

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

1. What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

Since its establishment, "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA) has made constant efforts to align with international standards applicable to modern higher education. Especially in recent years, the Academy has accelerated the internationalization process and has been active in Erasmus-funded projects, establishing inter-institutional agreements and setting up strategic partnerships with European higher education institutions and research centers, partnerships which have already yielded results. Although our participation in European projects has brought challenges, it has also paved the way for a European path of development and integration into the European academic community that we seek to continue with in the 2021-2027 programme. Our institution intends to recalibrate some older objectives and establish new directions in terms of international cooperation, in compliance with the directions drawn by the European Commission for the next 6 years in order to contribute to the development of the European Education Area. Since the Erasmus programme is the very pillar of MVNIA's internationalization efforts and assertion as a reputed higher education institution in the field of international relations, security and intelligence studies, the modernization of our institution is closely linked to our participation in the Erasmus programme.

The modernization and internationalization objectives set for 2021-2027 programme take into account diverse and complex aspects, and the Erasmus programme offers a wide range of tools through which MVNIA can turn its objectives into reality. Thus, strengthening cooperation with international partners remains a top priority, which can be achieved especially under Key Action 1, but also under Key Action 2 and 3. The partner selection process is centered on the needs identified at the Faculty and Doctoral School level, from the standpoint of research, development and innovation, as well as on the profile and prestige of our future partners. All our partnerships are implemented in strict accordance with the internal regulations and provisions of the Erasmus programme regarding the study/practice/teaching/training mobility, starting from the initial selection stages, continuing with the linguistic and cultural training, counseling and monitoring of the participants, curricular correlation of the study programmes, financial support, and automatic and full recognition of the results obtained by the beneficiaries.

A second objective is to rigorously analyze the results of internal monitoring of European and international mobility and cooperation activities in order to optimize performance. MVNIA

wants to extensively contribute to improving the quality of higher education, both nationally and internationally. As a result, the constant orientation towards streamlining activities and improving results will help us to contribute to the development of the European Education Area. By participating in the Erasmus programme, MVNIA undertakes to modernize and improve its curricula, develop more efficient teaching-learning-assessment methods, increase the number of transnational mobilities with the intention of generating a more dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences, strengthening partnerships, developing the linguistic and intercultural skills of the participants, and increasing the prestige and visibility of MVNIA both nationally and internationally.

The mobility of staff and students sets the premises for improving professional knowledge and experience, developing linguistic and intercultural skills, as well as strengthening European identity through the promotion of common values. We pay particular attention to the development and promotion of innovative, inclusive and multilingual pedagogical strategies using European tools and platforms for their implementation and dissemination. In what concerns language learning, MVNIA aims to supplement the number of language and cultural training modules offered to mobility participants, better promote multilingualism by developing bilingual study programmes and increase the quality and efficiency of language teaching and learning activities. MVNIA uses the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) of the Council of Europe.

The European Education Area is one of inclusion and equity, and this can be achieved by strengthening equal opportunities and developing non-discriminatory policies. To this effect, MVNIA aims to pay special attention to strategic partnership projects and KA107 mobility projects with partner countries which would lead to increased access to the programme for underrepresented regions and groups. We also consider people with special needs as well as those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In these cases, our institution can offer top-ups and other facilities such as social scholarships to support students who are interested in participating. In addition, for incoming students with special needs, the duration of the exam or the presentation of the course and seminar topics may be extended, and professors are encouraged to resort to alternative means of assessment.

Last but not least, during the 2021-2027 programme, MVNIA wants to accelerate the process of digitalization of learning and teaching in order to be better adapted to the requirements of the digital age. Our digitalization objectives are linked to the three priorities set by the European Commission through the Digital Education Action Plan: making better use of digital technology for teaching and learning, developing digital competences and skills, and improving education through better data analysis and foresight. Thus, the adoption of the tools provided by the Erasmus without Paper Network and the completion of the three stages of the European Student Card Initiative by 2023, combined with the development of digital skills of students and staff and the creation of blended learning and e-learning study programmes will allow for the digital management of the Erasmus programme and will significantly contribute to

achieving the goal of digitalization. Digitalization will also improve the process of recognizing the importance of the results obtained by the members involved in cooperation projects with partner institutions and will streamline workflows. At the same time, through digitalization, the results will be more visible, which will make the valorization process more efficient. By accelerating the digitalization process, MVNIA also proves that it adheres to the principles of Green Erasmus and turns to eco-friendly policies in the management of the programme.

