

## UNIVERSITY OF DUBROVNIK Erasmus Policy Statement

### I.

In June 2009 UNIDU adopted the “International Development Strategy”. The goal of the Strategy is to promote international activities and encourage their implementation into all daily activities of the University. The international orientation of the University and the importance of being part of EHEA (European Higher Education Area) and ERA (European Research Area) has been recognised as one of the most important factors of strategic development of the University.

“The action plan and forthcoming activities relating to international activities (2009-2015) include the following:

- adoption and adjustment of internal organisational structure according to international regulations and EU PRAXIS
- implementation and upgrading of infrastructural resources to support international co-operation (incl. housing, distance learning and ICT support)
- organisation of programmes, studies, modules and subjects taught in foreign languages (English as the priority)
- adjustment of Quality Management and Control (QM / QC / QA) according to international standards and regulations
- promotion of international programmes
- establishment of strong relationship between research and education
- increase of international conferences and workshops
- increase of international research and industry related projects and programmes (incl. Tempus, Framework Programmes, LLP)
- increase of mobility of students, teaching and non-teaching staff (incoming and outgoing)
- extension of the partner institutions network

(From UNIDU International Development Strategy, available at:

<http://www.unidu.hr/datoteke/267izb/International-Development-Strategy.pdf>)

Presently UNIDU meets all goals set up in the action plan. In the past couple of years UNIDU has developed relations with nearly 50 universities from countries within the European Union and several non-EU universities. UNIDU is performing an international study programme “Restoration” in co-operation with Arts and Restoration Institute Palazzo Spinelli, Florence, Italy. UNIDU has developed multilateral co-operation at the Alps-Adriatic Rector’s Conference and Danube Rector’s Conference. UNIDU has until now been active and co-operated in several Tempus, FP7 and IPA projects. From 2012 UNIDU takes part in CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies).

The fundamental strategic goal of the University is to increase the number of student, teaching and non-teaching staff mobility as well as to intensify co-operation with other European universities. Through the bilateral agreements with international partners, UNIDU has made it possible for students to study abroad. In the past 3 years, 38 of our students took part in mobility programmes (study mobility and work placement) and 33 grants were used for teaching and non-teaching staff mobility.

UNIDU is integrated University organised through Departments and apart from traditional programmes (Tourism and Maritime Studies) it also offers the possibility to study communication sciences, conservation and restoration, marine biology and e-technology. The Bologna Declaration was implemented in the academic year 2004/2005. All UNIDU study programmes comply with the Bologna regulations in full. At the University of Dubrovnik there are 14 undergraduate studies, 12 graduate studies, 1 professional study (LLP) which takes three years and 8 postgraduate PhD studies, two of which are co-ordinated by UNIDU, and others are carried out in collaboration with other higher education institutions in Croatia.

When choosing an international partner UNIDU looks after several criteria:

- compatibility of study programmes
- whether the University complies with the Bologna Declaration
- Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
- whether there is a possibility to develop research and scientific projects with the University
- what are the long-term prospects of the agreement
- whether mobility will be balanced etc.

Inter-institutional agreements for study and teaching mobility are approved and signed by UNIDU Vice-Rector for International Relations and Science. After receiving a proposal for signing a new agreement by our students/teaching staff or by foreign university wishing to become UNIDU partner, IRO reviews foreign university study programmes and to which extent these programs are complementary with UNIDU programmes. The proposal for signing a new agreement is usually forwarded to the Head of the particular UNIDU Department first, and after receiving his/her approval, IRO sends documents to the Vice-Rector for signature. The agreements are usually signed for a period of 1 – 3 years. After the contract expires IRO reviews whether the co-operation was successful and suggests extension or termination of the each contract.

UNIDU has developed co-operation with universities from EU countries, but also from USA, Balkan countries (such as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro), Turkey, Australia etc.

## II.

UNIDU has developed a strong co-operation with local authorities (at the city and county level). UNIDU is currently in the process of building new premises for our students, such as student halls of residence and the campus. Both of these projects are enjoying a great support from the city and the county representatives. Development of Dubrovnik as a “University city” is one of the main strategic goals of both the city and the county. This fact opens many possibilities for co-operation in joint projects in the future. In 2008 the Career Advice Office was established at UNIDU as a part of the Tempus project. One of the services offered within this Office is advising and preparing students for the labour market. One of the ways to achieve this is by organising practical trainings in different companies. So far the Office has participated in several projects that encourage employment such as IPA project “Development of Graduate Student Internship Programme through Local partnership in Dubrovnik Neretva County - S.I.P.”. The main object of the project was “To improve access to employment and self-employment in hospitality industry for persons without previous work experience through internship programme and education for self-employment by using partnership approach.” The Office co-ordinator also passed the CH-Q training organised by the Euro-guidance Centre Croatia in co-operation with Euro-guidance Netherlands. The acquired knowledge was transferred to UNIDU

students through several workshops. The office will continue to participate in various projects that contribute to better employability of students. DUNEA, the regional development agency, and UNIDU have been fostering co-operation for several years now. Recently DUNEA and MARIBIC (Mariculture Business Innovation Centre of the University of Dubrovnik) have developed a project idea that is to be applied for EU funds. The co-operation will be continued in future projects.

### III.

University of Dubrovnik (UNIDU) has been participating in the Programme since the academic year 2010/2011 and this has already had a huge impact on modernisation, not only in terms of adjusting curricula to new requirements by introducing a number of courses which can be taught in foreign languages, but also in terms of implementing and upgrading the infrastructural resources to support international co-operation.

By further participation in the Programme one of our goals will be to train successful researchers. Therefore, in 2011 we implemented „European Charter for Researchers“ and „Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers“ and obtained the HR Excellence in Research logo. Understanding the current trend of high drop-out rates in higher education, UNIDU is making great efforts to attract wider groups of society members into higher education, for example disadvantaged people, adult learners etc.

UNIDU is constantly trying to improve the quality of our programmes. We have built very strong relations with the Croatian Employment Service, not only to track the career paths of our former students (via University Career Office), but also to constantly be aware of the changing needs in the economy. UNIDU expects to deploy networks with European higher education institutions in order to develop new modern study programmes with flexible and innovative learning approaches, which would improve the relevance of higher education.

Mobility is one of the most important factors in development of UNIDU. By implementing our “International Development Strategy (2009-2015)”, UNIDU became a part of the European Higher Education Area and will continue contributing to the new EU target to “double the proportion of students completing a study or training period abroad to 20% by 2020”. From the very beginning of our participation in the Programme, UNIDU has been very attractive to incoming students and academics, which significantly raised the level of quality and increased the number of cross-border co-operation possibilities. In order to strengthen our quality even more, UNIDU plans to improve access and studying/employment possibilities for researchers, academics and students from other countries.

UNIDU strongly encourages partnership between higher educations, research and business, and we are constantly involved in regional and local development plans. By building a new University Campus, as well as new student halls of residence, UNIDU is closer to the goal of becoming a centre of knowledge, not only for locals, but for the international students and researchers as well.

Being a public university, UNIDU has become aware of the need to diversify our funding sources and in the forthcoming period we are to develop strategies for improving the funding opportunities. By participating in the Programme, UNIDU is able to see examples of good practices in other EU countries and obtain easier access to alternative sources of match- funding of our projects.

