

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (2007-2013)

SECTION 1.

The strategy of the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG), which offers 6 degree programmes at Master's level and 2 programmes at Bachelor's level, envisages further enhancement of its Erasmus activities within the new 6-year cycle of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). Taking into account the great variety of disciplines in the academic curricula of Structural Engineering for example, the accent in the student mobility will be put on diploma and course project development. At the same time, participation in thematic networks will help bringing closer the curricula of the European universities in the respective educational areas.

Several other accents should be mentioned with respect to student and staff mobility:

- Intensive language training options from the very enrolment of students in UACEG;
- Taught courses in foreign language at UACEG; further enhancement of courses taught in English, in addition to the existing ones in German and English;
- Priority and new areas involvement, like Geoinformatics, Real Estate Management, Marketing, Management, etc.

UACEG will continue its efforts in developing advanced forms of foreign languages teaching/learning, applying for a project under the transversal programme of the LLP.

Eurocodes application needs great efforts, part of which may be realized with the help of continuing education programmes.

Some of the cutting-edge technologies in Architecture, Civil and Geodetic Engineering should be presented and studied through appropriate intensive programmes.

The overall endeavor in the exchange of students and staff is to increase the number of countries from 15 to 22-23, and the universities from 32 to 50. The realistic figure for the relative share of the incoming student in the next Erasmus period is 25%, compared to 12% so far.

The recruitment activities for students and teachers for participation in Erasmus, as well as the EPS and EUC are given wide publicity within the University with the help of the website, various information boards, leaflets, e-mail distribution lists, and Student Union's channels.

UACEG has good traditions in training foreign students. In its 65-year history several thousand students from 40 countries from Africa, Asia and Europe have graduated at UACEG. No case of discrimination has been noted so far, and this is a good base to continue in this way in the future.

For the time being, about 90% of the University area is accessible for wheelchairs. Efforts to this respect will continue in the future with new technical facilities.

SECTION 2.

A team of contact persons, departmental coordinators and academic staff under the guidance of the institutional coordinator is working for the success of the Erasmus programme. Full information on the academic curricula in Bulgarian and English, including annotations, academic hours and ECTS points, is available on the website. The contact persons advise outgoing students for the selection of a best match of subjects in the foreign university curricula, in order to be recognized afterwards by the home university. All subjects studied abroad are included in the Diploma Supplement. Students are offered additional intensive language courses before traveling abroad.

Incoming students are attached to tutors. They are offered rooms in the university's dormitories. Thus, they are more easily integrated with their Bulgarian peers.

Teaching staff mobility is taken into account in their attestation and academic promotion.

SECTION 3.

The quality provision for student placements begins with their planning. The faculties mark the main targets to be reached, the accents in the internships and which countries are most appropriate.

On the basis of this preliminary information we look for partners with proven experience in the organization of student placements in our field. Agreements are drawn up including detailed obligations of the parties. The requirements for monitoring, tutorship and assessment of student work are considered too. The employer should make personal assessments of student activities. One major requirement for the work assigned to students is to comply with their profile and qualification.

Partners take the obligation to provide suitable accommodation for students, city transport cards, and two-week language training and cultural adaptation.

Bulgarian side provides travel tickets, insurance and instructions related to visa formalities, if any.

If the partners observe the agreement, particularly with respect to finding a suitable employer, no problems exist with the recognition of the placement periods by the deans' administrations.

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