Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall strategy) 2015 – 2020

Erasmus ID code: BERLIN25

Extract of Erasmus Charter for Higher Education Application 2015

Institution’s international (EU and non-EU) strategy

The Hertie School of Governance is an international university for modern governance with students and researches from forty different countries. For our students it is essential to gather experience abroad, build intercultural competences and improve language skills in order to be prepared for international careers. Therefore, partnerships with international academic and business partners are central to our internationalization strategy.

From the beginning of the internationalization process 2006/2007, the Hertie School focused on establishing cooperations with universities from North America and Europe. Since then our school benefits from regular academic exchanges with Sciences Po (Paris), LSE (London) and SIPA (New York). Until the academic year 2013/14 eighteen other universities have joined the Hertie network and existing Exchange and Dual Degree programmes have permanently been improved.

As the existing partnerships are running successfully, the Hertie School tries to broaden its focus and establish new partnerships in the BRICS countries. Exchange agreements with Fudan University (Shanghai), Fundacao Getulio Vargas (Sao Paolo) and the Higher School of Economics (Moscow) have been established. Furthermore, the Middel East is an important region where some of our students will go for their career. Therefore, new partnerships were established with the American University (Cairo) and Sabanci University (Istanbul). We aim at winning more partners in the field of public policy and public management in Europe, North America, BRICS and the Middle East as a growing number of students wishes to prepare for an international career in those regions.

The Hertie School of Governance has established Dual Degree agreements with five partner universities: LSE (London), Sciences Po (Paris), SIPA (New York), Bocconi (Milano) and GrasPP (Tokyo). The Dual Degree programme allows students to spend their second year of study at those partner schools. Following the year abroad, students receive a degree from both institutions. The Hertie School also offers a special Dual Degree in International Security and Development Policy with the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (Syracuse University) and the International Institute of Social Studies (The Hague). This Dual Degree is funded by the ATLANTIS Transatlantic Degree Programme at the European Commission and the U.S. Department of Education.

Another feature of the Hertie School’s internationalization strategy is the so-called Professional Year which enables students to gather professional experience in an institution from the three sectors, i.e. private, public or civil-society, after the first year of studies for a maximum period of fifteen months. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) offer opportunities for Professional Year applicants in an international context. Typically, Professional Year arrangements are pre-negotiated between the Hertie School of Governance and the receiving institution but given the diversity of interests and demand for
thematic and regional focus students are increasingly encouraged to organize a Professional Year individually and in close cooperation with Career Services.

The academic and professional cooperations are currently mainly targeted at students in the MPP programme (and MIA in the future). However, it is planned to look into additional opportunities for mobility projects targeted at executive and doctoral students as well as staff members.

**Strategy for organization and implementation of the Erasmus+ programme**

Actions of the Erasmus+ Programme would be the ideal complement for our existing cooperation projects. Having obtained the ECHE, the Hertie School intends to apply for funding for diverse mobility projects (Key Action 1): study periods, traineeships and staff training periods. As we already have partnerships with institutions in programme countries holding the ECHE (Sciences Po, LSE, Bocconi, Sabanci, Erasmus University Rotterdam) and more cooperations with universities in programme and partner countries we could easily set up agreements and processes that match the guidelines of the European Commission. The Dean’s office will be responsible for adapting existing partnerships and looking for new academic cooperation opportunities together with the Study Abroad office and the Graduate Programmes team.

The Career Services department will be responsible for refining existing agreements with eligible enterprises, NGOs and public bodies that offer internship or Professional Year opportunities to our students already. They will also look into the feasibility for further cooperation projects. In this regard, also strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances (Key Action 2) would pose an interesting opportunity for development that would be evaluated by coordinators from different departments (curricular, funding, legal).

**Expected impact of Erasmus+ Programme and policy objectives**

The Hertie School seeks to prepare excellent graduates and researches from diverse backgrounds for the European labour market. Unfortunately, highly qualified students can often not benefit from our various study abroad opportunities given the high costs for travelling and living in a foreign country. In particular, students who depend on a certain foundation are often excluded from spending a semester abroad due to the regulations in their existing scholarship or loan contracts which only include funding for their home country or special regions of the world. The student mobility project as well as the student loan guarantee could allow more qualified students to spend a semester abroad or at the Hertie School. This will strengthen our students’ motivation as well as their international profile and thus contribute to an increase of attainment levels and equal access to higher education. Our students should be able to choose a partner university according to their individual interest and profile and not out of financial restrictions. The same applies to internship mobility, which could be improved through financial support for unpaid internships abroad.

The promotion of staff and faculty mobility will inspire innovations in teaching and administration. Learning from our European partners will help a lot to improve our curriculum and student services with special focus on their modes of learning and communication. The programmes can be better adapted to the needs of students from diverse backgrounds. In addition, close cooperation with our
European partners will help to strengthen connections to the labour market in different EU countries which is of great interest to our international student body in terms of their employability. We expect to improve our overall support for successful work and internship placement.

Obtaining the ECHE will also help to improve and professionalize our cross-border cooperation. The organized exchange with other universities and the implementation of EHAE tools and recommendations will optimize existing workflows and the communication with our European partners. This will again also help to make the Hertie School more attractive for excellent students and academics from outside the EU who are an essential target group for the modernization of our school.

The elaborate European exchange about projects as well as improved opportunities for traineeships abroad through administrative and financial support could contribute to the growing professional network that the Hertie School tries to establish with different businesses and organizations worldwide. The access to Erasmus+ materials and policy dialogues would also be a great asset in this regard.

Finally, not only the overall quality of the study programme and networking can be improved through being awarded with ECHE but also internal funding and governance mechanisms can be modernized through learning from our partners and the Erasmus+ network.