

## **D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

a) The University of Nova Gorica (UNG) consists of seven Schools and eleven Research centres and offers modern undergraduate and graduate study programmes, developed on the basis of the knowledge and expertise of the members of our academic staff who are top researchers and teachers. Therefore all mobility activities are linked to research and teaching collaborations. Decisions about the establishment of specific collaborations/agreements is taken on the UNG level, but are proposed by the Schools/Research centres since they have an exhaustive knowledge of their specific field of work. In this way they have the opportunity to utilise their own networks and to ensure the quality of their/UNG's partners. The University of Nova Gorica cooperates and chooses partners that correspond to the profile of the University of Nova Gorica and to the needs of students and staff. Special care is paid to the quality of teaching and research at the partner institutions. Successful partnerships are based on good practice, reciprocity and mutual interest.

b) The University of Nova Gorica cooperates with similar institutions all around the world. The University of Nova Gorica has not defined any geographical priorities for partnerships. However a strong European emphasis prevails due to mobility, which represents more than half of the outgoing mobility of UNG's students. Recently the priorities have shifted a little more towards the western Balkan states, partly as a result of common history and language similarities.

c) The UNG's objectives are to increase the mobility of staff and the mobility of students in all cycles by at least one-third (incoming and outgoing) and to continue in the improvement of the quality of education, research and innovation practices as well as in the quality of mobility. Mobility actions to other countries, and the new activities in the Programme, offer further potential for the University of Nova Gorica to meet the increased student and staff mobility targets.

The University of Nova Gorica participates actively in the development of joint and double degrees. Currently the University of Nova Gorica offers a joint study programme, European Master in Migration and Intercultural Relations (Erasmus Mundus Master Course), which has been developed in cooperation with other European and African universities and a double degree international masters programme, MAP-Media Arts and Practices (Erasmus Multilateral projects), developed in cooperation with institutions from Austria, Italy and Croatia.

The University of Nova Gorica will profit from existing European and non-European partnerships in both Key Action 1 and Key Action 2. At the same time, European partnerships will be further strengthened in the same key actions, with a focus on the quality and accessibility of mobility for students and staff (incoming and outgoing). The International Office of the University of Nova Gorica promotes internationalisation within the UNG, enhancing the possibilities of networking across UNG's Schools and Research centres. The International Office cooperates with the UNG's Schools and Research centres and provides them with support during the process of preparing project proposals/applications for international teaching and training cooperation projects, as well as during the process of project implementation. At the same time it facilitates the establishment and strengthening of some cooperation ties with foreign institutions and also fosters integration into various international networks. The International Office promotes and facilitates international cooperation for students and staff also by coordinating exchange programmes, and providing information on the variety of choices. The University of Nova Gorica participates in different international exchange and cooperation programmes and projects, which provide tools for quality assurance. The University of Nova Gorica takes special care to promote multidisciplinary research and to support programmes designed to build partnerships between industry and academia, with the hope of creating a better society both at local and global levels. When renewing the UNG's programmes quality is reviewed based also on the feedback and surveys conducted amongst students and staff and the current labour market needs are also taken into consideration. Approximately ten percent of our research and academic staff members come from abroad and this increases the potential for strengthened international cooperations.

The Programme supported activities will provide the UNG with various opportunities to internationalise its students and staff. Maintaining and improving the quality and international competitiveness in the field of pedagogical and research activity has been set as the central guideline of the UNG. The UNG wishes to be a high quality and internationally competitive university. Teachers at UNG can only be researchers or experts that are widely or internationally recognised specialists. UNG's speciality is learning based on practical problems in all study cycles, and for this reason students are included (as much as is possible) in practical and research work within the institution itself or within partner research and higher education institutions and industry. Competency based curricula, research work, work placements, mentoring and career counselling are tools used by the UNG to improve the employability of its graduates.

The UNG strives particularly to include experts from the field of economy into the educational process. It gives special attention to international connections and exchanges of students and staff. The UNG actively participates in the process of adapting and adjusting the higher education in Slovenia within the principles and guidelines of the Bologna Declaration. At the UNG the renewal of all undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes was completed in 2007. Students participating in the renewed study programmes are even more involved in practical and research work. Thus the conditions for the transfer of knowledge from the academic institution to the business environment are created, and with it the employment options of graduates are also improved. The goal of the renewal was the harmonisation of the study programmes with the principles and guidelines of the Bologna Declaration and with the new Slovenian Higher Education Act. A vital link between higher education and the economy has been forged also by establishing the *Primorska Technology Park*, which gives hospitality to technologically innovative companies that facilitate the transfer of knowledge and development initiatives to the entrepreneurial environment. Keeping in mind also the importance of stable and foreseeable financial resources for the implementation of higher education, the UNG has furthermore established the *University of Nova Gorica Foundation*, the mission of which is to ensure high quality and sustainable development of the UNG's activities. In the framework of the Programme, through a wide array of enrichment activities and in cooperation with its European and non-European partners, the UNG strives to achieve and provide the highest level of quality in education and scientific research as well as to ensure their comprehensive integration into local, national and international environments.