

Fulda University of Applied Sciences strives for a broad participation in the Erasmus Actions in order to profit from the programme as good as possible. This can only be achieved by more visibility of the Erasmus Actions throughout the institution, thus departments, other relevant units as well as the university board have to be better involved.

Mobility Actions for Individuals with Programme and Partner Countries (KA 103 and KA 107):

Central goals of our strategy are to internationalise the student, teaching and administrative staff body alike **by increasing outgoing and incoming mobility on all levels**. The main focus of these actions lies on the mobility itself, but internationalisation at home, curriculum development and professionalization of staff are accompanying effects and should be the results of credit mobility. The international office (IO) already has a lot of expertise in this field. The IO staff advises both resident and international students on their stay abroad or at FUAS respectively in all administrative and financial matters. The departments also play a great role as they counsel students in all academic affairs, i.e. on the curriculum itself and recognition, and they are also the ones who select students. Incoming students will receive all necessary advice and support they need before and during their stay, the departments help with academic questions, the IO gives advice on accommodation, integrative measures, it organises the orientation week and a buddy programme and helps upon arrival with registration and other practical questions.

In order to **internationalise the curriculum**, teaching staff mobility is a crucial element in the programme. The mobility of outgoing and incoming teaching staff alike shall be increased by professionalising already existing support structures in the IO and the departments.

To achieve the goal of an **international university**, the target group **administrative staff** has to be included as well as the supporting basis of the institution. The approach for this target group is a collaboration with the HR department: All outgoing administrative staff undergoes a selection process by a committee in the HR department, their mobility stays abroad are certified through the HR development. Support for incoming administrative staff is given by the IO, international staff weeks as driving force for more networking and collaboration are planned for the years to come.

A structured and **strategic cooperation/partner network** is a prerequisite for a competitive higher education institution. One of our most important goals, to attract more international students and to increase the graduation rate amongst them, can also be obtained better if visibility and strong partners abroad help to promote studying and living at FUAS.

Not only does such a network offer a lot of mobility options for students and staff, but in order to implement projects, smaller or bigger ones, it is also crucial to have a strong partner network. Consequently, Fulda University will develop its partner network systematically over the next 5 years, thus gaining stronger international visibility and reputation as a good partner for projects.

Mutual recognition of ECTS, joint curriculum development as well as the support of linguistic, intercultural and digital skills are key instruments to facilitate and integrate home and international students and to achieve an international student and staff body, including those who cannot profit from a physical stay abroad. Measures of internationalisation@home and virtual learning or blended mobility options will have to be developed further. In this regard, Fulda University has committed itself to more **digitalisation** in study and research as well as in the administrative infrastructure. This approach is in line with the European aim to promote more digital formats to really arrive in the **“New Digital Age”**, the Erasmus programme offers new possibilities to implement this goal, the European Student Card Initiative being the most prominent and forerunning example.

All these aims can be achieved by participating in the Erasmus Key Action 1 for Learning Mobility on the one hand, the implementation of Cooperation Projects (Key Action 2) on the other hand offers further paths to pursue this goal.

Fulda University wants to make more use of cooperation projects within Europe, i.e. small-scale projects like intensive study programmes or short term programmes, or the continuing engagement in the German programme “Europa macht Schule” which is a perfect example for cross-sectoral cooperation. It is of utmost importance to work together not only with other higher education institutions but to involve stakeholders in schools, the industry, regional politics or non-profit organisations. By integrating multipliers of different sectors, the idea of generating a **“European citizenship and lifestyle”** reaches a greater audience and thus can be put into practice more easily.

The University has actively participated in the **Jean Monnet Programme** with funded chairs and modules since 2000. The recently awarded new Jean Monnet Chair and an ongoing application for a Jean Monnet Network (Call 2020) underline the commitment and expertise of the University in European policy areas. The university aims to build on those achievements in the new Erasmus+ / Jean Monnet funding period.

Adequate tools are **Partnerships for Cooperation** and **Partnerships for Innovation**. Fulda University can build on a history of coordination of and participation in multilateral projects in the Lifelong Learning Programme and in participation in strategic partnership projects in Erasmus+ (KA 2).

Fulda University aims to expand Erasmus cooperation projects with partners around the world, e.g. for developing governance structures or to be more involved in development cooperation projects. Regions such as Sub-Sahara-Africa or the Middle East, but also some countries in Latin America, are strategically interesting for FUAS and possibilities of cooperation on all levels will be explored further.

The International Office and the EU-Liaison Office of the Department of Research and Transfer will collaborate to further develop the support structures of the institution to facilitate the development and implementation of international KA2 projects.

Joint Master Degrees are a very attractive tool for the promotion of excellent degrees in subject areas of the future, which in turn secure employability and educate young people for the international job market in promising and up-to-date fields, amongst them International Logistics or International Health. Fulda University will promote this programme in the departments further in order to develop new joint master programmes.

Fulda University has been coordinating the consortium (KA108) **“Network for EU-traineeships and university business cooperation”** since 2001 in cooperation with the Institute of interdisciplinary Research inter.research e.V. The consortium was awarded with quality labels by national agencies (DAAD and BIBB) thanks to service components such as the on-line training “Hands-on Learning – Practical Preparation for an intercultural workplace”, which supports all Erasmus+ trainees of the consortium to develop intercultural, entrepreneurial and civic key skills for global citizenship during their stay abroad.

Transnational traineeships are gaining an increased importance as an international learning environment. Thus the University will build on past achievements and will explore synergies with other programmes such as COSME/Single Market Programme (Erasmus for young entrepreneurs) and Horizon 2020/Europe (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions) in the new funding period.

Based on the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Internationalisation 2021-2026 strategy Fulda University will decide about further developing the strategy to become a "truly Leading European University", which would include participation in the European University Initiative (Partnership for Excellence).

Based on results and expertise gained in research on national as well as transnational level e.g. of the Center of Intercultural Communication and European Studies (Cinteus), the Regional Innovation Center for Health and Well-Being (RIGL) or the Jean Monnet Chair the participation in Key Action 3, Experimental Measures and Policy Support, will be considered in order to support European uptake of research results.

Finally, more visibility of the Erasmus Actions is key to their success. The International Office will collaborate with the EU-Liaison Office of the Department of Research and Transfer in order to explore synergies with support structures of EU research and innovation programmes and to inform members of the University in a concerted way about the opportunities Erasmus actions offer to them.