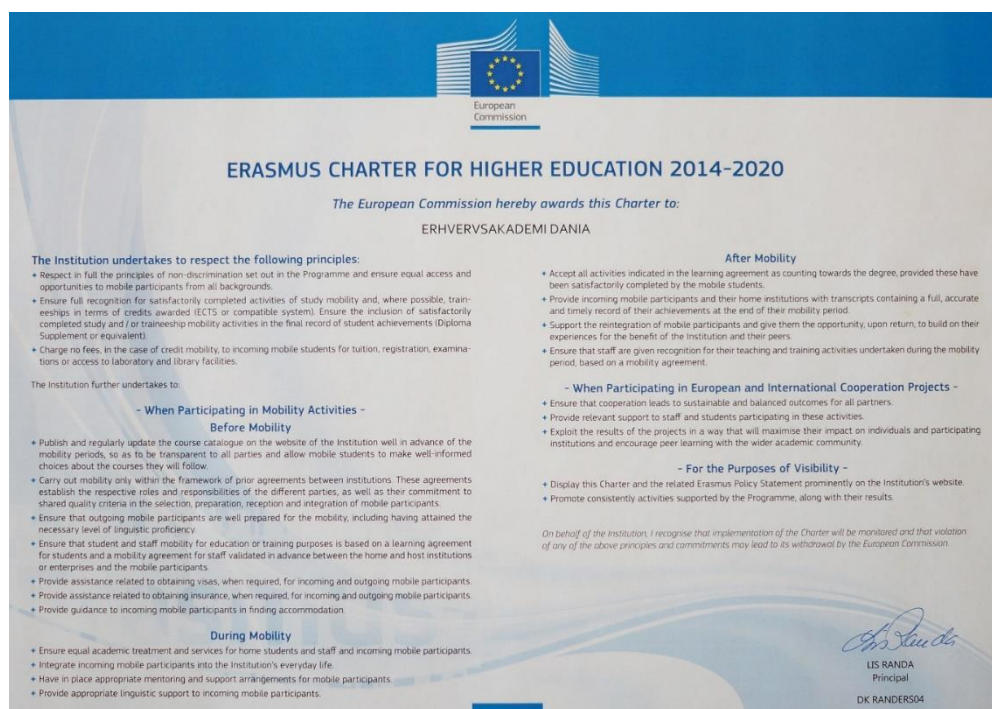


Erasmus Policy Statement of Dania Academy, University of Applied Sciences – Erasmus +

Dania Academy, University of Applied Sciences, is the result of a merger of 8 HE institutions on the Danish peninsula Jutland. DANIA offers a wide range of educations in the fields of business, technology and health in 8 different campuses. DANIA offers short-cycle HE in the areas of Tourism, Marketing, Retail, Finance, Administration, Production Technology, IT and Electronics Engineering, and Automotive Technology as well as a professional BA in Optometry and in International Hospitality Management. 5 of these programs are offered in both English and Danish.



The international dimension is an important and growing part of all learning in DANIA, although to a varying degree depending on the educational profile. The international competence of managers and staff is developed through cooperation with international partners and participation in international education networks and conferences. Our students are met with an international aspect in all subjects and especially in the campuses with English-taught programs, the study environment is international. We offer our students a range of opportunities to go abroad, from 1-week study trips to traineeships lasting up to 8 months and study-abroad semesters. Furthermore, guest lecturers from foreign university partners contribute to bringing the world into the classroom. Erasmus is and will be an increasingly important and integral part of DANIA's international activities.

Historically, our educations have had varying focus on internationalization. Generally speaking, our business educations have had a long tradition for participating in international projects/mobility, whereas our technical and health programs have not had as much formalized international cooperation. One of Dania's main strategic objectives is therefore to include international partners in our network that cover these educational areas, or – where possible – to widen the cooperation with existing partners to cover these areas.

This is of course an important point of focus, when looking for new partners, the procedure of which is usually as follows: We establish the first contact through the international associations that we are a member of, i.e. Businet, EAIE, EUROChrie and SPACE. All of these have a broad range of HEI members worldwide, offering recognized and accredited programs. Alternatively, potential partners may approach us, but no matter how the initial contact is made, the decision whether to enter into partnership is based on certain criteria: First of all there must be a good subject/course/level match. Furthermore, we see it as important that a partner has a strong international focus and a dedicated international staff. Due to recent changes in the HE short-cycle sector, demanding that we include research in our activities, we also see it as important that our staff can gain experience in this field through cooperation with our international partners. As mentioned above, special attention will be given to new partners who cover technological and health programs that match or supplement ours.

