European Policy Statement of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Erasmus Declaration on Tertiary Education Policy - General Strategy

ERASMUS+ 2014 – 2020

Please describe the international (EU and non-EU) strategy of your institution. In your description, please explain

a) how you select your partners,
b) which geographical area(s) and
c) the main objectives and target groups of your of mobility promotion (in terms of university staff and students in the first, second and third study cycle, including university courses or placements, including short courses).

If applicable, please explain how your organisation is involved in the development of double / multiple / joint degrees.

The University of Karlsruhe and the Karlsruhe Research Centre merged on 1 October 2009 to form KIT and combined their resources in research, teaching, and innovation. A consequence of the merger and the expanded scope of activities is a reorientation and focus on the area of international affairs. The stated aim of this internationalisation strategy is to position and further develop KIT in the international environment as a highly attractive institution with an academic profile in science and engineering. Special attention must be paid to

- focusing and coordinating international activities within the framework of strategic partnerships, networks and target regions,
- the internationalisation of study programmes and teaching,
- the promotion of international mobility and the international experience of students, young scientists and KIT staff,
- the creation of an international campus / "Internationalisation at home",
- securing qualified young students through the recruitment of qualified undergraduate and graduate students from abroad and
- the creation of attractive conditions for innovation partnerships with universities and industry partners worldwide.

Within Europe the ERASMUS programme, as the largest exchange programme at KIT with the highest mobility figures and the highest number of partnerships, is an essential pillar of this concept. Since 1987, the number of ERASMUS partner universities (PHS) has been continually expanded, numbering 200 today, with whom there are about 400 contracts.
In the selection of its European partners, KIT applies the same standards as in overseas cooperation: it pays particular attention to the ranking, the quality standards of the PHS and the compatibility of curricula. Furthermore, the number of courses offered in English at PHS plays an important role in the decision about a partnership.

In contrast to KIT's global cooperation, the percentage of specific target regions in Europe is lower. The focus is on the inclusion of a broad range of participating countries and universities to meet expectations regarding integration in the EU programme. Particularly noteworthy is, on the one hand, the close cooperation with the CLUSTER universities, which are used as a platform for cooperation among each other, but also with non-European networks, and, on the other hand, the close connection to French universities, promoted and coordinated by the German-French initiative at KIT-DeFi.

The focus of the ERASMUS activities is on the promotion and steady development of student mobility. A certain number of exchange places agreed on in the Bilateral Agreements is open to undergraduate students, however, the focus of the exchanges is on the Master's section. Currently the share of internationally mobile KIT students is approximately 10% of an academic year. It is the declared aim to increase this figure to 20-25% of students with study-related experience abroad. This objective includes study-related (industrial) internships abroad that are supported by targeted cooperation with international industry partners, if possible. In addition, there are measures to promote international experience for PhD candidates, 50% of whom should ideally attend one or more training stations outside Germany. Another aim is the continuous enhancement of the international focus of the KIT faculty and staff. There are still untapped opportunities in this area, especially regarding ERASMUS guest lecturers and staff mobility. International expertise and experience are highly regarded in professional development and are a significant factor in university staff appointment procedures.

An important part of KIT's external relations in Europe is the double degree programmes that have traditionally been cultivated especially with French PHS (DeFi), but have also been agreed on with strategic PHS in other countries (e.g. Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden, China). For KIT, further double agreements with renowned European PHS is a stated objective in order to strengthen partnership structures and to pave the way for students to a fully recognised international degree. Through close cooperation with network partners such as CLUSTER, participation in programmes such as Erasmus Mundus is made significantly easier, since there already is a foundation of trust. The Erasmus Mundus programmes MERIT and EuroPhotonics must be mentioned as beacon projects at KIT, but also European consortia like KIC InnoEnergy, in which KIT has the leading role in organising the KIC Master's Course ENTECH. In this way incentives for interdisciplinary research projects in Europe are created and also outstanding students doing Master's degrees from non-EU countries are attracted for KIT.
If applicable, please describe your institution's policy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects facilitated by the programme.

