

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The ancient history of the University of Bari Aldo Moro tells about the energy of a university located in a city stretched out towards the sea and open to the constant changes of its people and of its neighboring and frontier ones and finds reference in the lighthouse, which characterizes its institutional seal. The reference values, the mission and the vision that guide and found its actions, as well as the pursued guidelines and intervention priorities, are suitably integrated and enshrined in official documents (Statute, innovated in the fundamental principles in 2019, Integrated Programming Document 2020-2022, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, Three-year plan for the prevention of corruption and transparency). Social report, gender report, environmental report and performance report, which are periodically drawn up and published, stating themselves as tools for participation and social reporting, are also the topic to discuss with stakeholders, for an assessment of the impact of the activities carried out and for the definition of new objectives, with a view to continuous improvement.

In the Statute, we read the commitment to: promote collaboration with Italian and foreign universities and research institutes and membership of international networks and consortia; support the international mobility of all its components and take part in programs aimed at strengthening relations between teachers and students from different countries; to privilege the international characterization of their study courses.

In the part of the Statute entitled "Charter of fundamental principles", the University confirms its commitment to assimilate the principles and guidelines of the Udine Manifesto (approved by the universities in June 2017 during the G7 meeting), as well as its belonging to the European Research and Higher Education Area, of which it assumes principles and instruments.

As known, the Udine Manifesto recognizes an essential role to universities in promoting global citizenship, economic, social and environmental sustainability, democratic participation in social life and mobility, the increase in the number and quality of graduated students. It also recommends carrying out certain activities considered appropriate and effective for the pursuit of the identified objectives.

A particular reference must be made to the Erasmus + Program for the mobility of students and teachers, which can be taken as a reference model.

From its origin, the University of Bari Aldo Moro has taken part in the Erasmus+ Program which has strongly contributed to promote its internationalization activities, not only for the financial resources obtained, which are also essential in a context characterized by the scarcity of resources given to universities, but above all for the implementation of principles and tools shared among member institutions. They facilitate cooperation both during the identification of the partner, fundamental to guarantee essential services and quality services secured by a third party such as the Program Management Authorities, and in the carrying out of the agreements.

The principles promoted by the Erasmus+ Program have represented a guide and support to deal with and regulate aspects of Internationalization, which is a strategic and transversal activity to all the institutional areas of the University of Bari Aldo Moro: teaching, research, third mission and administration. We hope they will continue to have this role.

As to the strategic objectives, the Integrated Programming Document, approved on January 30th, 2020, with regard to the international dimension of the educational offer, contains the commitment: to increase the didactic offer in foreign language and international study courses (e.g. through "joint" and "double" degrees and joint master degrees with international organizations); to increase the enjoyment of Erasmus+ Programs (Study and Traineeship), of the Global Thesis program and the presence of visiting professors.

These objectives widen those already foreseen for the three-year period 2019-2021: a) support to global citizenship, to be intended as an interdisciplinary field that can be exploited in every study course, from medicine to cultural heritage; a concrete commitment is also required to support global citizenship with initiatives promoting women's access to technical-scientific study courses and to help dispelling gender stereotypes, initiatives also promoted by the Ministerial Decree of 29 December 2017, n. 1047; b) supporting the strategy for the promotion of higher education abroad, thus making necessary an accurate illustration of the didactic offer, able to highlight the peculiarities of the study courses, the excellence and the attractiveness for international students; c) structuring a system of recognition of qualifications and skills acquired abroad, consistent with the international guidelines, to improve what is an internationally recognized good practice of the University of Bari Aldo Moro; d) implementation of all those services (for example, the activation of special tutoring and learning services of the Italian language) that can help the social inclusion of foreign students as well as the academic one; e) strengthening of international mobility opportunities for staff and students.

The quality of teaching also passes through the services provided to students, whether Italian or international, and the University has the strategic objective of reducing dropouts through: the reorganization of the counseling service in order to enhance the ability to manage stress and any other difficulty during the study period and improve the study method; the activation of the listening service against gender discrimination; promoting access to university facilities for students coming from rural, sub-urban, territorially and socially marginalized areas; the promotion of distance learning as a tool to support and integrate conventional teaching and as a way to reach a larger amount of students; the spread of technological services to support teaching and tutoring activities (webinar, FAD, peer tutoring) in order to reduce drop-out rates, the average duration of studies and the number of off-course students. There is also the objective to improve the welcoming and counseling system for foreign students, through competent offices and free Italian language courses.

With specific reference to research activities, in the aforementioned Integrated Programming Document, the strengthening of the research internationalization is considered a strategic objective, increasing: the presence of the University in European research decision-making sites and networks; the participation in international activity networks (e.g. European Universities); the international mobility of doctoral students, including reward systems and places reserved for students with the qualification to access taken abroad; welcome services for foreign researchers; the activities of information and dissemination of research opportunities and results. It should also be emphasized that research activity leads to quality teaching, both through the co-creation of new knowledge and through the study of new learning methods and innovative tools, to face the challenges of contemporary society.

The commitment to promote social sustainability and the enhancement of human capital to build an inclusive community, in dialogue with the territory, plays an important role within the objectives of the Third Mission. It is important to stress the commitment to strengthen the experience, led by the Center for Lifelong Learning of the University of Bari Aldo Moro and rewarded as a good European practice, for the implementation of transparency paths of formal and informal skills of students from countries in a condition of crisis (Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq) and from countries of the African area (Gambia, Cameroon, Somalia, Senegal), for the recognition of professional qualifications and/or educational qualifications, in order to enter the world of work or university, for the continuation of studies.

The formal commitment to the linguistic training of all staff is also oriented towards the enhancement of human capital, with a view to lifelong learning.

The commitment to support a sustainable development, formally assumed in the Programming document, impacts on the didactic offer, providing for the activation of course about sustainability, intended for students of all study courses, including doctoral students, and for university staff, but also on the research activity, directing researchers to take on a specific commitment to assessing the impact on sustainability within the frame of each carried out research. Moreover, it impacts on the administration, which will have to behave according to sustainability, on the example of other administrations, making use of specialized figures to be trained for this purpose, as well as on the organization that will have to be reengineered/modernized, also taking advantage of the opportunities offered by new working methods and innovative tools, which are functional to a green reality.