



INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

“Internationalisation as Quality Development of the University of Maribor 2013-2020”

May 9th, 2013

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1. Introduction

1.1. Statement by the Rector

Internationally oriented activities are a university's natural state. Internationalisation strategy is therefore not an isolated document, but rather an excerpt, a specific projection of the general university strategy. The University of Maribor has many goals that are similar to those of other universities. We wish to increase the number of international students and the mobility of faculty and staff, and foremost, we want to increase international cooperation in research. These objectives are derived from our university's vision, which is to become a globally recognized ecosystem of innovation in which the students, faculty and staff will enthusiastically engage in creative activity. To achieve these goals we shall use common strategies, but we are also developing some unique ideas that should accelerate our international activities and thus the recognition of our university globally. The University of Maribor is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity and aims to promote partnerships with businesses, governmental and NGOs in society to enrich teaching, research and creativity; prepare engaged citizens; strengthen democratic and ethical values, and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; respect environmental issues; promote sustainability in development; and contribute to the public good.

1.2. Background

The University of Maribor is the second largest Slovenian university. In recent years, it has had approximately 20,000 students and 1,800 employees at seventeen faculties, the Faculty of Economics and Business, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Faculty of Energy Technology, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Faculty of Logistics, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Tourism, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Law and other university organizations, including the University Library Maribor and Student Dormitories. Both students and professors have at their disposal The University of Maribor Library, the Leon Štukelj University Sports Centre, the Residence Hall for Postgraduate Students and Visiting Professors, and the Student Dormitories (Appendix 3).

The University of Maribor participated in 50 bilateral research projects, 97 partnerships in FP7 projects and 83 other research projects (e.g. ERANET, EUREKA etc.) at the international level in 2011 (Appendix 28). The University of Maribor is actively cooperating with 95 partner institutions on four continents. In addition, UM is a member of various international associations, such as the Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC). Special emphasis is placed on activities for cooperation in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, within the framework of which UM will propose and coordinate projects in the field of human resources development and studies for the economic sector. UM is also a member of the Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference (AARC), the European University Association (EUA), the Leveraging Education into Organisations (LEO-NET), within the framework of which UM is coordinating the largest project for work placements in Slovenia, the European Network of Academic Sports Services (ENAS) and the University Network of the European Capitals of Culture (UNECC).

According to the principles of The University of Maribor for internationalisation, the University of Maribor presently offers selected subjects and programmes in the English language with the aim of attracting international students.

The University of Maribor has actively cooperated in the Erasmus Programme since 1999. It has 425 bilateral agreements in this programme. In the academic year 2011/2012, there were 279 outgoing and 398 incoming students in this programme alone. Short-term mobility is also intensive in the international summer schools carried out on the departmental level each year.

1.3. Long-Term Goals of The University of Maribor

The University of Maribor has adopted the following long-term internationalisation goals for the period from 2014 to 2020:

- Striving for research excellence in science and arts.
- Creation of an innovation eco-system for effective knowledge transfer.
- Development of international, primarily post-graduate study programmes based on transfer of generated research knowledge; establishment of an international doctoral school.
- Active role in university and institutional networks.
- Increase in student, scholar, administrative and technical staff national and international mobility.
- Leadership in selected areas of research and education, and the third mission of the university, in regional development and cross-border cooperation.
- Constant monitoring and evaluation of the internationalisation process.

2. Principles

The University of Maribor follows the principles of equal partnership and reciprocity in all aspects of international cooperation.

Internationalisation is an institutional interest. Therefore, all activities of The University of Maribor, especially education and research, incorporate internationalisation in their activities and goals.

It is the language policy of University of Maribor that, for international short-term students, selected courses and programmes are available in the English language. Selected programmes at the master's and doctoral level are also offered in English

Mobility from and to The University of Maribor will continue to be balanced. Study achievements outside the programmes of The University of Maribor are also recognised, either within the optional contents of studies, or by entrance into the Diploma Supplement as extra-curricular activities.

