Erasmus Policy Statement
(Extracts from Part D in Application for ECHE, March 2017)

Overall strategy
International cooperation to improve the quality of education, to expand the research profile, to strengthen research-based education and contribute positively to the regional development are the main goals of Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN) international strategy. INN’s participation in the Erasmus+ programme is crucial to achieve these goals because it provides opportunities to increase student and staff mobility, to integrate international and multicultural issues in our study programmes and to participate in international cooperation projects (e.g. through Key Action 1 and Key Action 2).

Student and staff mobility
INN’s strategy is to encourage, recommend and facilitate student mobility at all levels, i.e. Bachelor, Master and PhD level, as a mean to increase the quality of education and to strengthen the learning outcomes of each study programme. INN’s priority is to link research and education whenever possible and to support mobility for internships in public and private companies. Mobility as a mean to increase research cooperation and network building is particularly emphasized for PhD students and important to support further development of INN’s PhD programmes.

Double degrees
The institution has developed double degrees at Bachelor and Master level with strategic partners that complement INN’s academic offer. At the Bachelor level, the double degree has run with two bilateral agreements and recruits a growing number of students both ways. At the Master level the double degree is run with one strategic German partner in the field of innovation. INN’s strategy is to continue supporting recruitment of double degree students
and at the same time building on this experience and cooperation to actively explore opportunities for Joint Degrees (e.g. through Erasmus+ Key Action 1).

**Partners geographic distribution and participation in international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects**

INN has a large number of partners supporting student and staff exchange, and a selected number of strategic partners involved also in specific cooperation projects. INN’s prioritized geographic cooperation areas include Nordic and European countries, Anglo-saxon countries like the USA, Canada and Australia, Sub-Sahara Africa and Indonesia. In addition, INN has more recently established close cooperation with Japan, India, Nepal and China.

INN’s participation in international cooperation projects within the framework of Erasmus+ is a tool to support and implement the following activities:

1. Increase student and staff mobility to strengthen the internationalization of INN’s study programmes and profile (see also previous point). Mobility will not be limited to countries within the EU, but will also be encouraged to and from selected strategic institutions in countries outside the EU through INN’s active participation in Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (which has already resulted in INN being allocated International Credit Mobility projects). This will contribute to build a close link between research and education cooperation and to create synergies with other internationally funded cooperation programmes.

2. Strengthen the link between research, education and innovation
   - INN is currently participating (either as coordinator or as partner) in several Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships projects.
   - INN’s cooperation and engagement with developing countries (specifically in Africa and Asia) is reflected in an active participation in the call for Erasmus+ Capacity Building Projects.
   - INN aims at actively participating also in Knowledge Alliances projects, building on and exploring synergies with cooperation projects from other programmes (e.g. Interreg). INN will also particularly encourage participation in Erasmus+ Sport and any other relevant call within the Erasmus+ framework.
Impact of the Erasmus+ programme on INN modernization (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda)

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme has had an impact, and will continue to impact INN modernization through:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs:
   Since 2016 INN has endorsed the European Charter&Code to facilitate international researcher mobility and recruitment. Increased mobility and participation in international cooperation projects is also expected to better attune INN to the European standards for desirable graduate and researcher attributes. INN is also open to the inclusion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education
   All study programmes at INN will define programme specific learning outcomes in relation to international and multicultural issues and staff exchange will be further promoted. INN will evaluate student mobility according to how well they fulfil the learning outcomes. Joint supervision of Bachelor, Master and PhD students, and internship opportunities within the public and private sector through mobility, will also be further encouraged.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation
   Through participation in the Erasmus programme and more generally following the Bologna process, INN will continue to implement satisfactory procedures for many of the issues raised under priority 3 like efficient recognition of credits gained abroad, transparent recruitment and attractive working conditions for researchers. INN also intends to build mobility more systematically into curricula and aspires to achieve the 20% mobility goal by 2020.

4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development
   One of INN’s priorities is the knowledge transfer and close cooperation with regional actors and stakeholders to inform both the development of INN’s educational programmes and its research activities. INN’s participation in international projects through programs such as
H2020, Erasmus+ and Interreg contributes actively to this cooperation and will continue to be pursued.

5. Improving governance and funding

INN’s efforts to increase participation in EU-funded projects led to the allocation of our first H2020 project in 2016 and of several Erasmus+ projects (in addition to Interreg). INN aims at increasing further the number of projects it coordinates or participates in, guaranteeing an appropriate administrative support system. INN will particularly further encourage staff mobility, and PhD mobility, to establish close cooperation with other international research groups. This will be important both for the ability to participate as partner in other applications as well as improving local capacity to coordinate EU-projects. INN intends to actively use the opportunities of the Erasmus programme to achieve higher success rate in grant applications.