

## EUROPEAN POLICY STATEMENT OF HAMK UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES FOR THE YEARS 2014 - 2020

HAMK is a valued international higher education institution, and is its region's leading promoter of innovation and entrepreneurship. The basis for the strategy is HAMK's vision 2015, according to which HAMK is a highly respected international higher education institution.

At HAMK, the international perspective is a natural part of all our activities and our environment is highly international with a tolerant atmosphere. The international partner network has a significant role both in education and research, and students and staff members participate actively in international networks. Internationalisation at HAMK has had a significant impact on the internationalisation of the region's enterprises and the community. There are several workable and effective cooperation models in use. The strategic partners and other actors in the target areas experience and value HAMK as a higher education institution and partner.

We choose our partners so that their profile is in line with the HAMK Strategy and the HAMK International Strategy. HAMK and its partner are committed to collaboration based on mutual trust and respect at the personal and the university level and also on the willingness to deepen and widen the partnership. Both benefit from each other's strengths to make both universities stronger in the long run. HAMK and its partner identify the strategic areas in which both universities have particular strengths. The partnership creates synergy in the common education and research areas.

We have expanded cooperation with our key partners to include more fields of education. With them we also have joint development projects in education (double degree programmes, pedagogical development etc.) and also joint research and development activities in shared focus areas. We have increased the mobility of students, teaching and administrative staff. We share expertise in regional development and carry out joint development projects in regional development.

HAMK operates together with its strategic partners according to the jointly agreed action plan. We annually revise and assess our partner agreements and action plans. Our most important geographical area is Europe but we also have good partnerships all around the world.

HAMK and businesses in the region have agreed on joint international areas of operation. We have examined joint areas of operation and partners in the following international areas: St Petersburg, Eastern Europe (especially Poland), Sweden and Germany. We offer regional stakeholders opportunities for cooperation through HAMK's BRIC partners: Brazil, India, China.

We have agreed on cooperation structures and central networks and we have drafted action plans for each area.

The most important objective of staff mobility is that our personnel have sufficient competence to internationalise the education process and also the research and development process. The mobility of researchers, teachers and other personnel is increasing. This is due to the fact that at HAMK international competence of staff members is assessed during annual performance appraisals. During the same process each person's competence development plan is also updated.

The mobility of personnel promotes the internationalisation of higher education teaching and research, the popularity of exchange studies and the creation of joint and double degrees and international elements of degree programmes. We actively participate in national and international networks that develop and support the internationalisation and modernisation of higher education institutions.

The most important objective of first-cycle and second-cycle student mobility is that at least a third of students study and/or participates in work placements abroad for at least three months. Credits completed abroad are fully recognised as part of the degree, based on the up-to-date Learning Agreement. The roles of student counsellors, work placement coordinators and international coordinators have been defined and there is good cooperation between these people and students going on exchange. We actively aim at achieving the goal of balanced student mobility.

All our degree programmes taught in English have double degree agreements. All Finnish degree programmes have assessed the possibility for international double degrees and negotiations are currently under way.

All HAMK strategies (HAMK Main Strategy, HAMK Education Strategy, HAMK International Strategy, HAMK RDI Strategy and HAMK HR Strategy) strongly emphasise internationalisation. One central mechanism are international cooperation projects with our key partners. The Erasmus programme is seen as an important tool to increase our capability to take part in international projects on a global scale. RDI incorporated in the curricula and implementation plans are widely implemented in the form of international cooperation.

Staff exchange is a basic element in internal competence training for organising and implementing international cooperation projects. These projects are developed and strengthened in cooperation with foreign partner institutions and research centres, as well as with the region's business and industry and regional developers. The key element to raising the awareness of European funding possibilities is to first train the staff members. Information about available support and advisory services to key RDI persons is available regularly. The RDI management team and the RDI directors are responsible for promoting international cooperation projects in every field of education. Non-EU cooperation projects are implemented in the same manner as EU-projects. We also have quality guidelines for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects.

In Finland, there is significant variation of the frequency of higher education graduates in the population. In the region of Häme – where HAMK operates - the frequency is much less than the average in Finland. HAMK as a local educator has an important role to produce more higher education graduates for the local business and industry. Erasmus offers many tools for increasing the number of higher education graduates who have the international competencies needed on the international labour market. The key issue is to foster the quality of the education through the Programme.

At HAMK, teachers must have sufficient competence to internationalise the education process and also the research and development process. The Programme offers all staff members the opportunity to develop their competence in line with our strategy. The mobility of researchers, teachers and other personnel will be increased. Tailor-made courses are offered at HAMK also in cooperation with international networks.

HAMK provides students with competences for functioning in an international environment. During studies, all students are guaranteed activities that develop their international competence. Good use is made of the experiences of outgoing students. In addition to this interaction and cooperation with incoming exchange students and teachers, and other experts promote internationalisation at home. Students graduate within the regulatory duration of studies as professionals in their fields and find employment quickly in tasks that correspond to their education, or set up new businesses. Graduates have broad, professional higher-education level competence needed in the world of work. The Programme promotes international competence of all members of the HAMK higher education community and boosts the performance of HAMK and its stakeholders.

Education is planned and organised in partnership with groups of experts from the world of work, by effectively integrating research into teaching, and by developing activities aimed at modernising the region. The regional impact of the education is diverse and deep in nature.

Closer and longer-lasting partnerships will be formed between education and employers, working together to promote the industry, commerce and labour market of the region. The various tools of the Programme will be made good use of when strengthening the knowledge triangle. In its relations with the labour market and with employers, HAMK emphasises a proactive approach and strategic, anticipatory and innovative cooperation.

HAMK will ensure that governance and funding are efficient and both will support the implementation of all our strategies. Good governance is based on our strategies, regulations and quality guidelines which define the duties and tasks from top to bottom. Our basic funding is provided by The Ministry of Education and Culture which ensures equality for all students and staff members.

This European Policy Statement was approved by President Pertti Puusaari, HAMK University of Applied Sciences, on 8 May 2013.