

## **Erasmus+ Policy Statement**

### **The international strategy of the institution.**

The current intensive cooperation between the University College of Teacher Education Vienna and partner universities in the neighbouring countries of Austria provides an excellent foundation for establishing contacts. There are strong networks already with institutions in neighbouring countries but there are more regions to be added.

This extension within the realm of Austrian neighbouring countries would complete the first step of PH Wien's international strategy, and serve as a model for the selection of additional partner institutions in the future.

The second objective is the extension of an additional network with well-functioning, outstanding partner institutions that have high German speaking potential and show intensive cooperation on multiple levels. Moreover, this expansion of activities is aimed towards the North, particularly at the Baltic countries and Scandinavia.

The third goal concerns the use of existing and future partnerships, such as the current partner universities in western Ukraine, but also new partner institutions (e.g. Asia, such as Taiwan). The objective is to establish future strategic partnerships and develop joint degree programmes. As the University College of Teacher Education Vienna is currently developing Master's programmes, it will be possible to include international components right from the beginning. As already practiced at the Bachelor's level, the recognition of ECTS achieved through student and traineeship mobilities on master's level will be facilitated through "mobile windows". This recognition policy should lead to a high quality education for the teaching profession that is fully committed to the values of the European Union.

The existing close cooperation with the Austrian *Erasmus+ National Agency* provides valuable assistance in this matter, particularly with the participation in international conferences that deal with the cooperation between universities in Austria, as well as in Central-, Eastern- and Western-Europe.

The fourth strategic aim is maintaining a long-term continuity of bilateral exchanges regardless of geographical location. The partnerships with well-functioning alliances ("good practice") should be maintained in depth, especially with neighbouring countries and other partner

countries (such as the USA). The next step should be the addition of further courses to the “International Programme” and the offer of other courses in English, in which both international and Austrian students could participate. The latter would signify an important step towards the internal qualitative internationalisation of PH Wien. Since the new employment law for all teacher training institutions in Austria has come into effect, it has become easier to involve academic staff in current mobility programmes as their responsibilities do not only include teaching, but also administrative tasks. Thus, individuals may participate in mobility activities for teaching, as well as for training, which contributes to a positive paradigm shift.

### **Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and education.**

The perpetuation of successful project activities with reliable international partners leads to continuity in the further development of current projects. The intended expansion of these projects across national borders can be developed synergistically through the mobility of students and staff. Also, the advancement of projects with foreign lecturers at PH Wien should take place in the bilateral exchange. Close cooperation with long-term partner institutions should be sought with regard to the curriculum development and the fundamental institutional development of PH Wien in the Bologna context.

### **Strategy for the establishment of international networks and cooperation projects in the field of research**

In addition to the promotion of mobility, another aim of the international strategy of the PH Wien is to establish a relationship with programme and partner countries in the field of research and development. The establishment of strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances (KA2) of the Erasmus+ programme are particularly considered here, as well as the KA3 Policy Support Programme, which especially supports the public mission of PH Wien.

The active development and expansion of research networks through goal-oriented project activities plays an important role in fulfilling the tasks of the university college as well as in the internal staff development and support of young researchers.

**Impact on the modernisation of the institution in terms of political aims for each of the five priorities of the modernisation agenda.**

- 1) Raising the level of education to meet Europe's needs for academics and researchers: Introducing an eight-semester long bachelor's degree and a subsequent master's programme should lead to an increase in the quality of teacher training as well as a raise in the general level of education in Austria.
- 2) Improving the quality and relevance of higher education: Offering master's degree programs provides access to PhD and doctoral studies. This will also evaluate and increase the quality and relevance of study programmes and research training in the long term. University graduates will acquire the knowledge and recognised transferable skills that are already common in teacher training programmes internationally.
- 3) Strengthening quality through mobility and international cooperation: Planning and enabling joint degrees regarding the adjustment of teacher education to the Bologna declaration is a central focus in the field of internationalisation. The participation in strategic partnerships and the enhancement of resources together with EU and non-EU countries will be pursued alongside the development of curriculum and master's programs.
- 4) Realizing the concept of the *Knowledge Triangle*: The inclusion of internships and the focus on content in study programmes/research makes the university college more attractive and regionally more competitive in terms of cooperation with the economy, as well as in the context of urban and regional development fields.
- 5) Improvement of conduct and finance: This can be achieved through a new and improved target and performance plan of the Ministry of Education. The areas of internationalisation and mobility are particularly emphasised, which enables comprehensive and effective planning in terms of resources.