



HoGent

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

15-05-2013 - http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/funding/2014/call_he_charter_en.php

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.

In July 2012, the Flemish parliament adopted a new decree for further restructuring Higher Education. This decree stipulates that from the academic year 2013-2014 onwards academic Bachelor-Master programmes which are until now offered by university colleges, will be integrated in the university of their university association. On the 1st of October 2013 HoGent will consist of 3 faculties and 1 School of Arts, serving about 12,000 students. A new vision and strategy for a changed organisation was/is necessary. The strategic plan of University College Ghent defines its main tasks – education, research, services & development of the arts - in an international perspective. The education at HoGent is characterized by authenticity, research, internationalisation and entrepreneurial spirit. We therefore opt for cooperation and networking with European & international partners in order to participate in the ongoing international evolutions and actions within a multicultural context. Main focus of all activities within internationalisation is offering our students the right context for developing international and intercultural competencies. All other internationalisation activities are related to this focus: developing partnership agreement, staff and teaching staff mobilities, participation or co-ordination of European projects, ... The main focus for cooperation is still oriented towards European countries. The already existing cooperation with partners outside the (European) higher education area will be further developed into a transparent & structured system in order to guarantee an efficient & effective use of these contacts. Teaching staff mobility and the professionalization of our administrative staff responsible for international and European cooperation is another particular point of interest. By sending out our teaching staff and by inviting European teachers and experts from our partner institutions, universities and organisations to University College Ghent, we create opportunities for further cooperation and development. Therefore partners are chosen based upon their possibilities to acquire these competencies and opportunities. Because internships are an obligatory course in all our Bachelor programmes, doing a placement abroad is stimulated as much as possible. Language efficiency is essential during these work placements and therefor EU-countries are usually the first choice for students' internships. Although issues such as languages, communication and infrastructure are crucial for high quality internships, departments and faculties choose carefully partners outside Europe as well, especially for specific programmes such as nursing, social work, wood technology or animal care.

Europe has set the target to have 20% of all graduates having an international experience by 2020 with a minimum of 3 months or 15 credits. This means that a large amount of graduates (maximum 80%) needs opportunities to acquire international and intercultural competencies while studying at



HoGent

HoGent as well. By sending out our teaching staff and by inviting teachers and experts from our partner institutions, universities and organisations to University College Ghent, we create opportunities for further cooperation within the European programmes and Internationalisation @Home: students and teaching staff staying at the home institution get the chance to experience a European dimension as a result of the presence of these foreign teachers. Developing joint programmes, ideally double/multiple or joint degrees, by exchanging staff to the partner institutions of the consortia, is such a way to reach this goal. Organizing international weeks, modules and intensive programmes, all these initiatives serve our goal to immerse our students and staff within the European and international dimension and the intercultural richness of our society. Reaching out for 100% international competent students can only be achieved by international competent staff. University College Ghent stimulates international exchanges of her staff (teaching & administrative) by co-funding international mobilities and offering language testing according the CEFR. The development of a mobility window for teaching staff has been identified as an important action to be developed and implemented the next 4 years.

HoGent focuses on applied research, the nature of which sometimes resembles that of services. Our activities contribute to an up-to-date academic profile and curriculum, while at the same time establishing close links with industries, official bodies, other higher education institutions and other partners – at home and abroad. Although University College Ghent has no doctoral programmes, our expertise, laboratories and facilities makes us, in close cooperation with Ghent University, an interesting partner for visiting doctoral staff. These exchanges of expertise are also valuable in developing joint curricula and double/joint degrees.

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.

Learning mobilities for students as well as for staff is crucial in the HoGent strategic plan 2012-2017. By 2016-2017, 20% of our graduates must have an international experience abroad; a challenging goal, 4 years earlier than the European target. Having the internship incorporated in our curriculum, an important focus goes to work placement in enterprises and professional organisations abroad. Therefore, developing strategic partnerships, with Higher Education Institutes but also with sectorial organisations and SME's regionally, is a priority.

For the other 80% (maximum) of graduates, activities for bringing the European and international dimension into the curriculum, projects and activities in cooperation with our EU and non-EU partners are developed: European modules, virtual courses, joint programmes with international guest teachers and experts. Peer-learning has proven to be a powerful methodology in educational development and cooperation of staff within EU/non-EU projects is an added value for our staff as well. Our activities contribute to an up-to-date professional & academic profile and curriculum, while at the same time establishing close links with industries, official bodies, other higher education institutions and other partners – at home and abroad. The number of active international networks our departments have in relation to their subject areas, is an indicator in our quality assurance management system. Being an active partner in an international project or being coordinator of such



HoGent

a project or consortium, will become an indicator as well, possibly leading to some (financial) incentives for the faculties. Some of the criteria in the recent developed iNaPa-window (window for international partnerships) refer to experience as participant and as coordinator with international projects in teaching and training. The international relations offices at central level, at the 3 faculties & at the School of Arts are the key-actors for information & support.

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.

In October 2012 the Board of Governors of University College Ghent decided upon a new Strategic Plan 2012-2017. We hereby highlight some of the principles & objectives of our Strategic Plan linked to the priorities of the Modernisation Agenda.

Education at HoGent is characterised by authenticity, research, internationalisation and entrepreneurial spirit. UCGhent guarantees an international experience to all our students. Therefore, graduates from HoGent will be prepared for a committed live in our international oriented, fast evolving, complex and diverse society. This way HoGent helps to increase the attainment levels to provide graduates and researchers Europe needs.

By a regular benchmarking with our (international) academic partners, we constantly challenge ourselves as a learning organisation towards innovation and excellence. In return & in mutual respect, as an active stakeholder and sounding board for our partners we help their development and innovation as well. Education at HoGent is student centered education. Students at HoGent enjoy education according (inter)national standards: educational materials according international standards; 20% graduates by 2016-2017 with an international experience abroad. An integral quality assurance system guarantees the improvement of quality and relevance of higher education.

We strive for strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation by our operational objective: 20% graduates with an international experience by 2016-2017 and a network of preferential partners. The recent developed iNaPa-window will become a crucial tool in developing this network.

Making the knowledge triangle work is not an empty slogan for HoGent. HoGent is regionally anchored & internationally oriented. We link higher education, research & business for excellence and regional development. For our research and services HoGent cooperates with regional, national & international partners (business partners, social profit sector as well as the arts sector). Education, research and its valorisation within HoGent are based within the practice of the (professional) field and society; at the same time expertise is returned to this professional/artistical field. HoGent focuses on applied research & research in/of arts. The management of HoGent on the Research Fund's allocation, follows up on the academisation process, stimulates research in the professional bachelor faculties, stimulates the coherence of the ongoing research, ...



HoGent

The operation and investment of HoGent are financially secured by a detailed planning and implementation of the (multiyear)budget. Her performance is monitored by a supported system of total quality management.

All organisational entities plan in dialogue and cost-consciously their tasks & objectives by giving priority to those core activities, leading towards an efficient and effective organization. This way HoGent strives to become an example in good governance.