

## **International cooperation in higher education – the real added value**

We all want to be the best in what we do: to have the best results, to be the most appreciated, to be market leader; and this desire often gets us in a competition with other entities or institutions pursuing similar goals or activities. But if we make a step further competition and embrace collaboration, we will see that many beautiful results will be laid ahead. Let's take a look at several international collaborations that lead to marvelous results: the International Space Station, the Human Genome project or the European Council for Nuclear Research: all these gather together brilliant specialists in their field, who could have been competitors for scientific titles and prizes, but instead put their minds together to create something bigger, better and more meaningful. This applies in education as well – we should not only compete for a place in rankings, but use the expertise of other international schools in order to develop higher education.

As we live in a global village, opportunities, including educational ones, are varied, allowing students to migrate from one university to another, through research projects, study or internship mobilities. Designing study programs that fit the market demand is challenging enough at a national level, not to mention the international one. We will never be able to offer our students an exhaustive list of study programs or subjects; this is where, international partners step in. with programs such Erasmus+, students can chose where and when to study so that they have access to the exact courses they desire, being able to become specialized in their field, prepared for the European and why not international labor market.

International partners also bring new ideas, access to research facilities, new projects and different perspectives, all of these contributing to the creation of good European citizens. An impact study carried out within the Erasmus program indicated that students' participation in Erasmus + mobility projects will "improve the employability of graduates and their transversal skills" and the unemployment rate would be 23% lower at 5 years after graduation compared to those who did not participate in international mobility"<sup>1</sup>. Another study that present a relevant image of Romania's graduates and the importance of international cooperation for employability, involved 77000 students and 500 organizations in order to determine the impact of international activity over an individual<sup>2</sup>. For almost 70% of the respondents, the Erasmus program has been useful for finding the right job and for 90% of the students, the mobility contributed to skills improvement and acquiring a sense of European identity through communication with people from different cultures.

All in all, it is important to cherish our international partners, to have the in our university or visit them as often as possible, letting no difficulty create a boundary in the way of educational development.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.erasmusplus.ro/library/Superior/2016/KA1/GhidKA103-RO%20v1.0.pdf>,

<sup>2</sup> European Commision , Eramus Guide +, 2019 [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)