

“Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau
Internationalization Strategy for Years 2019-2025



**“ION CREANGA” STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY
OF CHISINAU**

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INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY FOR YEARS 2019-2025**

CHISINAU, 2019



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INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY FOR 2019-2025**

	Elaborated	Coordinated and verified	Approved
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Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature and stamp

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I. GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

1. “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau internationalization strategy represents a work instrument/tool and an orientative action framework for the academic community of the University, being vital for the improvement of the activity in the international field and for the enhancement of the degree of institutional visibility.
2. The internationalization activity represents for the University a necessity which presupposes the process of adjustment of study plans to the European rigours and standards set in the Bologna Declaration, having as a goal the increase of studies and research quality, within the context in which the University must face some new challenges referring to the competitiveness of its students on labour market.
3. The internationalization activity is coordinated by the University Senate, University Rectorate, the Vice Rector for Scientific Research and International Relations, the Section of Scientific Research and International Relations (SSRIR, as follows), the Section of Quality Assurance and Curricular Development (SQACD), the Scientific Council, the Doctoral Schools Councils, Modern Languages Centres.
4. The documents of national policies, the international engagements, framework and institutional regulations mentioned bellow served as starting points for the elaboration of the present Strategy:
 - The Education Code (2014);
 - *Education 2020* Strategy (2014);
 - Republic of Moldova Joining Bologna Process (2005);
 - Signing the Association Agreement between Republic of Moldova and European Union (2014);
 - *Framework Regulation concerning Academic Mobility in Higher Education* (Government Decision no. 56, 2014);
 - *The Regulation concerning Academic Mobility of Students, Teaching and Administrative Staff from “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau* (Minutes no. 2 of the SPU Senate Meeting from 24.11.2016);
 - *The Project of the Internationalization Strategy of Higher Education and Research for Years 2019-2025.*
5. The internationalization values:
 - promotion of academic freedom;
 - joining international standards of education and scientific integrity;
 - the internationalization of the university curricula, so that the students that are not involved in academic mobility could benefit from/obtain the same competences;
 - the development of international research, study, internship communities to solve common problems;
 - the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity.
6. In order to achieve a high level of internationalization activity, the University proposes itself certain strategic objectives. The achievement of these strategic objectives is a fundamental condition for the redefinition and the reorganization of the internationalization activity of the University and is ensured through planning of some priority actions.

II. THE STRATEGIC MISSION CONCERNING INTERNATIONALIZATION

7. The strategic vision in the area of University internationalization is to transform itself into an academic institution adapted to challenges from national and international environments in the field of education and research.
8. The strategic mission in the area of university internationalization is to create optimal conditions and to allow all the University members to have international collaboration opportunities.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONALIZATION (SWOT METHODOLOGY)

Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- collaboration relations established by the university with national and international institutions and organizations;- the existence of partnership agreements with EU universities, as well as with other states universities;- promotion of internationalization within annual operational plans by the University;- the experience of participation of research and teaching staff in national and international projects;- the implementation of quality assurance mechanisms within University;- participation in scientific activities abroad and the dissemination of the results of scientific researches;- conducting of different cooperation and partnership activities based on international projects with foreign universities;- the increase of students and staff interest in international mobility;- the enhancement of external mobilities number for students and teaching staff;- reduced tuition fees.	Weak points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the absence of the University in recognized international ratings;- insufficient experience and lack of instruction courses for the application to international research and education projects;- low knowledge of internationally used foreign languages;- the lack of some regulatory internal documents referring to the internationalization of university study programmes;- insufficient financial and human resources for students and staff mobility support;- the lack of common or double degree programmes;- the lack of an effective system of criteria of academic recognition of study periods in other institutions;- the lack of programmes taught in international languages;- a less developed education and accommodation infrastructure compared with the one in foreign countries;- the lack of extracurricular language courses (English language courses) for staff and students;- passivity of a great number of students and staff concerning internationalization.
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<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - existence of some national documents and policies concerning internationalization; - widening the international mobilities specter for teaching staff and students through projects financially supported by the EU: Erasmus+, CEEPUS, H2020 etc. - offering assistance and financial and technical support from international donors (USAID, AUF etc.); - widening the external partnership relations with similar profile prestigious institutions; - access to resources from public area (web resources, libraries databases etc.) which allow the familiarization of the academic environment from the University with study programmes, courses, manuals, policies documents, conferences materials, articles, etc. offered by foreign educational institutions. 	<p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insufficient budgetary financing of the University for the internationalization process progress; - the impossibility for the University to identify and obtain alternative financial resources for the support of academic mobility programmes; - incomplete national legislation for the encouragement and stimulation of European funds attraction for the endowment of educational institutions; - the migration of the teaching staff and young population; - the lack of motivation mechanisms of students and research and teaching staff to use and study foreign languages.
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IV. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

