



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZITET U SARAJEVU

- SENATE -

Number: IUS-SENAT-11-3816/24

Sarajevo: December 24th, 2024

Guided by the general goals of internationalization in higher education and applying the principles of monitoring and implementing the Internationalization Strategy at the International University of Sarajevo, document number IUS-UO-08-07/2024 from February 3rd, 2024, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph (5), criterion 10.3 of the Book of Rules on adoption, changes and evaluation of study programs at the International University of Sarajevo, the Senate of the International University of Sarajevo, at its 185th session held on December 24th, 2024, adopted the following:

DECISION

***on adoption of Report for Mobility
(Academic years of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024)***

I

The Report for Mobility Report in AY of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 is hereby adopted and represents an integral part of this Decision.

II

This Decision shall come into force on the day of its adoption.

RECTOR

Prof. Dr. Ahmet YILDIRIM

Delivered to:

1 x IUS web site

1 x IRO

1 x QA Office

1 x a/a

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE REPORT FOR MOBILITY: AY 22/23 and 23/24

IUS International relations office (IRO) purpose is to facilitate and manage the university's internationalization efforts including establishing and maintaining international partnerships, coordinating exchange programs, and promoting global engagement among students and staff (academic and administrative): Thus the main objectives of IRO are to:

1. **Support International Students and Staff:** Provide comprehensive support services for international students and staff, including orientation, integration assistance, and ongoing support during their time at IUS.
2. **Promote and Work on Internationalization on Campus:** Encourage and facilitate global engagement through events, workshops, and initiatives that promote intercultural understanding and cooperation of the IUS.
3. **Enhance Academic Collaboration:** To support collaborative academic activities with international partners.
4. **Ensure Quality and Compliance:** Ensure that all international activities comply with relevant regulations and standards, maintaining high-quality and ethical practices in all international endeavors.

One of the main objectives of IRO Action Plan for the period of 2023-2027 is mobility, which encompasses the following objectives:

1. **Develop and Sustain International Partnerships:** Establish collaborative agreements with universities, research institutions, and organizations worldwide to promote academic and cultural exchange.
2. **Ensure Continuous Growth in Mobility:** expand the network of international partners for various types of cooperation, including mobility, double diplomas, and collaborative events such as schools and conferences
3. **Manage Exchange Programs:** Coordinate student and faculty exchange programs, providing opportunities for members of the IUS community to study, teach, and conduct research abroad, as well as welcoming international students and faculty to IUS.

Main activities performed in terms of the mobility include the following:

- Development and adoption of new Internationalization strategy (in 2024) which encompasses Mobility.
- In line with the Quality Assurance (QA) Rule Book, IRO annually reports to the management and QA Office. The data submitted by IRO are included in the "IUS End of Year Report", submitted to the Rector for further analysis and evaluation and discussed at the University Council.

Mobility.xls, (a separate document as a supplement to this report) contains statistics on staff and student mobility for the last five academic years (from 2018/2019 – 2023/2024 AY).

- IUS received Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) for period of 2021-2027. ECHE supports participation in European Universities Initiative alliances, offering international collaboration opportunities. This strengthens IUS’s global network, facilitating more mobility for both students and staff.
- New internal system for monitoring the staff mobilities has been established in 2024 through the OneDrive platform, with access granted to the Rector, Vice Rectors, IRO Manager, Mobility Coordinator, Deans, QA Manager, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary. This includes a shared folder containing a list of all outgoing staff members, as well as after mobility staff reports completed by each staff member upon their return.
- New internal system for monitoring of the MoU's has been established in 2023 through the OneDrive platform, with access granted to the Rector, Vice Rectors, IRO Manager, Mobility Coordinator, QA Manager, Secretary General, Deputy General Secretary, Assistant to Secretary General, Office of Sponsored Project (OSP) Manager, Deans and Program Coordinators. The platform contains the MoU file which is regularly updated. This file includes details such as the name of the institution the MoU was signed with, the signing date, and the expiration date of the MoU.
- The Book of Rules on Participation in Exchange Programs is regularly updated. The new Book of Rules is currently under revision, and is expected to be adopted by the Senate by the end of 2024.
- The new IRO website (<https://iro.ius.edu.ba/>) has been launched in May 2024, featuring a redesigned layout and easily accessible information. It includes two dedicated sections for Mobility and International Admissions, both which are regularly updated.
- New Erasmus+ partnerships have been created, i.e. University of Copenhagen (Denmark); UNIE Madrid (Spain); Casimir Pulaski Radom University (Poland); GBSB Global Business School (Malta); Poliarte design academy (Italy); Università degli Studi "Niccolò Cusano" (Italy); University of Foggia (Italy); Izmir Bakircay University (Turkey); Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy); Universidad del Atlántico Medio, Gran Canaria, (Spain).
- IRO has been continuously working on establishing new partnerships that align with the needs of the Programs. Programs propose potential partners, and the IRO works on their realisation. To support this, the list of the recent requests includes:

