study programs
- professional development of teaching and non-teaching staff

- participation in structured group mobility through intensive programs
- setting up broad dialogue and exchange of expertise with both EU and non-EU institution through collaboration project consortia such as TEMPUS.

EXPECTED IMPACT OF EHB'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME ON THE MODERNIZATION OF EHB

EhB subscribed to the EU modernization agenda and included the 5 key topics of this agenda in its most recent strategic plan 2013-2016. Entirely in line with this agenda, the strategic plan focuses on growth in student body, growth in research capacity, growth in innovation, growth in overall quality and growth in resources.

Objectives with regard to internationalization are conceived in such a way as to contribute to the realization of these overall targets of growth. The Programme will enable EhB to implement its objectives with regard to internationalization, thus indirectly also supporting its overall strategic plan.

Below we have tried to specify the way in which EhB believed the Programme can support each EU topic within EhB.

1) Increasing attainment levels

EhB contributes to the realization of this goal by designing its study programs in line with the European (and Flemish) qualification framework, providing appropriate transition programs between various EFQ levels, validating proofs of prior learning experiences and developing study tracks in blended learning. The Programme can assist EhB in this area to the extent it also supports full degree mobility, fosters cross border collaboration in the development of transparency tools, and supports thematic networks and cross border projects on innovative course design and teaching methods.

2) Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

EhB believes that a program of professional development for its staff and exercises in international benchmarking are key to the realization of this goal. Increased staff mobility and strengthened participation in thematic network & projects as facilitated through the Programme will help achieve this.

3) Strengthening quality through mobility and cross border co-operation

By subscribing to Europe's 2020 objective for outbound student mobility and committing to developing suitable programs for inbound student mobility, EhB believes students' intercultural and social skills will be sharpened. Traineeships are part of most of EhB's study programs. Further developing traineeships in an international context through the Programme will enhance students' professional skills & employability.

4) Providing incentives for participating in cross border research projects and thematic networks, particularly those which engage HEI directly with the labour market, are ways in which the EU programme can provide support in developing this EU goal.

5) Improving governance and funding

EhB's strategic plan promotes structures aimed at generating financial means beyond public funding and also emphasizes improved stakeholder management. The Programme can contribute to diversify funding sources and increase autonomy by supporting EhB's professional staff development plan through staff mobility and enhance EhB's participation in cross border projects.