9. The strategic objectives are:

- The elaboration of institutional documents concerning the internationalization process;
- Capacity building of human resources (research, teaching and administrative staff) in order to promote international cooperation and internationalization of education and research;
- The internationalization of study programmes and continuous modernization of university curricula;
- The increase of local and international students involved in internationalization process;
- Quality assurance of scientific research and development of international cooperation.

Objective 1: The elaboration of institutional documents concerning the internationalization process

The internationalization process can be successfully implemented, based on institutional regulations. In the absence of these, the University can encounter the danger of demotivation of students and staff for implication in this process.

Priority actions:

- 1.1.1. The elaboration of University normative framework from the perspective of internationalization process;
- 1.1.2. The elaboration of progress indicators concerning the internationalization dimension of education and research within the University.

Expected results:

- 1.2.1. The update of *The Regulation concerning Academic Mobility of Students, Teaching and Administrative Staff* from “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau;
- 1.2.2. The elaboration of *The Regulation concerning the delegation of research-teaching staff to students* from “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau;
- 1.2.3. The elaboration of *The Action Plan concerning internalization* at “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau.

Objective 2: Capacity building of human resources (research, teaching and administrative staff) in order to promote international cooperation and internationalization of education and research

Internationalization of education and research is a necessary condition for the university to have a bigger international openness, with the purpose of increasing the quality of education and research. Scientific-teaching and administrative staff represent the key factor in internationalization implementation.

Priority actions:

- 2.1.1. The elaboration of the institutional strategic plan concerning teaching and administrative university staff;
- 2.1.2. The inclusion/introduction of some internationalization indicators in the employment requirements of scientific-didactic staff;
- 2.1.3. The organization within the University of foreign language courses for scientific-didactic and administrative staff;
- 2.1.4. The establishment of a fund for teaching and administrative staff international mobilities;
- 2.1.5. The elaboration of a Plan for staff recruitment from foreign universities and vice versa;
- 2.1.6. The organization of information seminars concerning academic mobility project writing.

Expected results:

- 2.2.1. The elaboration of *Strategic Institutional Plan concerning University Teaching and Administrative Staff*;
- 2.2.2. The update of the *Regulations concerning the occupation of didactic and scientific-didactic positions* within “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau by introducing internationalization indicators among the requirements concerning the occupation of scientific-didactic staff positions;
- 2.2.3. At least **10%** of scientific-didactic staff (from other faculties than the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures) and administrative staff should be able to speak English and other widely used international languages;
- 2.2.4. At least **5%** of total number of scientific-didactic and administrative staff participating in international mobilities should be financially supported by the University;
- 2.2.5. At least **1%** of total number of scientific-didactic and administrative staff of the University should deliver courses in international universities and at least **5 professors** should be invited to the University;

Objective 3: The internationalization of study programmes and continuous modernization of university curricula

The quality assurance of education requires from the University the correlation of the study plans with the similar plans of reference universities from abroad in order to facilitate the mobility. The evaluation of educational offers and the identification of attractive study plans will allow a higher visibility of the University.

Priority actions:

- 3.1.1. Encouraging teaching in foreign language through financial support;
- 3.1.2. The update of the existing agreements and building partnerships with foreign universities in order to continuously update the university curricula;
- 3.1.3. Starting projects of elaboration of joint study programmes with higher education institutions from abroad;
- 3.1.4. Applying joint study programmes through partnerships with higher education institutions from abroad;
- 3.1.5. The analysis of institutional possibilities of developing relevant study programmes for foreign students.