We believe that the objectives described above for the 2021-2027 period, together with the measures we will undertake towards achieving the results that these objectives entail, are perfectly in line with the initiatives and measures proposed by the European Commission to create an European Education Area.

2. Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

“Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA) embraces cooperation and recognizes the importance of belonging to university networks for the development of competitiveness and institutional modernization. For this reason, strengthening existing partnerships and starting new projects are objectives of the utmost importance in the process of institutional internationalization. Fortunately, the Erasmus programme provides us with all the mechanisms needed to achieve this goal, and MVNIA can thus contribute to the creation and consolidation of a European Education Area.

Between 2021-2027, we intend to continue our European path by participating in all three Key Actions, which will lead to the establishment of new agreements and partnerships that entail both institutional development and human resource development. For MVNIA, mobility and cooperation with strategic partners are at the heart of the internationalization strategy, and the choice of partners for the development of joint degrees, knowledge alliances, or the establishment of inter-institutional agreements for student and staff exchange is based on a rigorous selection process that takes into account the compatibility of academic profiles, common curricular interests and institutional prestige. Our current partnerships with universities from the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Malta, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Slovakia or Serbia show our institution's continuous interest in the internationalization process. In this regard, in the upcoming years we aim to diversify the academic networks in which we are already members and sign cooperation agreements with countries from Asia and the Western Balkans or with the United States of America, being fully aware of the benefits of such exchanges at the multicultural and academic level.

The internationalization of the teaching, learning, and assessment process through student and staff mobilities, both incoming and outgoing, is a priority for our institution. Such mobilities improve the professional skills of the participants, develop their intercultural skills, support curricular transformation and the design of new curricula, including blended learning and e-learning programmes, and the development of flexible learning and teaching methods. Therefore, we will continue the implementation of KA103 projects and expand the number of mobilities through KA107 projects with partner countries. The latter will enlarge the geographical area in which we operate and will increase opportunities for those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, thus contributing to the consolidation of an inclusive and modern higher education system. The selection of beneficiaries for such mobilities will be based on clear, transparent regulations and procedures, without any discrimination. The regulations for the organization of the Erasmus programme in MVNIA are posted on our institution's website and on the electronic notice boards on campus. Moreover, before the selection process is launched, informative meetings are organized with all those interested. MVNIA also ensures the permanent monitoring of all mobilities and offers assistance for each stage of the selection and post-selection process to those interested. The application of questionnaires to the mobility beneficiaries and the periodic analysis of the level of implementation of the developed projects, draw our attention to possible deficiencies that need to be corrected, the quality of the mobilities thus being ensured.

The workflows created for the management of the Erasmus programme within MVNIA include the vice-rector, the Erasmus coordinators from the Faculties, the international cooperation office and other staff with Erasmus responsibilities. These workflows ensure the smooth implementation of the various projects managed by our institution. The selection of the mobility beneficiaries is carried out at the level of the Faculties and Doctoral School, in collaboration with the Erasmus coordinators. Student and staff nominations, Learning Agreements, Transcript of Records and other documents are managed by Erasmus officers and sent to our partners via email. Similarly, in the case of partnership projects, the communication with the partner universities is carried out both by email and by video-call sessions.

MVNIA's internationalization process is multidimensional, tailored around the 3 Key Actions of the Erasmus programme so that, in the area of strategic partnerships, we intend to continue the development of joint projects in the field of international relations, security and intelligence studies with universities and public institutions which are active in this field. Our experience so far, as partners in European Horizon 2020 consortia (CITYCOP, CARISMAND, ESSENTIAL) and the coordination of the KA2 CRESCENT project, recommends us as a reliable partner in future projects. All our projects and their results are promoted and disseminated through dedicated webpages.