So far our main focus has been on European, and to a limited degree US, Canadian and Australian cooperation, but we are now also starting to focus on Brazil, China and Russia, and to increase our focus on Australia and the US. In this we are following the trend set out by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education, which has pointed out a number of innovation

destinations, especially in the BRIC countries. As for Europe, we seek a broad geographical coverage, but the choice of partners is more based on the above selection criteria than on geography.

In collaboration with existing and new partners, and with the above geographical focus we aim at a general increase in both student and staff mobility. Focus will be very much on technological and health students regarding both traineeships and study stays. In general we intend to increase the number of students going on study semesters abroad for all programs. Equally strong focus will be put on increasing staff mobility substantially.

A further important objective is to engage in various cooperation projects – 1 to 2 per year – focusing not only on mobility, but also on research and the development of joint degrees. We have so far not participated in such projects, but by 2020 we intend to participate in at least 2 joint-degree programs, and all of our students will have the opportunity to study abroad for at least 2 weeks during their studies and at least 20 % of all students should do their traineeship abroad and/or a study abroad stay (all programs). We are currently engaged in negotiations about joint-degree cooperation, and are partners in the application for an Erasmus Mundus multilateral project with a strong mobility focus.

Finally, we intend to increase the number of study programs taught entirely in English, and to offer these in more campuses than today, thus enhancing the international study environment considerably.

Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects

In connection with the cooperating projects we are planning for the period of this charter, they will be organized and implemented in the following way:

Organization: The main responsibility for the planning and application for a project lies with the International Department. Depending on the nature of the project, various key staff members will be involved, representing relevant study programs, project areas, and personal skills. Once a project has been approved, the International Department will set up a project group, the project manager being a member of the International Department. The project group will draft a project plan, defining the project outline, the target groups, implementation, reporting and dissemination of the project.

In such projects, one or more administrative staff will be attached to the project group for support throughout the project.

Implementation: Once a project has been approved and the project plan has been developed, it will be introduced to managers of relevant program areas. These managers – in co-operation with the project manager - will then be responsible for informing staff and students (if applicable) about the project, how to sign up, conditions for participation, support measures, and how participation will be recognized.

Expected impact of Dania's participation in Erasmus+ on the modernisation of the academy

By improving the opportunities for mobility in cooperation with trusted partners, both HEIs and enterprises, we will make our programs more attractive. This is not least important within our technical and health programs. Based on close cooperation with partners, mobility will take place in a safe environment with personal back-up close at hand. As short-cycle studies in Denmark are open to students with vocational education and training, the increased focus on the international AND practical aspect of traineeships will make our programs even more attractive to this group. All in all, we expect that the above will attract more students and thereby increase attainment levels.

The planned increase in staff mobility will have a direct effect on both our educational practices and subject matter development because the staff will gain a better insight in different practices in their fields. At the same time they will achieve an international perspective which will increase their ability to implement the international aspect in their teaching. Through cooperation with HEIs which have a strong tradition for research, our lecturers will be able to adapt research into their workload, and thus – in cooperation with enterprises – they will be able to contribute to an ongoing improvement and adaption of our courses to the needs of business and society.

By providing an easy access to mobility, in secure, monitored surroundings with reliable partners, both for study and work, we will enable our students to achieve not only the core skills of their subjects, but also additional practical and international competences, which are very important on today's global labor market. Be it though participating in a joint-degree program, studying abroad for a semester, or doing the compulsory traineeship abroad, it will give students a broader perspective on studies and work opportunities, and in general increase their chances of good study results.

Through close cooperation with both domestic and international enterprises, though our tradition for involving business in the development of HEI programs, and through our focus on entrepreneurship, we will contribute to innovation and development of new practices. This will be further enhanced by our new focus on research activities, which will take place in collaboration

with international partners. Via lecturers' and students' mobility activities, they will gain important new aspects to their thinking, which will further stimulate their entrepreneurial and creating thinking.

The existence of an international organization throughout all 8 campuses, coordinated by an international manager and an institutional coordinator has already lead to and will continue to lead to stronger management focus on international activities and increase managers' consciousness of the importance of implementing internationalization at all levels. In turn, this will further increase the willingness to set aside funding for such activities.

May 2013



Lis Randa, Principal



Erasmus+