Since its foundation in 2009, KIT has been aspiring to position itself internationally and to strengthen its profile worldwide. This process of internationalisation builds on the numerous existing individual contacts and cooperation with international partners, which are bundled in strategic partnerships of varying character. In addition to bilateral partnerships, which also include, most notably, the Erasmus programmes of co-operation, networks, such as CLUSTER or the German-Japanese Network of Excellence, HeKKSaGON, are strengthened and partnerships in precisely defined target regions (e.g. Tri-national Metropolitan Region of the Upper Rhine, Innovation Triangle Waterloo, China, Indonesia) are being established. These partnerships are meant as a platform for research collaboration and are supposed to contribute to worldwide knowledge transfer through the exchange of students, young scientists and researchers. The inclusion of industrial partners in international consortia and the exchange of personnel at all levels (trainees, graduate students, professors etc.) drive technology transfer between industry and universities.

The service unit International Affairs views itself as a driving force and coordinator of such strategic partnerships. It supports the development of cooperation programmes by providing contacts at the development stage and gives advice and support at the administrative level. In addition, partnerships resulting from exchanges of students and scientists are mentored and financially supported in part by the State of Baden-Württemberg, the DAAD, the European Commission or other funding providers. Since bilateral agreements are concluded with most European partners in double or joint degree agreements in the context of the ERASMUS programme, exchange students as well as guest lecturers can be supported through ERASMUS grants.
Please describe the expected impact on the modernisation of your institution with respect to the policy objectives (for each of the five priorities of the modernisation agenda) you seek to achieve through your participation in the programme.

With the merger, KIT has opened itself to the modernisation process. The priorities of the European agenda are complementary to KIT’s objectives.

- **Raising the educational level to meet European demand for academics and researchers**
  Student numbers have risen by 21.2% since 2009. KIT aims to arouse interest in technical and scientific topics at an early stage by means of different programmes (e.g. Girls Day, Children’s University). It aims to reduce dropout rates through preparatory and accompanying measures (e.g. MINT College, tutoring programmes). The focus on quality improvement and innovation excellence as well as the involvement of third countries in "ERASMUS +" correlate with these intentions.

- **Improving the quality of teaching and study programmes**
  It is the stated aim of KIT to prepare young people through science education and additional key competencies for the globalised labour market. Through course modularisation and transparent quality assurance and recognition tools, KIT has created the framework for a high-quality study programme. The involvement of scientists from Big Science guarantees research and innovation-oriented study programmes with international teachers. Participation in ERASMUS+ will initiate a steady development, in particular in the area of recognition tools (marks, Diploma Supplement) and will serve in the acquisition of guest lecturers.

- **Improving quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation**
  The intention of KIT to enable 25% of students and 50% of the PhD candidates to gain experience abroad by 2020 exceeds the Commission’s target! This ambitious target will be achieved through an adaptation of the curriculum to mobility requirements (mobility window) as well as by more double- / joint-degree-programmes. ERASMUS+ supports mobility at KIT through financial aid, loans for Master’s degrees abroad, vouchers for multiple stays as well as the promotion of strategic partnerships.

- **Knowledge triangle: Linking tertiary education, research and business**
  KIT is active in the knowledge triangle of research, teaching and innovation. The transfer of knowledge and technology is enabled, both through the institutional merger and close cooperation with the private sector. Activities in the context of KIC InnoEnergy are excellent examples of the link between teaching, research and innovation. Students benefit from early involvement in research and industry links. The aim is to develop existing cross-border cooperation into international innovation networks. The foundation of knowledge alliances initiated in ERASMUS+ complement the ambitions of KIT.

- **Improving management and financing**
  The merger resulted in a drastic change in management and decision-making at KIT. Efficiency is ensured by a flat hierarchy in decision-making bodies. Financial support instruments in ERASMUS+ will be employed to increase mobility and in networking.

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