Existing partnerships will be extended, spread to new fields and strengthened for the creation of knowledge alliances, while new partnerships will be established providing added value. In the scope of cooperation with developing countries, The University of Maribor will continue to develop its role in supporting higher educational institutions within development projects.

The University of Maribor's activities are based on the principles of quality assurance and development within the scope of the adapted model of sustainable and socially responsible university.

3. Research and Development

The major priority in research development is striving for excellence in the arts and sciences, especially activities for better innovation transfer. In its efforts to overcome social challenges of the present and the future, The University of Maribor will focus on the fields of health, demographic changes, wellbeing, food safety, climate change, sustainable farming and bio economy, for the purpose of promoting an inclusive, innovative and safe society. It has created CORE@UM (the creative core of UM) as a main facilitator for the strengthening of research potential of UM for the development of a Key Innovation Community in the field of Innovation for a Healthy Life and Active Ageing.

For the international realisation of these priorities, The University of Maribor will be an active subject in the European Higher Education Area, offering its research groups and inviting researchers from partner institutions in many fields, especially within Horizon 2020, the Danube Strategy through involvement in The Danube Rectors' Conference, The Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference and other initiatives, including the CEEPUS Programme, UNIADRION, Aladin, and The Central European Initiative.

3.1. Internationalisation of Research

The University of Maribor plans to participate in more international projects in applied and basic research and will be active in different EU programmes and schemes, such as Horizon 2020. Our strategy stresses cross-border cooperation and cooperation in development actions; we build on already established research networks of international universities in the EU and worldwide. Our achievements will be expressed in publications, patents and innovations, in our presence in international revues, and in participating in a number of projects in cooperation with economic and academic partners within interdisciplinary networks. To achieve this, The University of Maribor will further professionalise our support services and apply for funding through the Slovenian National research Agency, EU programmes and other international organizations.

3.2. Research Mobility

International exchange will be promoted by short-term and long-term (or sabbatical, respectively) outgoing mobility. Special incentives will be given for professional advancement and career paths to mobile research staff, as well as offering a professional recruitment, arrival and support system for young and talented international scholars. This will attract the best young international researchers in both master's and research oriented doctoral studies as set out in the strategy for internationalisation of education below.

Funding will be provided by human resource development programmes in Slovenia, European programmes and international funds.

4. Education

4.1. Internationalisation of Education

Following from the vision of a research oriented university, UM will commit itself to the development of internationally competitive post-graduate study programmes. These programmes will be taught by scholars from the University of Maribor and international guest lecturers from partner universities within selected priority areas. Furthermore, the University of Maribor will establish an international medical school par excellence attracting the best international scholars and students.

The University of Maribor will establish an International Summer University consisting of the existing and new individual international summer schools and a focused international cultural and social programme for international and Slovenian students.

The main regional focus will be on countries in the Western Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, while at the same time the University of Maribor will strive to expand its activity in cooperation with regional partners in Africa, Middle East and Asia.

Information support for interested staff and students will be available through the EU master portal and similar portals, the ALUMNI Club of The University of Maribor, and other student associations.

4.2. Academic Mobility

One of the main priorities of The University of Maribor will be to encourage mobility of staff and students, as well as regular enrolment of international students, primarily in post-graduate programmes. The University strives to provide best possible conditions for housing, administrative support and academic transfer of competences, including language training and cultural learning. The University of Maribor will continue the systematic regulation of scholarships for students from disadvantaged regions, with the support of the government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Outgoing and incoming mobility will be increased through promotional activities by the International Office and the provision of additional funding from international, European and national funding schemes, as well as a wide network of reliable and high-quality partner institutions. The professional support system will be aided by student associations at the University of Maribor, such as the Erasmus Student Network, IAESTE and AIESEC, to foster integration of international students into regular student life at the university.

The University of Maribor will also actively participate in the reform of the national language policy of The Republic of Slovenia, in order to reach a facilitation of international teaching and learning at UM.

5. Knowledge Transfer

The University of Maribor is creating and constantly developing an innovative ecosystem providing an international network for cooperation with economic and especially industrial partners (SMEs). This will widen the range of research in the Maribor region, Danube region and worldwide, as well as increase the synergy between research groups by fostering inter- and multidisciplinary networks.

