

International Unife strategy has been drawn by the “Area Internazionale” board as part of the overall strategy for the modernisation and internationalisation of the University of Ferrara and is published on the web page (in Italian only: [http://www.unife.it/ateneo/uffici/ripartizioni-audit-interno/ufficio-controllo-di-gestione/programmazione-strategica-triennale/programma-strategico-2014\\_16](http://www.unife.it/ateneo/uffici/ripartizioni-audit-interno/ufficio-controllo-di-gestione/programmazione-strategica-triennale/programma-strategico-2014_16)).

The strategy underlines the importance of student mobility and staff mobility for the improvement of the quality of higher education and students experience and the added value of the participation in international cooperation projects.

Unife is a small university (for Italian standards) located in a small town and strongly linked with its territory and local government. This consideration convinced Area Internazionale to prefer, as European partners, other Universities in the same conditions. To reinforce this choice, a net of small universities in small cities is going to be created (it will be launched next October) along with the local municipality. It will collect 15 universities around Europe with the goal to share initiatives, privileged student/staff exchange, etc. As for non-European partners, the Area Internazionale board has listed 3 main areas: Latin America (in consideration of the historical links between Italy and Brazil and Argentina in particular), far east Asia (in consideration of the strong economies of that part of the world) and the Mediterranean basin (with particular attention to the north Africa’s countries) with the goal to create a more comprehensive education and research area.

Concerning mobility, the emphasis is given to students of the three cycles with particular evidence for those of the second one. Along with Erasmus (the most popular exchange programme) Unife funds its own exchange programme with extra-EU destination that is a mix of exchange with partner universities and students suggestions. To push on students’ mobility, Unife has created a “diploma” devoted to particularly good and mobile students (5-10% of II cycle degree students). Each Dept. has fixed a set of criteria (n. credits obtained abroad, language skills, bi-lingual final thesis, minimum average marks) students must fit to obtain the “Ferrara School of...” “diploma” that is awarded along with the “diploma di laurea”: first Ferrara school of Physic and Ferrara School of Earth science students obtained their diploma last March.

All students in mobility (European, non EU, training) are asked to fill in a LA/training agreement in order to obtain the recognition of credits when back. Following a recent meeting with a Bologna promoter, Unife decided to modify the procedure for recognition in order to match the EU requirements. At Dpt. level a responsible (a professor) is in charged to follow pre and post mobility procedures. At the end of the recognition cycle the Dept. board is the responsible for credits recognition. It is not always an easy procedure as the differences in study systems (in EU and outside) in terms of marks, n. of teaching hours, degree structures, are still sensible.

A goal of the international strategy is the implementation of Diploma Supplement. Unife put money and energy on this matter and the result is that it is going to participate in next call for DS label.