

Erasmus Policy Statement

ANIMV international (EU and non-EU) strategy. International strategy and the relevance of Erasmus for the strategy.

„Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy has a clear desire to open towards the international academic world. To be a reputed academic institution nowadays means to be part of an international network of valuable universities, the prestige being a matter of trust and professionalism. The existing international partners of ANIMV and the fruitful cooperation up to now encourages us to follow further steps in the internationalization process. For this to happen, ANIMV has to establish new partnerships and the Erasmus+ Programme offers the proper context for this to happen. Some of the criteria that ANIMV shall use in choosing these future partners are: compatibility of academic profiles, similar curricula interests, and the prestige of the academic institutions. Our previous cooperation with both EU and non-EU universities represents the starting point in establishing new partners. The fruitful personal links that our staff have established could engage a larger scale inclusion of ANIMV into networks and partnerships that will translate into valuable opportunities for student, staff, and administrative mobilities and traineeships as well as for developing joint programmes, strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances, or other more extended projects. In choosing its partners, ANIMV considers only the institutional matching that ensures that both students and staff will follow a rigorous selection process, will be supported to the best of the institutions' facilities and resources and will be the beneficiaries of the highest levels of knowledge and expertise. Key partnerships have been established with universities and institutions from the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Malta, Bulgaria, France, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Serbia, the United States of America as a result of shared interests and mutual academic goals, a fact which sets the premise of extending the present and past cooperation into new networks and partnerships. What prevails in choosing the partners is not the geographical area, but the status and reputation of the future partners, be they either from Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, or the Far East, underlining professionalism as the main choice criterion.

One major objective of participating in the Erasmus+ Programme is to develop the mobility of staff in all variants available: incoming/outgoing staff in partner or programme countries, staff incoming/outbound mobilities in traineeships, Erasmus+ Key Action 2, Key Action 3 Projects, or Jean Monnet Projects. ANIMV believes that teaching staff exchange positively impacts, first and foremost, the quality of the teaching process: improved content of courses, new and diversified study programme curricula, excellence of didactic materials, innovative and flexible teaching methods. International exchange improves the teaching qualification of staff as well as their research potential and resources. Increased staff mobility leads to the internationalization of all partner universities or institutions, which sets a broader intercultural context of values and opportunities, with incoming staff contributing to the host university curricula and outgoing staff enriching the experience abroad.

A second major objective is represented by student mobility and traineeships and students' participation in joint programmes at all levels of education. The purpose of ANIMV is to

increase the number of both incoming and outgoing students, which leads to developing transversal skills, intercultural understanding and thus to the increase of their professional skills for a successful employability in the future. Students' exchange at B.A., M.A. and Doctoral levels, either as mobility, traineeships or part of Joint Programmes (one Joint doctoral programme already running) develop an outstanding competitiveness among them, with the prospect of having remarkable graduates in all participating universities within the Programme. The internationalization process of learning, as well as that of teaching, are core values that motivate ANIMV in the larger process of participating in the Erasmus+ Programme.

Thirdly, ANIMV has a high interest in developing the mobility of the non-teaching staff as well, the internationalization of this resulting in better practices and higher qualitative supportive services for students and staff.

In the light of the above priorities, ANIMV expects outstanding teaching, educational, research and administrative achievements that will contribute to the multiculturalism of its campus, to the excellent international profile of the Academy, to the enrichment of the Romanian society and, finally, to a better contemporary world.

ANIMV strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the Framework of the Erasmus + Programme.

Organizing and implementing international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme is a key aspect of the internationalization strategy of „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy, a means by which the Academy may become a major partner in the international academic context. In order to start such cooperation projects, ANIMV settles its main priorities and objectives, how it can reach and fulfill them, as well as their outcome and impact.

Once goals established, ANIMV starts the selection process of its partners with whom to share common aims and with whom to be compatible in terms of institutional policies. The two faculties, the Faculty of Information and the Faculty of Intelligence Studies decide the priorities they have in terms of curriculum improvements or innovation, teaching and assessment methods. The reputation of the searched for partners also plays a significant role in the decision making process, while the geographical location comes the lowest in relevance.

Agreements being signed, ANIMV undertakes to follow strictly the requirements and standard procedures for student mobility/traineeship, staff mobility/traineeship, or administrative exchange – ANIMV makes sure that all the concrete steps and responsibilities of the HEI are respected, from the selection process, language training, mentoring, tutoring, social integration, curricula matching and requirements, accreditation procedures, academic recognition of credits and recognition of staff mobility, traineeships requirements, financial support, modalities to recognize achievements for students, staff and non-staff. In the latter case, Joint/Multiple/Double Degrees, Alliances/Projects/Partnerships, ANIMV considers of strategic importance the establishment of partnerships with previous experience in such endeavours, positioning itself as a trustful and reliable partner as well. The highly qualified staff of ANIMV as well as the professional curricula recommend ANIMV in joining and initiating innovative programmes with a significant impact at international level. The previous experience of ANIMV as partner in European Horizon 2020 consortia (CITYCOP, CARISMAND, ESSENTIAL) and cooperation with US National Intelligence University prove expertise in

partnership projects and further recommends ANIMV for future projects. One of the goals in ANIMV being part of Joint/Multiple/Double Degrees, Alliances/Projects/Partnerships is to attract and train the best students in Europe, as well as to attract the most representative teaching and research staff so that the entire academic community could benefit and the prestige of the Academy may increase. During the implementation of these programmes ANIMV expects a strong international mobility of staff and students, which means a powerful exposure of research results and teaching content. Both ANIMV and the partners involved will face a very dynamic process of academic emulation.