6. Strategic Partnerships

Partnerships of The University of Maribor are based on bilateral agreements and multilateral partnerships, as well as on the partnerships with institutions from the local, regional and national authorities and economic subjects (triple helix partnerships).

On the multilateral level, The University of Maribor will continue its active contribution to existing university networks (The European University Association – CDE + IEP, The Danube Rectors' Conference, The Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference, CEEPUS networks, EMUNI, IREG – U-Multiranking, U-Map, EAIE, ENAS and others) and support initiatives to develop further thematic networks to attain the over-all goal of the European knowledge-based society, especially the Out of the Box university network aiming for the identification and promotion of the university's mission in modern society.

The University of Maribor will further provide means for membership in university associations fostering the cooperation of universities in policy development and to allow The University of Maribor to develop its proposals for the European University Area. It will engage in projects of university management development in order to modernize its management and rationalize its financing, as well as to promote further strategic planning. Furthermore, European associations covering the fields of interest of the University of Maribor are important for the development of The University of Maribor and will be considered an essential part of the university's membership in the European Higher Education Area.

Strategic partnership in the projects of UNESCO are important to The University of Maribor, especially in the field of inclusion of ethnic minorities such as Hungarian studies as mother tongue and Roma Studies. The University of Maribor will endeavour to obtain the status of the UNESCO Chair in these fields. The University of Maribor will apply for international funding to realise this goal. To meet these goals, The University of Maribor will improve its international image and set up a distinctive profile. To this end, it will continue to organise international events with the participation of distinguished speakers, especially within the bi-annual conference series titled Out of the Box Conferences. Each department of the 17 mentioned above will organise one international event that will be assisted by the support system of University of Maribor. In the same way, The University of Maribor will continue to maintain and enlarge its representation in key international forums, not only within the organisations mentioned within the strategic partnerships. It will develop and promote internationally its main labels (brands) for qualitative international cooperation and support services for teachers, students and researchers, including RAZ:UM (Research and Arts Zone University of Maribor, <http://raz.um.si/>), LAB:UM (lab infrastructure at UM), and CORE@UM (creative core of The University of Maribor).

7. Implementation

Implementation of the internationalisation strategy will follow the best practices of partner institutions and in line with institutional objectives. The considerations of internationalisation will be built in to all aspects of teaching and learning throughout the institution in adapting to new challenges resulting from internationalisation. Implementation will be centrally coordinated. Student representatives in all departmental and university bodies will be actively involved. Mobility will be

supported by student associations, including the Erasmus Student Network, IAESTE, AIESEC, ELSA and associations of other fields driven by students and supported by the University of Maribor.

Effective communication of the rationale and activities for internationalisation to all the academic and wider community will provide for broad acceptance of the university strategy.

The internationalisation strategy will be regularly monitored and evaluated to assess whether the approach is achieving its objectives and delivering the benefits expected of it. Statistical indicators and surveys will be developed to support effective monitoring of internationalisation. Internationalisation objectives will be incorporated into the university's over-all strategy and broader quality assurance processes for teaching and learning and student satisfaction.

8. Statistics (mobility from 2011/12, else from 2012/13)

Enrolment	First cycle	15,294
	Second cycle	3,497
	Third cycle	577
	Total:	19,368
Staff (FTE)	Academic	1,027
	administrative	687
	Total:	1,714
Programmes	First cycle	84
	Second cycle	65
	Third cycle	35
	Total:	184
Incoming mobility	Students	510
	Scholars	70
	Total:	580
Outgoing mobility	Students	373
	Scholars	96
	Total:	469
International Full-time students		513
International Projects 2013	Coordinated by UM	11
	UM as partner	61
	Total:	72
International Agreements	Erasmus	425
	Bilateral	112
Annual Budget		appr. 100,000,000,00 €
Space	Buildings	184,812.41 m²
	Land	appr. 399 ha

In Maribor, on May 16th, 2013

Rector:

Prof. Dr. Danijel Rebolj
