

## ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2014-2020 ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

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

The strategy of internationalizing the centre has two axes: the first one refers to the main geographical areas and the second one to the predominant areas of investigation.

The IFES-UPJPII deploys its activity in two main geographical areas: in the Latin-American world and Easter-Europe.

The centre has close relationships with Latin-America and wants to serve as a bridge between Europe and this vast geographical zone. Latin-America has certainly a lot of common points with Spain both, linguistically and culturally. It is common knowledge that some of the Latin-American countries are and will be increasingly a strategic place for European development thanks to their fascinating cultural setting and their developing economics. In consequence a great number of students and scholars is to be expected to apply for a decent European education in order to secure a respectable position in the process of modernization of their respective countries. These young elite will be able to contribute to the expansion of the European values of democracy, equality and solidarity. These people in the first line will be interested in the future collaboration with different countries, centers and scholars.

Concerning Easter-Europe it is worth mentioning that our Centre has very close relations with Universities in the Ukraine, Russia and other countries of the same geo-political zone. There are deep friendships uniting us with scholars involved in similar investigations that preoccupy us. There is a mutual interest to get a better grip on the processes of European integration through cultural osmosis and mutual aid. It is our priority to deepen these relationships with the help of the European programs of internationalization.

These two areas of internationalization will play a special role in the organization of BA, MA and PhD programs. One of the main criteria of selecting partners will be the mutual interest of the exchange programs according to the main lines of investigation. We would like to organize classes and academic activities in a way that allows students and professors to discover new forms of approaching issues by integrating their native culture.

As to the main domain of investigation the centre has achieved two strategic agreements:

-The agreement with the UPJPII is based on our common interest in investigating the relationship between philosophy and science. This Polish University is internationally regarded in this particular field of research thanks to its outstanding facilities in the Copernican Institute of Krakow. Their research activity relies on the analytical philosophy of English-speaking countries. It is precisely this tradition of philosophy we would like to integrate in our research and thus we would encourage our students and professors to collaborate with students and professors of this geographical region (especially in Europe) by elaborating and realizing common projects that would allow us to comprehend the scientific theories and their influence on the economical and social developments of countries. This would be a task fundamentally for professors, MA and PhD students.

- Our agreement with the International Academy of Philosophy, a university located in Liechtenstein, focuses on a particular philosophical method called "phenomenological realism" that has been regarded as deeply efficient concerning the description and analyses of the social, political and economic processes as well with regard to offer a comprehensive explanation of the development of scientific theories. Our centre recently founded a chair for Realist Phenomenology occupied by Prof. Josef Seifert. For his international reputation, he would certainly promote an intense exchange of scholars and students interested in this fruitful philosophical interpretation of reality and thus contemporary issues. A good number of professors that are linked to Josef Seifert and/or are working within the field of realist phenomenology are professors of Easter European Universities. They are more than interested in participating at some level in the philosophical program of our centre.

-Last but not least our centre has a proper character due to the interest of its professors to tackle down the relationship between philosophy, theology and art. Art and especially literature is one of the most important mediums of knowledge enabling the integration among different nations. Some of the most relevant differences among cultures and civilizations stem precisely from the textual theological sources and their divers interpretations. The conjuncture of these two lines of investigations with regard to international horizons has a great relevance in the elaboration of the exchange programs.

Our center has an international character from the beginning of its foundation due to its staff composed by professors of different countries. In order to further develop these areas of international collaboration we could highly benefit of the European 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 Programme.

Our objective is to have international bonds with European centers that are close to our own interests. The strategy is based on producing personal bonds that may later lead to a wider collaboration between the centers, encompassing a structured relationship of teaching and research, which would include the exchange of students, professors, administrative staff and services.

This is why the first step would be a personal visit of our faculty member in charge of international relations, along with a person of our administrative staff, in order to learn about the structure of the foreign center and their lines of investigation. The centers object of request would be previously selected according to geographic criteria and to their own interests.

Once this first visit has taken place, if it is satisfactory, work is started to elaborate an agreement that contemplates students, professors and personnel, although from our point of view, it is preferable for the first exchange to take place between professors in order to provide for a more intense mutual knowledge of the institutions and for a more stable and defined joint work.

Finally, we hope that from these initiatives included in the Erasmus + program may arise joint projects of investigation, stable bonds in terms of services (for example, between libraries), and the creation of joint studies within the scope of the priorities of the European Union.

**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.**

Our participation in the programme Erasmus + would have a strong impact in the center in different levels. In reference to the modernization priorities pointed out in the programme's agenda:

1-Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs.  
It is of vital importance to share innovative projects concerning teaching techniques and their application in the classroom to areas of common capacitation. We expect that close relations between professors will translate into better and more efficient application of knowledge, so that students may obtain increased levels of "soft" skills or capacities, in response to the requirements posed by the new economic context of developing countries.

2-Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.  
From the previous point must follow an improvement in the quality of education, in the transmission of knowledge as well as in skills and abilities. We are certain that Philosophy is an area of education that can contribute decisively to the education of skills and abilities, and that achieving this aim will give this discipline a higher relevance and will facilitate its choice for some university students.

3-Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation.  
Being receptive to different models of education is a necessity for today's university, and, more specifically, for our center. The creation of joint university programmes, and the collaboration between faculties and institutions' services will generate an implementation of knowledge and resources that will enhance and strengthen the quality of education.

4-Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.  
Our hope is to endow philosophy with the resources and features necessary for the development of those skills and abilities that may improve its economic impact and its role in the formation of future workers. At the same time, the mutual cultural knowledge generated by our project of internationalization will help our students to expand their work market possibilities and improve the situation of our region, which needs urgently the implementation of a high quality superior education, only possible through an increase in internationalization.

5-Improving governance and funding.  
Similarly, these bonds between different institutions of international scope will improve our managerial and governance skills, as well as our capacity to obtain private funds as well as resources through the participation in research programs or of other nature that may supply means for the furthering of the objectives of the center.

The aims of the center conform with these priorities of modernization, although they must be garnered through the on-going formation of professors and personnel, as well as with the active participation of students that may obtain the aids of Erasmus +.