One of our goals is to initiate Joint Degrees as they stimulate competitiveness and enable the enrollment and training of the best students. In addition, these programmes promote and facilitate integrated, transnational teaching activities, impacting the entire academic community

and increasing the prestige of the Academy and its partners. During the implementation of these programmes, MVNIA expects an increase of approximately 15% in the number of student and staff mobilities, which will allow an extensive dissemination of research results.

We will also ensure the sustainability of completed projects and continue to disseminate and exploit their results in new projects, scientific publications, and by developing new study programmes, including blended learning and e-learning.

3. What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Given that the Erasmus programme is a key component of the internationalization strategy of the "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA), participation in the 2021-2027 programme is likely to ensure a significant increase in the degree of internationalization of our institution by signing new inter-institutional agreements, developing new study programmes in collaboration with partner universities and accessing new projects.

With regard to mobility, MVNIA aims to submit a KA103 mobility project annually. Thus, taking into account our schooling capacity, we estimate that between 2021 and 2027 we will have approximately 20 study mobilities, 20 traineeship mobilities, 4 teaching mobilities and 7 training mobilities. These outgoing mobilities pave the way for a similar number of incoming student and staff mobilities from our partner institutions. One way to monitor the impact of outgoing mobilities is by looking at the number of mobilities proposed in the project and the number of those which have been completed by the end of the project. If the number of those interested exceeds the budget allocation, MVNIA may request the supplementation of the mobility budget within the round dedicated to this action, or may opt for the transfer of funds from the organizational support to mobilities. The degree of satisfaction of outgoing and incoming beneficiaries will be monitored with the help of feedback questionnaires, as well as through a constant dialogue with partner institutions. If the questionnaires reveal shortages in implementation, MVNIA will promptly remedy them.

The support provided by former mobility participants (students and staff) in promoting the Erasmus programme, the professional integration of students, and their desire to share the experience gained are also useful indicators in the process of monitoring mobilities. The number of people attending the informative sessions on the opportunities offered by the Erasmus programme, as well as the number of applications received in each selection round, is another indicator of how the programme is implemented. The aforementioned monitoring methods are simple, visible and effective, and they reflect clearly and quantitatively the interest of the target group and any problems that its members may face. The impact of the mobilities will also be reflected in the design and implementation of new study programmes, including blended learning

and e-learning, as well as in the tailoring of the current curriculum in order to meet the objectives set for creating a European Education Area. MVNIA estimates a 20% increase in the number of blended learning and e-learning programmes by 2027.

The strategy for expanding the number of mobilities also aims at submitting projects under the KA107 calls, which will allow academic exchange with universities from partner countries. Within these projects, the number of beneficiaries will be established by mutual agreement with the partners, but the emphasis will be on incoming mobilities, the outgoing ones being limited to maximum 30% of the total number established in the project proposal. We estimate that approximately 15% of the number of student and staff mobilities will be within KA107 projects by 2027. An important step of the project implementation and monitoring strategy is the dissemination and exploitation of results. This is very important because, on the one hand, it makes visible the diversity and the results of cooperation projects by validating the established objectives and, on the other hand, it ensures the continuity and initiation of new international projects, thus increasing the number of partner institutions. MVNIA guarantees the dissemination of results by publishing them on its website, in academic journals, by organizing events and informative sessions, or by inviting representatives of partner institutions to round tables. Thus, the number of articles published within the implemented projects and the number of conferences (staff participation included) is another indicator that we use in monitoring the impact of our participation in the Erasmus programme.

We intend to submit and implement at least two projects under KA2 by 2027. The impact generated by the involvement in strategic partnership projects will be felt at the level of the teaching and research staff within the relevant structures of the Academy. We estimate that in each of these projects there will be at least 5 members of our academic community and they will work with the staff of partner institutions to strengthen academic cooperation and institutional modernization by developing tools with applicability in the teaching, learning, and assessment activity.