

ERASMUS Policy Statement Technische Universität Chemnitz

ERASMUS Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)
Erasmus+ programme 2014-2020

Please describe the international (EU and non-EU) strategy of your institution. Please indicate a) how you select your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the main objectives and target groups of your activities concerning mobility (with regard to academic staff members and students within the first, second and third cycle of studies, including studies, internships and short degree programs). If applicable, please explain how your institution is involved in the development of double / multiple and joint degree programs

The Mission Statement of TU Chemnitz declares as one of its main objectives to connect research, studies and further education on a global scale in order to prepare the breeding ground for sustainable international research projects and mobility of lecturers, researchers and students. From this overall objective derive the main targets of strategic internationalization of TU Chemnitz: to increase incoming as well as outgoing mobility within and beyond Europe, to develop internationally attractive degree programs, to foster the internationalization of teaching content, to intensify the support of highly-qualified young researchers and to further enhance its global competitiveness according to its profile in education, studies and research (i.a. energy efficiency, nanotechnology, information and communication technology). Additionally, TU Chemnitz also strives to further enhance its relations to partners in neighbouring regions as well as to gain strategically additional high-performing partners in global regions of growth and innovation. The ERASMUS Program will also remain within the new program generation 2014-2020 an indispensable and crucial component of implementation of that international strategy, especially thanks to the fact that funding opportunities for individual mobility as well as cooperation will – not exclusively within the three key action areas – prospectively be even more extensive in many ways.

The upcoming expansion of the scope of mobility to non-participating countries opens up the promising perspective to TU Chemnitz to put even stronger emphasis on its focus points regarding the selection of partners than before: Europe – i.a. with special focus on the Czech Republic and Poland – Russia, China, India, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, USA, Brazil, South Africa and Australia. TU Chemnitz has – also in consideration of the prior guidelines of the Program – defined distinctive qualitative objectives for the selection of its international cooperation partners which are verified in advance before the conclusion of agreements, especially whether there are already existing and proven contacts, whether raising mobility and revenues of third-party funding through joint projects could be expected, whether the intended collaboration corresponds to the focus areas of the university and whether the cooperation will contribute significantly to the further integration of TU Chemnitz into the global “Scientific Community”.

As already mentioned, TU Chemnitz counts among its main objectives within its strategic internationalization to attract international students, PhD-candidates and scientists from all over the world as well as to encourage its own students, PhD-candidates and scientists to spend a time abroad because individuals as well as the university profit from high mobility. The intended further enhanced implementation of the proven mobility schemes of the ERASMUS Program for individual mobility for learning and teaching purposes which are now geographically extended will contribute significantly to the achievement of this objective. The central components of the implementation of this Program will remain a comprehensive offer of opportunities for advice and support, the continuous target-oriented enhancement of the cooperation network – complemented by additional cooperation opportunities with partners from third-countries in the future – as well as intensified integration of mobility in teaching and learning activities supported by a network of actually 47 ERASMUS subject coordinators in order to ensure a comprehensive professional support. The target groups mentioned profit from enhanced employability through mobility thanks to the strengthening of their academic, linguistic and intercultural skills. At the same time the institution is enabled not only to raise its international visibility and competitiveness but also its academic and cultural competencies and its capability for innovation aiming at further develop studies, teaching and research thanks to an intensified exchange of persons and ideas.

In order to further increase the mobility of students in the Master's sector, the two already existing double-degree-programs at TU Chemnitz ("Production Systems", "Print and Media Technology"), launched in 2008 together with an EU-partner (Brno University of Technology) on the one hand and with one partner from India (Manipal University), shall be complemented by high-quality Master degree opportunities within the funding possibilities of the Program in the future.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for organizing and conducting international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and learning with regard to projects carried out within the ERASMUS Program

Among the main objectives of the strategic institutional development of TU Chemnitz defined in its Mission Statement count the international networking with high-performing partners in science and economy. This ambition is not only reflected by a diversity of renowned partner institutions world-wide but also by active membership in globally-acting networks (i.a. "AC21").

On that basis, TU Chemnitz strives to support, enhance and deepen to an even higher extent cooperation with partners that contribute thanks to their profile and to their high performance to the further strengthening of the competitiveness, capability for innovation and international visibility of the university.

Strategic Partnerships within the ERASMUS Program will support the university to achieve the objectives of the European Modernization Agenda by contributing to the strengthening of the relevance of higher education and research by the planning, implementation and further development of joint projects like joint degree programs in the Master- and PhD-sector together with partner universities, by fostering entrepreneur spirit and entrepreneurship underneath graduates and scientists through university incubator networks in cooperation with industrial partners or by further deepening the relations to the economy and extramural research institutions on the area of education of young scientists.

The overall objective of that kind of Strategic Partnerships should be to contribute by high-quality degree programs to the further improvement of the number and the employability of graduates, to foster the cross-linking of higher education, research and economy by intensified support of entrepreneurship as well as to inspire a raising number of highly-qualified and talented people for science and research by enhanced education of young scientists

Please describe the expected outcomes of the modernization of your institution related to the political objectives (concerning each of the five priorities of the European Modernization Agenda) which you would like to complete by your participation in the program.

In order to contribute to the further improvement of educational qualification to cover the demand of academics and scientists of Europe, it is intended – in addition to the attraction of a raising number of people who are not holding a “classic” entrance qualification for higher education (i.a. by target group-oriented offers in studies, further training, advice and support) and to the objective to lower student drop-out rates by the optimization of existing and the establishment of additional opportunities for advice and support – with regard to the participation in the Program to ensure the comprehensive recognition of learning outcomes acquired during mobility periods, to optimize the education of young scientists and to strive for the further enhancement of the career perspectives within the scientific area, especially by the support of individual mobility for learning, teaching and training purposes in all three cycles of studies as well as in the staff sector.

Furthermore, TU Chemnitz assumes that particularly the intended raising of the number of mobilities for internships but also for teaching purposes especially for stays abroad beyond Europe will have a favorable impact on the professional skills, the profiling on professional areas and the capability for intercultural communication of the graduates on the one hand and on the application orientation of higher education on the other in order to ensure the best possible contribution to the further raising of quality and relevance of higher education.

Concerning the intended amelioration of quality by mobility and cross-border collaboration it is furthermore expected that the enlarged mobility opportunities within the new program generation will accelerate the development towards advanced integration of mobility windows and obligatory stays abroad in the curriculums and that the more comprehensive use of (prospective) partnerships and possibilities for recognition will lead to the further amplification and diversification of attractive exchange offers and thus will contribute to the achievement of another priority of the European Modernization Agenda.

In addition, especially the opportunity to establish Strategic Partnerships in connection with the deepening of existing and the establishment of new contacts with the economy (i.a. provision of offers for internship and employment, intensification of knowledge and technology transfer, integration of companies in studies and education of young scientists) offered by the Program represents an interesting opportunity for TU Chemnitz to deepen collaboration in the mentioned areas in order to intensify the cross-linking of higher education, research and economy in the interest of ensuring and promoting excellence and regional development.

Finally the greater variety of funding opportunities will enable TU Chemnitz to make use of them in a self-determined and target-oriented way in order to support the further profiling of studies, teaching and research as well as to enhance and continuously sharpen its strategic profile and thus strengthen its autonomy.