<p style="text-align:center">**Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**</p>

**UAIC international (EU and non-EU) strategy.**
**International strategy and the relevance of Erasmus for the strategy.** UAIC international strategy is best illustrated by its main objectives: to actively contribute to and promote the European Higher Education Area; to support sustainable development through top quality education, training and professional development for students and staff; to help improve and enhance the career prospects of students; to promote intercultural understanding between individuals and institutions having a diversity of backgrounds; to contribute to mutual enrichment of societies by educating open-minded students; to contribute to the development of human resources for academic cooperation and of the international co-operation capacity; to foster culture, knowledge and skills for a peaceful and sustainable development in a Europe, as well as a world, of diversity.

UAIC integrates the Erasmus-LLP programme in its international strategy through: promoting academic excellence and institutional improvement (e.g., former Erasmus students becoming young staff members, mobile staff members bringing and developing new teaching and assessment methods, introducing new and/or joint degrees, curricula and syllabi); reducing the mobility obstacles (full academic recognition procedures, curricula compatibility, use of learning outcomes for curricula design, accuracy and transparency of the selection process of grantees, increasing placement quality by using the lessons learnt during the first years of Erasmus student placement implementation); internationalisation at home (making non-mobile students benefit from Erasmus and other projects, e.g., through lectures initially held by incoming teaching staff and later included in the local curricula, supporting the integration of incoming students through social-cultural activities initiated by student associations, language courses for all incoming students).

UAIC international strategy related to partnerships relies on the existing academic collaboration with European and non-European universities and is committed to expand the cooperation towards other higher education institutions worldwide.

UAIC has a comprehensive policy regarding the target groups for mobility: students at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level; academic and administrative staff.

**Facts.** UAIC anticipated by 10 years Romania's accession to the EU, when starting its participation in the Socrates programme in 1998. Since then, UAIC has had some 5,000 outgoing students (study and placement), a lower but steadily increasing flow of incoming students (nearly 1,000) and over 1,200 outgoing staff mobilities. During the last few years, UAIC has been constantly ranked among the top 70 European HEIs in the Erasmus programme, thanks to its some 450 outgoing students/year.

UAIC pioneered the Bologna Process in Romania, the implementation of ECTS and Diploma Supplement. UAIC signs agreements only with partners which meet the requirements of compatible academic excellence and full academic recognition based on ECTS.

For the academic year 2012-2013, UAIC has set up 265 collaboration agreements under the LLP-Erasmus programme with all EU countries, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Croatia and Turkey. Outside the LLP-Erasmus programme, UAIC manages student and staff exchanges in the frame of some 80 inter-institutional agreements with prestigious universities on five continents. UAIC has a comprehensive experience in implementing and managing Tempus projects, both as a partner from neighbouring countries (1992-2002) and as a partner from EU countries (2007-onwards). UAIC is an active member of several multiple partnerships (Coimbra Group, Utrecht Network, EUA, IAU, AUF and RUFAC). In 2011, UAIC became the first Romanian university to coordinate an Erasmus Mundus Action 2 project (EMERGE) and it currently coordinates 3 such projects (EMERGE, IANUS, EDEN: http://www.uaic.ro/uaic/bin/view/Cooperation/Burse). Two of these projects involve Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine (EMERGE, approved in 2011), respectively Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (IANUS, approved in 2012), while the 3rd one is for Israel (EDEN, approved in 2012). UAIC is also a partner in the AL IDRISI EMA2 project (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). UAIC hosts yearly some 30 doctoral students from Sub-Saharan African countries in the Eugene Ionesco project. On a bilateral basis, UAIC has worldwide relevant exchanges with universities such as George Mason (Virginia) and University of Massachussets in the U.S., Hankuk in Seoul, Korea etc. UAIC currently runs 4 master double/joint degrees and 8 jointly supervised doctoral theses, having gained experience in jointly developing curricula and in taking specific double-accreditation steps.

**UAIC 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.**

UAIC has a vast experience in organizing Erasmus staff exchanges, counting so far 1,000 outgoing teaching assignments, 120 staff training mobilities and about the same flow of incoming staff. UAIC is constantly ranked among the top 100 HEIs in the Erasmus programme for outgoing teaching staff. UAIC managed or acted as a partner in numerous IPs, thematic networks and curriculum development projects. The organisation and implementation of international projects in teaching and training are based on current inter-institutional agreements under the LLP Erasmus programme, bilateral and multiple partnerships (as a member of Coimbra Group, Utrecht Network, RUFAC, affiliated to EUA, EAIE, AUF), strategic cooperation with an increasing number of HEIs (Konstanz, Freiburg, Lille, Poitiers, Groningen, Granada, Padova, Graz, etc.), as well as cooperation under Erasmus Mundus Action 2 projects with HEIs in Israel, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia. Using the experience gained in managing and promoting Erasmus mobilities, the three EMA2 projects that UAIC coordinates gathered globally over 1,000 applications for grants only in February 2013.

The main objectives in developing international projects in teaching are to integrate course modules delivered by visiting professors into the local curricula and exchange good practice in teaching and evaluation methods, curriculum design, academic recognition, as well as triggering double degrees. Projects which include staff training aim at gaining professional experience by exchanging good practice, sharing ideas, developing new skills, getting to know first-hand the workings of other educational systems, exploring new tools and technologies in the field, establishing a network of new international contacts, enhancing staff language skills. Academic and administrative staff mobility is integrated in both personal career development and institutional improvement.


**The expected impact of UAIC participation in the Programme on the modernisation of UAIC (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*)**

**Increasing attainment levels.** UAIC's participation in the Programme helps applying and developing coherent policies that are likely to lead to an increase in the number of (foreign) full-degree students:
- equal-opportunity policy (in terms of access, participation and successful completion of studies; studying and living conditions; guidance and counseling; financial support; student participation in UAIC governance; mobility opportunities);
- academic recognition, in particular that of prior learning;
- improved online visibility of the institution (registration and admission procedures, constantly updated course catalogue, online promotion materials, use of social networks);
- running 3 EMA2 projects which will attract further degree-seeking students beyond the projects' lifetime;
- full, high quality student services, facilities and family-friendly policies.

**Improving quality and relevance**. Institutional improvement:
- curriculum design to address diverse types of learning;
- mobile staff members developing new learning, teaching and assessment methods, in a student-centered, excellence focused university;
- introducing jointly taught modules at BA and MA levels and jointly supervised PhD theses;
- former Erasmus students becoming young UAIC staff members;
- increased graduate employability by application of European (and beyond) good practice in curriculum design to also meet requirements of future business and employment needs.

**Mobility & international co-operation for quality.** UAIC's strong commitment to its internationalization policy objectives favours:
- the expansion of the scope, both domain-wise and geographically, of its academic international cooperation;
- the increase of mobility of UAIC students and staff;
- the improvement of linguistic proficiency of mobile students and staff;
- comprehensive academic recognition through the use of the ECTS;
- the attainment of European and world standards in organizing and running academic mobility, including all relevant services to students and staff;
- promotion of European values;
- development of an academic management culture in international activities;

- quality assurance harmonization in organizing, running and recognition of academic mobility (procedures, documents and institutional responsibilities).

**Strengthening the knowledge triangle.** Increased collaboration with the social and industrial world mostly following the implementation of student work placements. The already established inter-institutional agreements/partnerships under the Programme will form the basis for further research and innovation projects.

Targeting funding and tailoring governance. UAIC's participation in the Programme will lead to an increasingly efficient administration of its institutional grants and European funds in general, and also to an increase in its ability to conceive, submit and run successful future projects (10 already submitted as coordinator in 2013).