The next step of the implementation strategy is the dissemination of the outcomes resulting from the participation in the cooperation projects, a process with a double relevance: on the one hand, it makes visible the results of the diversity of cooperation projects and thus it is a confirmation of the initially settled objectives; on the other hand, dissemination ensures the continuation and initiation of further international cooperation projects and the enlargement of the number of partners. ANIMV ensures the dissemination of its results by exposing them in the academic and community environment, to the future beneficiaries, by organizing events and information sessions, by inviting universities and beneficiaries to participate in round tables in which both difficulties /impediments and positive aspects are presented. In addition, the virtual international academic community represents an appropriate milieu in which ANIMV propagates the project results.

Taking into consideration its profile, ANIMV being a key component of the Romanian Intelligence Service, therefore approaching the intelligence activity in terms of educating and training future and present intelligence officers, as well as in terms of research and thorough knowledge in the field of intelligence and security, the Academy seeks to establish partnerships in the field of sociology, psychology, political sciences, international relations and intelligence studies. ANIMV's overall strategy for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme considers approaching all mobility and partnerships available, within the scope of the domains mentioned above.

The expected impact of ANIMV participation in the Programme on the modernisation of ANIMV (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*)

The participation of „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy in the Erasmus+ Programme sets the premise of the Academy's continuing and speeding process of modernisation by means of a wider and more significant exposure to the international academic environment in the context of the general internationalisation strategy designed and settled by the institution and included in the Charter of ANIMV. All actions in terms of student, staff and administrative mobilities and partnerships are targeted towards increasing the quality of the higher education process within the Academy.

By signing this charter, ANIMV assumes as its own the 5 priorities of the Agenda for the Modernisation of Europe's higher education system and undertakes to pursue the following policy objectives:

1. Having better professionals on the labour market means improving constantly the quality of education. This policy underlines the entire educational process at all levels at ANIMV, and having it put into practice involves taking concrete measures. By being part of the Erasmus+ Programme, ANIMV assumes attaining an improved and modern

curriculum, more efficient assessment methods, a higher level of international staff exchange and a more dynamic exchange of knowledge and expertise, a broader intercultural management of ideas and a genuine multiculturalist approach to values, performant Joint Degrees and partnerships and last but not least a true international visibility of ANIMV based on performance and professionalism.

2. One of ANIMV's declared goals is to significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality and relevance of higher education, both at a national and an international level. Quality enhancement is a direct consequence of a permanent openness to exchanging ideas and experience, therefore ANIMV undertakes a constant institutional improvement by means of curriculum upgrading and modernisation, designing new teaching, learning and assessment methods, redesigning study programmes in accordance to the example of prestigious universities, adapting and redefining research interests, introducing joint M.A. programmes or jointly run doctoral programmes. The outcome of all these actions is to witness the mergence of a highly qualitative educational process with an immediate positive impact for the entire academic community.
3. Mobility and cross-border cooperation has become the normality of a world constantly changing. For ANIMV, these are the means by which the internationalisation process of the Academy can be achieved and by which the quality of the educational process increases. Staff and student mobility, either incoming or outgoing, offers the premise of gaining the best experience and learning what helps most the home institution. Moreover, it involves the improvement of the linguistic skills of the participants, the development of competences that will further enable them to establish new contacts and partnerships. Cross-border cooperation also helps in building a common set of values, sharing experiences and developing the personalities of all participating in a universal dialogues of knowledge, besides the concrete expansion of the horizon of an academic international cooperation.
4. The role of „Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy is to train professionals that are employed by the Romanian Intelligence Service as analysts or operations officers. The curricula students read at all educational levels provide both theoretical and practical knowledge with the sole aim of providing competitive graduates in a society, local, regional, European, or worldwide which is a constant challenge to their knowledge and values. Therefore, ANIMV undertakes the responsibility of successfully linking efficiency of the educational process to the future practical challenges graduates will face, this being possible by means of all processes and measures mentioned so far.
5. The performance of a higher education institution is also assessed based on the funding it manages to attract. ANIMV, with previous and current experience as partner in international consortia, considers funding accessing as a proof of its competitiveness in the larger international context of higher education and thus the Erasmus+ Programme is expected to be one of the funding sources for students' and teaching staff's training and academic development. Given the excellence of both students and staff of ANIMV, the Academy is determined to fructify all the funding opportunities available within the Programme for the betterment of the educational process as an outcome of mobilities, programmes projects and alliances mentioned in the three Key Actions.

By signing the Charter, „Mihai Viteazul” National intelligence Academy commits to excellence in the higher education system, performance in the contemporary society, and mobility in the context of an increasingly dynamic international academic environment.