



Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna

di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT – ERASMUS + 2014/2020

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (hereafter SSSA) is an elite higher education institution that holds a unique position within the Italian university system. It is a university in its own right, offering Masters (Jointly with a partner University) and PhD courses, at the same time for undergraduates it offers Courses for talented students that is a unique educational formula, integral to the Pisa University System.

The undergraduates attending courses for talented students at SSSA are the winners of a rigorous national public examination (in Italian language) and they will combine their Pisa University studies with the extra options available at SSSA. The students' personal growth is enhanced by immediate contact with a lively and stimulating cultural environment helped by the interdisciplinary studies and the international context.

The number of international students is particularly high (about 30%) at the Third cycle and referring to the Masters joint degrees. In the future it will be important not only to increase the number of international students, but to select the best students coming from prestigious HEI in order to create an international environment that would make the training period at the Scuola a challenging and fruitful experience.

As far as undergraduate students are concerned SSSA would like to multiply the opportunity of exchange and study period abroad that are integral part of their study plan, either to EU and NON EU Universities of excellence. Given the small number of students and the strong support of each scientific supervisor, SSSA would promote these opportunities and would encourage them to create a personal path that would provide an added value to their academic degree.

Moreover it would be a priority to strengthen placement activities in order to create more and more opportunities of work experiences abroad (EU and NON EU).

SSSA would strengthen its cooperation with those Universities that are working in the same fields (Economics and Management, Law, Political Sciences, Agricultural Sciences and Biotechnology, Medical Sciences, Industrial and Information Engineering) and in particular with those Universities that are research-oriented and offer programs in which students can combine training and research. These are the most important criteria we currently adopt and we will implement in the future in order to select appropriate partners.

In the near future SSSA would reinforce its international dimension towards the BRIC Area, by means of a real presence in those Countries (SSSA has already opened three Desks: Galileo Galilei Italian Institute in China, Desk India and Desk Moscow in Russia) and it is planning to open a new Desk in Brasil. Those offices would help SSSA to promote its activities and to choose the right partners among the best Universities and Research Center, creating a link between the two Institution, increasing the opportunity of student, researcher and academic's exchanges and joint research or training programmes. Moreover SSSA will reinforce its cooperation with HEI in EU Countries, North America, Latin America, Japan and Australia also through a cooperation with other HEIs located in the Tuscany Region (TUNE network, www.tune-tuscanyuniversitynetwork.it/)

Since Academic Year 2009 – 2010, SSSA has activated several Master's Degree Programmes (corresponding to a M.Sc.) and Graduate Programmes. These programmes, run in collaboration with prestigious Italian and foreign Universities, have the following distinguishing features:

- Highly-specializing educational projects characterized by an interdisciplinary, international and innovative approach;
- Courses taught exclusively in English;



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-- Very selective admissions tests to select the best students meeting the criteria of excellence set by SSSA;

-- Avant-garde teaching programmes that integrate the competencies and expertise of the universities involved, with the aim of forming innovative professionals.

This model was successfully experimented during the last three years and SSSA would like to carry on with this experience broadening the number of partners including new EU and NON EU institutions. Moreover SSSA would like to experiment new educational programmes.

The Institutes of SSSA run Postgraduate programmes, involving various forms of collaboration and joint ventures with foreign universities. The three-year programmes include both structured courses and supervised research and all the Courses are taught in English.

Finally it would be important to increase the opportunity of staff (academic and administrative staff) exchange, starting to organize the ingoing and outgoing visiting programme.

// applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

We live in a society that is constantly changing. Therefore, the mission of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna is "to develop learning abilities and skills", able to adapt to different contexts, subjects and goals.

We offer different post-graduate degrees and courses and our common approach is based upon the following principles:

- Interdisciplinarity;
- State-of-the-art and research-oriented training methods;;
- Labour-market oriented topics.

Many of these courses are offered in English and we intend develop further contacts and agreements with selected international (EU and non-EU) HEIs for broadening and implementing the faculty/teaching staff through specific exchange protocols. This will represent an attractive element not only for the institutional teaching and training activities (second and third cycles) but also for the custom-made courses, organized based on the needs directly expressed by companies, associations and international organizations. Thanks to the close integration between research and training, SSSA is able to fully meet with the requirements of external bodies, by tailoring the most suitable, effective and innovative training solutions to their specific needs. SSSA enjoys privileged relationships with several institutions, organisations and market leaders. Based on the already developed experience in specific fields (e.g. Engeneering), we are willing to promote the setting up of Master courses jointly organized with other EU HEIs that share our focus on research-oriented training.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda^{2*}) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.

Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

SSSA aims to increase the Master and Ph.D positions with scholarship (for both EU and non EU students) and ensure that **financial support** is addressed to talented and motivated students with a particular attention to those coming from lower income backgrounds, or from specific geographical areas. In parallel, the offer of courses to 'non-traditional' learners will be implemented according to the needs of the evolving Society. The whole strategy concerning the update of 2nd and 3rd cycles will consider the EU R&D long-term plan.

Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

SSSA aims to set-up attractive and efficient working conditions for students and researchers in order to create a modern and functional environment where it would be possible to develop high education programs linked to innovative research projects. A specific plan for the creation of a new area with innovative teaching and research facilities is under implementation. Excellence of teaching, under constant monitoring, will be considered as a parameter for the evaluation of faculty staff.



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Promoting Mobility

Thanks to an effective partnership network at local and international level, SSSA aims to potentiate immigration support in order to eliminate faculty, researchers and students mobility barriers,.

Making the knowledge triangle work:

Since 1991 SSSA has promoted the creation of 41 spin-off companies that have successfully commercialized their research ideas and products (employing more than 200 people). The Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO) follows the work of SSSA researchers from the promotion and valorisation of research results to the enforcement of intellectual property rights, the establishment of licensing agreements, and the creation of new companies.

The KTO is committed to fully exploiting public research results and supporting the competitiveness of Italian companies. SSSA contributed to the foundation of the national "Network for the Exploitation of Research" (www.netval.it) and the Association of Incubators (www.pnicube.it). It is also a member of the European Network of KTOs "Proton" (www.protoneurope.org) and founded the "Club of Spin-off Companies".

These companies have significantly contributed to both local and national economic development, enabling new entrepreneurs to commercialize the results of their research and transfer their knowledge and expertise to the market.

Improving governance and funding

SSSA is characterized by a strong capacity of self-financing (at top level in the Italian academic system) SSSA aims to strengthen this capacity and to pursue the research of alternative sources of funding including leverage public and private investment also through networking with other HEIs. A number of Master and PhD scholarships are also offered by public Institutions and private enterprises allowing to activate new and market-oriented research lines.