

The Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences and the Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences are strategic partners and involved in a merging process. The International Services has a common Head of International Relation since 2010. The close cooperation affects the international strategy, which is quite similar in both institutions.

a) The criteria for choosing partners for us are the following:

-Possibilities for successful and efficient student exchange. This means in practice sufficient offer of studies in English or other languages suitable for both parties of cooperation.

-Cooperation possibilities for teacher and staff exchanges and joint teaching activities, including possibilities for Double Degree Programs

-Cooperation possibilities for RDI-activities

- Kymenlaakso UAS offers altogether 27 Study Programs in the fields of Engineering, Business and Administration, Social and Health Care, Culture, Maritime Studies and Logistics. Partners, that have a possibility to cooperate successfully with several Study Programmes, are preferred.

b) The most important target of the mobility activities is Europe. Within EU, we concentrate especially for cooperation around Baltic Sea Region. Outside Europe, Russia is the most important target country. We have set special strategic goals for Russian cooperation.

KyUAS has been and will be active in international cooperation outside EU. Kymenlaakso UAS's partner network covers Europe, Russia, Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania, with partners in over 30 countries.

c) The main objective of our mobility activities is excellent employability of our graduates. Mobility is one of the key tools to reach this objective.

Students are the primary target group. Besides for example LLP-funds, Kymenlaakso UAS allocates its own budget funds to boost mobility. Both outgoing and incoming students (partners) are informed regularly about the exchange study and training possibilities.

All the over 3 month exchange study and training periods are individually tailored to fit the student's study plan. The outgoing students are offered sufficient funding to carry out their exchange and training periods abroad. Finnish and foreign degree students of KyUAS are offered the same possibilities. Each student is monitored before, during and after his/her mobility period. Racial, cultural, gender or any other kind of discrimination is prohibited.

The main aim of teacher and staff exchanges are to strengthen the cooperation with our partners and to promote and strengthen the student mobility. RDI-possibilities are also often taken up during the exchanges. The targets for teacher, staff and RDI mobility are set annually by management. Heads of Departments take teacher and staff exchanges systematically up during annual career development discussions with their personnel. The exchange periods are accepted jointly by the Heads of Department and International Services.

The incoming teacher, staff and RDI - mobility is strengthened through international theme weeks within departments. For these weeks, a larger group of partner teachers and staff are invited to Kymenlaakso UAS.

In Kymenlaakso UAS most of the mobility is carried out during first cycle of studies. The second cycle students are also offered the possibilities, but most of them are employed during their studies. This makes the participation to especially long-term exchanges or training often difficult. KyUAS is not offering third cycle studies.

Intensive courses in Finland and abroad are the main tool for short term mobility (under three months). Kymenlaakso UAS students can also participate to summer semesters abroad, but this is not very common.

Kyminlaakso UAS is active in developing Double Degree Programs with our partners. The fields of activity at the present are Business, Energy Engineering and Logistics. The DDs will be probably developed for Game Design as well. DD-programs are done both with EU and non-EU partners. Most of the graduates in DD:s come outside of EU, as non-EU students are often motivated to obtain a European degree.

If 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. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Kyminlaakso University of Applied Sciences is higher education institution of lifelong learning, and a strong implementer of research, development and Innovation activities (RDI), with a special strength on its expertise on Russia. The strategic development targets are as follows: Promote regional development through RDI activities based on the degree programmes of Kyminlaakso UAS; reinforce interactions between RDI activities, education, and working life and business, and strengthen international cooperation and partnerships.

Kyminlaakso UAS carries out mainly practice orientated research projects.

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\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

**Increasing the number of graduates:** The objective is to get in talented students and implement the studies efficiently. Kyminlaakso UAS student recruitment activities and student quality feedback are the key elements for increasing graduation results. A wide range of activities are being used for student recruitment, such as www-promotion, participation for student fairs, presence in social media, parent's evening, contacts with enterprises etc. The number of applicants/starting place has been rising. For the degree programs in English in spring 2013, Kyminlaakso UAS had over 1100 applicants for 56 study places.

**Increasing quality and relevance:** The objective is to increase the quality and relevance to ensure good employability of the graduates and student satisfaction. Kyminlaakso UAS policy is to gather systematically feedback from students, enterprises, international partners, teachers & staff, employers and other cooperating parties. This feedback is used to develop and modify curricula, individual courses and also, when needed, structure of the degree programmes.

**Improving internationalisation:** Kyminlaakso UAS sets annual targets for both student and staff mobility by study sectors. The meeting of the targets is monitored regularly. At present, some 15-20 % of our students study abroad one or two semesters, or complete over 3 month practice abroad during their studies.

Students are informed about the exchange and training possibilities abroad regularly. The work is shared by international services personnel and teachers. All students from all degree programs have a possibility to apply for exchange. The studies abroad are included to degree at Kyminlaakso UAS.

**Strengthening the links between education, business and research:** The objective is to constantly strengthen the interaction between Kyminlaakso UAS and business life. Regional development is also our responsibility. Kyminlaakso UAS has traditionally close contacts with working life and continues this reach. The RDI-projects are often practically orientated, the goal is to benefit especially regionally important issues but also to bring the results to students and education.

**Ensuring efficient funding:** The objective is to put funds into beneficial use. Kyminlaakso UAS budgets its international and other activities annually. The allocation of funds is monitored constantly. For internationalisation, long-term student exchanges and traineeships are preferred to obtain good learning results for future employment.