

D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

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)

Original language [EN]

Mondragon Unibertsitatea -- Mondragon University (MU) is a university of social initiative and social vocation, non-profit making and declared of public interest. The University was created in 1997 by the association of three educational cooperatives, with the guarantee of an extensive career and experience in the world of education which dates back to 1943, these were Mondragon Goi Eskola Politeknikoa (MGEP) "Jose M^a Arizmendiarieta" S.Coop., ETEO S.Coop. and Irakasle Eskola S.Coop., which nowadays constitute the Polytechnic School, the Faculty of Business Studies and the Faculty of Humanities and Education. In 2011 a new Faculty of Culinary Science is added to Mondragon Unibertsitatea integrated in the Basque Culinary Center (BCC).

Mondragon University is a cooperative university, which belongs to MONDRAGON Corporation, the 10th industrial group in Spain, integrated by 256 companies and bodies and more than 83.000 employees with the presence of production units in 18 countries, with a clear human vocation and a commitment to our environment, our society and our time.

INTERNATIONALISATION is one of the 5 Strategic Challenges identified in our Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2016. Enhancing international mobility of students and lecturers from MU and to MU is at the core of this Strategic Challenge. In 2010 MU contributes to the creation of Mondragon Educación Internacional (MEI), a joint-venture promoted by MU, Alecop and Mondragon Corporation, which aims to promote and manage Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) around the world. MEI intends to leverage the academic experience of MU to establish linkages, partnerships and the creation of a network of international HEIs through MEI's process of internationalisation. The MEI International Universities Network Alliance is composed is now by Unipanamericana - Fundación Universitaria Panamericana (Colombia) and UCM - Universidad Contemporánea Mondragón (México).

The strong link of MU with companies and businesses has led MU to guide the internationalisation strategy to support Basque companies in their process of internationalisation. The policy of MU is to be especially active in establishing agreements with HEIs from countries and regions where a strong presence of Basque companies, which is the case of countries as France, UK, Germany, Eastern Europe, China, India or Mexico.

MU currently has 143 partnership agreements with HEIs around the world. For EU countries, MU has ERASMUS mobility agreements with universities from 47 countries and over 50 ERASMUS practical placement agreements with companies, research institutes and other institutions.

In terms of co-operation with international institutions, Mondragon University has been particularly interested in establishing collaboration with institutions and regions closely linked to social economy and social projects that share common views and values of the co-operative movement.

Mondragon University is also highly compromised with the Basque society, its culture and language, and as such, it is especially keen on collaborating with other regions with a similar context of the presence of a minority language and culture.

Mondragon University has over the last 10 years established several Double degree agreements mainly with French universities in the field of Engineering. Students involved in this Double Diploma programmes, obtain both Mondragon University's Master Degree and the French partner institutions's Diplôme d'Ingénieur. The French Education Institutions involved in the Double Diploma agreements are: Ecole Centrale de Nantes (ECN), Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse (INSA), École Nationale Supérieure d'Électronique, d'Électrotechnique, d'Informatique, d'Hydraulique, et de Télécommunications (ENSEEIH) and The Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble (INPG). The Faculty of engineering has also signed a Double Diploma agreement with the Skövde University in Sweden.

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)

Original language [EN]

Mondragon University's strategy aims at implementing bilateral Latin-America-Europe mobility schemes directed to the education of present and future professionals in areas of strong development potential both personal and economical points of view. This position emerges from the knowledge of local reality and makes use of advanced educational resources to push a real breakthrough effect.

The LAMENITEC Erasmus Mundus Action II project, coordinated by Mondragon University is an example of this strategy, in partnership with 6 Latin American and 5 European institutions. The partners understand this initiative as a first step for a long-term relationship that will strength both their teaching and research skills and reinforce institutional capacity and synergies between them

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)

Original language [EN]

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

Mondragon University is based on an education approach that focuses on the practical orientation of the studies, with a balance between academic education and in-company training. In this work-orientated approach students carry out final study or work experience in companies and a high number of students contrasted their studies with part time jobs in the university's research labs or in companies, thus developing their professional experience and receiving financial support for their studies.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Education and training enable the adjustment of the training of future workforce to the needs of local companies. In addition to 'formal' university-level education, there is also a wide range of vocational education and long-life learning diplomas and masters. For companies involved in partnerships with the university, education-centered collaboration is a complement to the wider links established with the university in order to promote regional innovation activities.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

The Mondragon model is firmly based on a local approach and orientated towards the local innovation eco-system. Mondragon University have actively promoted international exchanges with businesses and universities abroad (e.g. Mondragon university has a very long tradition in terms of international mobility and the Mondragon Corporation already started funding students' exchanges in universities abroad in 1972, well before the Erasmus programme).

4. Making the knowledge triangle work

The alignment of research objectives and agenda between the different stakeholders is at the basis of the Mondragon open innovation model. Partner business cooperatives develop every year technology roadmap in partnership with the university's R&D unit, technology centres and other relevant stakeholders. Beyond a simplistic view where the university would only be an instrument at the service of companies' strategy, there is on the contrary a close cooperation and a shared definition of key strategic developments.

Likewise, continuing education is a way to ensure that professionals and companies adapt to the constant changes in knowledge and technologies.

5. Improving governance and funding

Mondragon University is collectively self-managed, and has the interests of the collective stakeholders at its core. The cooperatives forming the university are owned by their staff. Staff ('Worker partners'), students ('user partners') and associated companies and entities ('collaborating partners') are represented in the managing governing bodies and elections are based on the principle of one person, one vote (with no distinction as regards to qualification and hierarchical level). Participation and mutual engagement are therefore fostered at all levels.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)