The Name of the University	Country/City
Jacob University	Germany/Bremen
Vienna Technical University	Austria/Vienna
Czech technical university in Prague	the Czech Republic/Prague
Estonian Entrepreneurship University Of Applied Sciences	Estonia/Tallinn
Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya	Spain/Barcelona

University of Bologna	Italy/Bologna
Vilnius University	Latvia/Vilnius
The University of Dunaújváros	Hungary/ Dunaújváros
Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje	North Macedonia/Skopje
West University of Timisoara	Romania/Timisoara
University of Žilina	Slovakia/Zilina
University of Ljubljana	Slovenia/Ljubljana
Marmara University	Turkiye/Istanbul
University of Applied Sciences of Thessaly	Greece/Thessaly

- For the reported period (2022/2023 and 2023/2024 AY), two Erasmus+ Staff Weeks were held, one in each academic year, with a total of 70 participants from 10 different Higher Education Institution (HEIs) partner institutions.
- In 2022/2023 AY, IUS hosted (received) 34 students and sent 38 students on exchange. Additionally, we hosted 85 staff members and sent 74 IUS staff members for staff exchanges.
- In 2023/2024 AY, IUS hosted 40 students and sent 27 students on exchange. We also hosted 37 staff members and sent 52 IUS staff members for staff exchanges.

Obstacles and challenges:

- Insufficient international presence due to insufficient number of memberships on mobility and cooperation platforms such as EUPeace (European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies), European University Association, European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU) etc.
- Inability to participate in CEEPUS program due to the lack of funding
- MEVLANA exchange program has been suspended by the Turkish government due to the lack of funding
- Lack of Digitalization (e.g. Erasmus Without Paper Dashbord, a platform for managing student and staff mobility which aims to digitize the mobility process within the Erasmus+ program, IMOTION platform that promotes staff mobility opportunities which is not accesible to BiH.)

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF THE MOBILITY:

1. Take appropriate measures to increase the number and quality of agreements, such as taking part in as many as possible staff weeks organized by current partners to find new partners
2. Establish multi-level cooperation that may use the mobility experience to initiate joint or double degree programmes, joint conferences and similar beneficial activities starting with MoUs with potential partners, followed by interinstitutional agreements, and finally by mobility and

possibly with capacity building projects (in cooperation with OSP), and joint or double degree agreements.

3. To seek for the European Universities Initiative, a flagship initiative of the European strategy for universities. By joining or collaborating with one of the 64 European Universities alliances, which include over 560 higher education institutions from across Europe, the university can expand opportunities for both student and staff mobility. This initiative promotes academic exchange, collaborative research, and a more integrated European education system, ultimately enhancing international exposure and cross-cultural experiences for the university's community. Engaging with these alliances would not only increase mobility options but also strengthen the university's position within a broader European network of higher education institutions.
4. Engage all relevant internal stakeholders to ensure the widest possible outreach, providing training or encouragement where necessary. Students and staff should be trained to actively seek out and promote mobility opportunities, particularly when the university is facilitating staff mobility, such as during staff weeks.
5. In line with point 4., offer appropriate recognition and rewards to students and staff who contribute to creating additional opportunities for the initiatives mentioned above.
6. Recommendations for study programs is to increase their international presence and try to gain membership in the following networks:

Political Science and International Relations- European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)

Economics, Management - Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), Europea Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI)

Genetics and Bioengineering - International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

Mechanical Engineering Society of Automation Engineers (SAE)

Faculty of Law - Southeast European Law Schools (SEELS)