

Erasmus Policy Statement

The SSML di Varese is a quite small University, which has been operating for more than 30 years and has become an established institution on the territory, over time. The international strategy of the SSML di Varese focuses mainly on the aspects within the framework of Key Action 1, i.e. mobility for students and staff. Our main objective is providing students and staff with direct access to the languages they are learning/teaching, so that they can further improve and put into practice what they have learnt and the skills that they acquired. Due to our focus on native and foreign languages we, and especially our students, benefit from direct contact with such languages, and by working with other members of the European Higher Education Area, we can ensure that we do not operate in isolation.

Our goal is to join forces with present and prospective Partner Institutions to think about the best solutions to improve the educational curriculum, to ensure incoming and outgoing students a pleasant learning experience combining different types of educational approaches. We strongly believe that a mobility period provides students and all people involved with a set of capabilities that are very helpful in achieving personal goals. Our international strategy is to work with partners where our outgoing students can practice and improve their first or second foreign language they study to obtain the first cycle degree. Since our students study English as first foreign language, and either French, German, or Spanish as second foreign language, this is the reason behind our choice of cooperating mainly with English, French, German, and Spanish speaking institutions.

Moreover, we intend to further promote our initiatives related to the Erasmus+ Programme, through strong digital communication tools (social media posts, videos, newsletters) and the testimonies of Erasmus Ambassadors who will share their personal experiences with their peers when they return from abroad. Additionally, because of the size of our university, it is easy to arrange activities that involve a large percentage of the students. Consolidating and extending our network of Partner Universities will enable SSML di Varese to offer a larger number of students/staff the possibility to experience a mobility period abroad, and at the same time be able to host a greater number of incoming students/staff. Not only students will benefit from the activities, but also staff.

In combination with Key Action 1, in the coming seven-year period SSML di Varese commits itself to taking part or to being promoted in international cooperation programmes, with the particular aim

of making use of interlingual and international contributions to Kotoba, the SSML di Varese's own digital research publication series. Furthermore, international cooperation will have positive effects on the increase of mobility opportunities for students and staff. The strategy of the SSML di Varese is aimed at internationalisation and providing high international standards to ensure that students and staff have the key competences and qualifications in an international labour market based on globalisation.

The SSML di Varese strongly supports the development of the integrated European Higher Education Area, implementing the objectives set by the Bologna Declaration and the main orientations of the Lisbon Strategy. The main focus of the strategy is the vocation to improve the quality of education and to broaden the teaching offered. The strategies that SSML di Varese commits to implementing are aimed at:

- increasing the flow of incoming and outgoing mobility by promoting and incentivising the participation in the Erasmus+ programme of students and staff in the first year of the Programme, in order to considerably increase the flow of mobility, both outgoing and incoming;
- encouraging cooperation with European and non-European participants; - promoting foreign cultures and language learning, as not just a necessary skill for studying abroad, but also for entering an increasingly international labour market;
- optimising the educational offer, expanding courses by giving them an interdisciplinary approach;
- increasing the numbers of courses being taught in a foreign language even if not directly related to the foreign language, encouraging the linguistic preparation of teachers and students;
- implement innovative learning approaches, methods and tools which will be of interest to prospective incoming students and streamline the implementation of blended mobility.

The strategies are mutually aligned with SSML's short-term and long-term objectives, that are namely:

- extending the network of partner institutions, both with European and non-European entities to collaborate on international cooperation problems;
- increase the ability to be awarded and manage European funding, also through participation in additional funding programmes;

- remaining active in the field of linguistic research, in the form of multilingual publications such as our self-published Kotoba, a collection of interlinguistic and intercultural communication studies;
- modernising and improving the quality of the student processes.

Achieving the objectives will have a positive impact not only on what is closely related to the Erasmus+ project, but globally on our institution, which will benefit from greater internationality, openness and collaboration with the European context in which it is integrated.