

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY TIRGU MURES**(as part of application for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020)**

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)

In recognition of the fact that the international dimension brings an added value to both education and to scientific research, the Strategic plan of institutional development (2012-2016) stipulates the statement of intent of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMPh) of Tirgu Mures to become a high quality provider of higher education with an international orientation. Thus, the Erasmus Policy Statement of UMPh Tirgu Mures for 2014-2020 derives from this Strategic plan. In order to achieve this, the University aims to extend and to intensify international cooperation forms, to be innovative and visionary in its relations with all partners, both in European countries and non-European ones, and to increase its reputation through the values it promotes. Internationalization is one of the main strategic goals of UMPh Tirgu Mures, internationalization perceived as a wide opening to Europe and the entire world for study sessions and internships/research for students and teaching/training programs for teachers. The objectives the university aims to attain through internationalization are: curriculum development and harmonization, the creation of a modern student-centred and skills development higher education institution, modernization of education, development and expansion of relationships with beneficiaries of the labour market in order to find new job opportunities for young people. UMPh Tirgu Mures is committed to promoting tolerance and to combating xenophobia, racism and to providing equal opportunities to participate in community programs to all members of the academic community, without discrimination of any kind. Meanwhile the University undertakes the mission of treating external partners who carry out mobilities to our institution according to the same principles.

For the new generation of community programs, the aim of the UMPh Tirgu Mures is to broaden the target group to which these programs are addressed, to expand the forms of cooperation and the geographical area in which they unfold.

The target group to which individual mobilities are addressed are the students enrolled at UMPh Tirgu Mures, the academic staff and the administrative staff with a permanent employment contract with the University. The group of participating students will be enlarged from students enrolled in undergraduate programs to the graduate students enrolled in short-term programs in master's and doctoral degrees. Students will be encouraged to choose both study programs, and especially internship ones related to their future specialty in hospitals, clinics, medical centres, research institutions, pharmacies, etc. The aim is that through knowledge and experience these beneficiaries will also gain new insights about their career, will become easily adaptable to the requirements of the labour market, and will gain specific skills and abilities in order to adapt more easily to an economic, cultural and social background. The aim of the teaching mobilities for the academic staff is to exchange expertise and experience in medical pedagogy as well as university curricula improvement and harmonization with international standards.

The expanding forms of international cooperation are aimed at concluding new bilateral agreements as well as creating transnational projects for curriculum development. UMPH Tirgu Mures will endeavour to create joint master's degrees by consortia with universities in EU and non-EU states. The aim is to create excellent quality programs which receive international accreditation and attract the best students from around the world. Regarding the doctoral degree, the University will encourage and support specific initiatives to achieve transdisciplinary doctoral programs in international co-guardianship, involving not only universities but also internationally renowned research centres.

Locally, a key objective of UMPH Tirgu Mures is the development of partnership relations with hospitals, research centres, local and regional authorities, with other social partners, including student organizations that are interested in the high quality training of specialists. These partnerships will foster creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and will create relevant learning opportunities.

Extending the geographical area in which these activities unfold is a priority for our University, the main aim of which is to promote harmonization and intercultural understanding between so different countries. This extension refers both to other European countries with which the university has cooperative agreements, as well as countries outside the European borders including America, Asia, and Africa.

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)

The strategy adopted by UMPH Tirgu Mures in its international relations policy is to strengthen the successful partnerships that we have at the moment and to find new opportunities for the diversification of such relations.

As proof of an excellent institutional strategy and a good organization, UMPH Tirgu Mures, as project coordinator, obtained good results by classifying RO-0010 network on the first place in the 2013 hierarchy of the Central European Exchange Program for University Studies. In addition, there are other projects the University participated at as partner and/ or collaborator: sTandem project within LLP, MEDINE I and II, project funded through European funds, RECIF and INCLLEN program, Tobacco and Health Research project and Capacity Building within the Fogarty program.

In order to find new opportunities to participate in new international projects targeting education and practical skills development, the university has established a standalone department dedicated to European and international projects. The establishment of the new medical research and experimental centre with top research equipment is another strategy through which the University may become more attractive and competitive in accessing new international education and research projects. Internationally accredited joint Master's degrees and co-tutelage PhD studies are envisaged.

Encouraging and motivating teacher mobility to other universities, research institutions or companies which could become potential partners is among the ways established by UMPH Tirgu Mures in order to integrate international cooperation in new projects.

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)

Participation in this program is an opportunity to reassess the international relations of UMPH Tirgu Mures to a true European and international dimension through greater access of our community, students and academic staff to educational, professional and research exchanges in universities belonging to the European area and beyond, each one with general and specific features that can be implemented to improve the quality and relevance of both teaching and research. Last but not least, an improvement in the quality of our university and non-formal education is expected. Meanwhile, our university can provide more effective approaches that can lead to top education and training in established fields but also in areas relevant in the current economic environment, especially by master's programs.

UMPh Tirgu Mures seeks to gain an international dimension by involving teaching and research staff from abroad; mobilities under this program may be an opportunity in recruiting them.

Starting from the principle that cooperation can lead to growth and excellence, UMPH Tirgu Mures sees in this new European program the chance to understand and put into practice an integrated education-research-business system viable as a means of efficient use of human, logistical, and financial resources involved in any institution of higher education and to provide real solutions for the development of the society.

There are also expectations regarding improved management and functionality of processes within our institution by adopting functional technological solutions currently used in other European universities.

Țirgu Mureș, the 10th May 2013

RECTOR

Pr. Leonard Azamfirei MD, PhD