Expected results:

- 3.2.1. The elaboration of at least 2 study programmes in foreign languages;
- 3.2.2. The update of at least 5 existing agreements and the development of 5 partnerships with foreign universities in order to continuously update the university curricula;
- 3.2.3. The correlation of 5 study programmes with similar programmes from higher education institutions from Romania. The revision of the educational offer according to employment needs and to students' mobility;
- 3.2.4. Launching 2 joint degree programmes;
- 3.2.5. Relevant master degree programmes for foreign students based on competences and teaching staff motivation according to European Qualifications Framework.

Objective 4: The increase of local and international students involved in internationalization process

Students mobility promotes the capacity of facing a new learning and cultural environment and of understanding other cultures. This represents a necessity from the perspective of globalization, promoting studies compatibility at European and international level and of expanding the scientific horizons. Students mobility can take place in any field/academic subject. In order to ensure high quality mobility activities, with maximum impact on students, the mobility activity should be compatible with students' needs concerning learning and personal development. Students can take study periods or/and internships at a partner education institution from abroad.

Priority actions:

- 4.1.1. Development of a support system for local and foreign students;
- 4.1.2. Transparence while promoting international mobilities for University students;
- 4.1.3. The assurance of systematic and strategic promotion of study programmes in order to attract foreign students;
- 4.1.4. Promotion of the support system for foreign students from the University.

Expected results:

- 4.2.1. A counseling office for students concerning students' mobility;
- 4.2.2. Transparency in promoting mobility offers to foreign universities;
- 4.2.3. Opportunities of multicultural development for foreign students through university students' events, facilitation of touristic exploration of Republic of Moldova, discovering the cultural and natural heritage and their diversity etc.;
- 4.2.4. Support system for foreign students (services of meeting, counseling, facilitating the issuing of the stay permit etc.).

Objective 5: Quality assurance of scientific research and development of international cooperation

Scientific research activities cannot exist without an international dimension because international cooperation is a source of new ideas, good practices and innovations which bring added value to all those involved in the scientific research community and higher education.

Priority actions:

- 5.1.1. The increase of international visibility of scientific-didactic staff from the University;
- 5.1.2. International cooperation through the participation of the scientific community in bilateral and European projects;
- 5.1.3. Instruction in project writing and implementation;
- 5.1.4. Support of research mobility;
- 5.1.5. The internationalization of scientific publications;
- 5.1.6. The internationalization of scientific events.

Expected results:

- 5.2.1. Created programme for the promotion of university international visibility, of attraction and competitiveness of national scientific research through the organization of conferences and editing publications with international visibility and attraction of internationally prestigious scientific personalities as associate members of University research centers;
- 5.2.2. Application to 10 project competitions;
- 5.2.3. The increase of mobilities for the representatives of the scientific community of the University to European centers and to other states and vice-versa;
- 5.2.4. Support of the indexation process of the magazines published by the University in prestigious international databases;
- 5.2.5. The increase of the number of articles published by the scientific-didactic staff from the University in specialized international publications;
- 5.2.6. The increase of the number of articles published by foreign researchers in the magazines published by the University;
- 5.2.7. Encouraging the participation of scientific-didactic staff from the University at prestigious international scientific events and the increase of foreign participants at University international scientific conferences.

V. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

10. The successful implementation of the present Strategy requires planning of the provided actions. In order to establish the effectiveness of the planned actions, a periodical evaluation of the Strategy implementation will be organized.
11. The primary responsibility for the implementation of the objectives and the actions specified in the Strategy lies on the Vice Rector for Scientific Research and International Relations, Section of Scientific Research and International Relations, Dean's Offices.
12. The implementation process of the Strategy will be organized based on policies documents in force, as well as through normative modifications operating.
13. The objectives established in the Strategy will be included in the programmes of Faculties Strategic Development and the implementation of the later will be planned and realized according to the annual action plan.
14. The implementation costs of the present Strategy will be indicated annually in the operational plan.
15. The funding of the implementation processes of the Strategy will be done from the state budget and own sources.
16. The Vice Rector Scientific Research and International Relations, the Section of Scientific Research and International Relations will coordinate all the actions provided in long term strategy and the short and medium term planned processes and will monitor the implementation.