

## **Erasmus Policy Statement - 2014-2020**

Pegaso Online University

- Institutional code: I NAPOLI11
- Application reference number: 266192-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA3-ECHE
- Participant Identification Code (PIC number): 950338295

### **International (EU and non-EU) strategy**

Pegaso Online University approach is aimed at developing a coherent strategy to promote the University's international relations, global profile and international competitiveness. Under this framework, international partners are chosen to match the Pegaso profile and to meet the needs of students and academic staff, on the basis both of existing cooperation and experience, and on the university's priorities and strategies. Erasmus partnerships will be based on well-established working relationships and on resources, reliability (both formal accreditation and reputation), and determination to undertake cooperation projects under such Programme.

Special attention is paid to the quality of teaching and research at partner institutions as well as their educational offer delivered in English and or Italian. As for geographical areas available for the selection of partners, a collaboration has already been established with HE institutions in Spain, Lithuania, China, Moldavia, Albania, Switzerland.

Pegaso aims at expanding and developing strategic international partnerships in the European Union, as well in Eastern and Third countries, as well as among the BRIC countries. In developing its international strategy, Pegaso's main objectives are:

- Welcoming students, teachers, and researchers from all over the world;
- Enabling students and staff mobility to foster their personal and professional development;
- Organizing international cooperation projects implemented under the Programme;
- Promoting partnerships with international universities, funding bodies and private and public organisations;
- Conducting research activities of international impact and significant relevance

As for mobility, Pegaso's main purpose is to increase the teacher, students and staff exchange programs for all study cycles, including doctoral courses. The new activities included in the Programme and named Mobility Actions to Third Countries offer further potential occasions for Pegaso to meet the student and staff mobility targets. On the other hand, Pegaso intends to participate actively in the development of joint degree programs. Joint programmes are a major objective of Pegaso's international strategy, since they represent a significant contribution to strengthen existing collaborations as well as to expand them to the next upper levels beyond mobility.

### **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.**

The objective is to strengthen EU and non-EU partnerships and employ them as a starting point for developing multilateral projects and networks and for language projects. Pegaso Online University

considers the internationalization process as one of the fundamental cornerstones for its cultural, scientific and technological development. To this end, the International Relations Office, in collaboration with the CLA (the University language Centre) intends to enhance the potential possibilities for networking and sharing good practices. This Office facilitates and coordinates the planning, drafting and submitting of applications for international projects in teaching and training. More specifically, Pegaso International Relations Office deals with the coordination and reporting of activities foreseen in teaching and training projects programs.

Participating in international cooperation projects funded by the Programme is considered a fundamental step to achieve the Pegaso's main purpose of spreading its brand visibility in a global environment and to assess the quality in its educational activities. Moreover, Pegaso is currently introducing new degree courses, aimed at ensuring more job opportunities worldwide and the possibility of achieving advanced qualifications in the most requested study fields. The curricula of the degree programmes, their learning outcomes as well as their didactic quality and labour market relevance will be reviewed on the basis of feedback and surveys conducted among students and mobility staff.

**Expected impact on the modernisation of the institution in terms of the policy objectives to be achieved.**

Pegaso is currently carrying out significant innovations by developing new bachelor's degree and master programmes. In the framework of the Programme, Pegaso is aiming at further improving the curriculum development, for what concerns structures and content, in cooperation with its EU and non-EU partners.

Pegaso is one of the biggest Italian providers of university distance learning, counting on a remarkable technological flexibility and thanks to its cutting-edge platform, almost unique in Europe; as a matter of fact, the development of innovative and flexible learning environments is a particular area of interest for the project collaboration, for enabling different groups of students to continue their studies thanks to customized educational paths. Under this strategic perspective, Pegaso natural attitude is creating an international network of teachers and graduates in possession of relevant transferable skills required by the job market.

Being the Programme focused on a range of activities for teaching, learning and mobility of individuals, it provides Pegaso with a wide range of opportunities to strengthen the internationalisation of its students and academic staff. Pegaso is also interested in the Programme activities concerning third countries, to raise the potential for growth in cooperation and mobility. Pegaso's strategy also deals with the quality of teaching, which can be increased by providing the academic staff with relevant opportunities for their professional development. Many measures, e.g. new chairs, languages certifications, doctoral programmes, have been currently implemented and could be further improved in international collaboration, in order to strengthen the competence and motivation of the academic staff.

The capacity building actions in the Programme are employed to support the university networking to share resources and materials in common virtual environments; Pegaso has been collaborating closely with a few local and national institutions and enterprises to scholarships and sponsorships exchange. Its main objective is to apply for funding to establish knowledge-based alliances with regional, national and international stake-holders, in order to promote the cooperation between higher education and companies, and the transfer of knowledge as well as the creation of centres of excellence.

Pegaso avails of the following tools to increase the employability of its graduates: competency-based curricula, work placements, tutoring programs and career counseling.

Finally, Pegaso's aim is to increase and enhance the above-mentioned tools while implementing its internationalisation strategy, as graduates with an international experience and knowledge are considered more valuable by employers.