

Erasmus+ – Policy statement (EN version)

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The vision of our institution is to become even more well-known as an institution that offers and provides quality knowledge based on the interaction of theoretical knowledge and its practical use: this way our graduates will obtain all those generic and vocational competences that are demanded and sought for by the employers.

The key one is the awareness of the importance of life-long learning which provides the basis for the success and development of the society as a whole and enables sustainable economic development and higher social cohesion. International cooperation has an important role in gaining new knowledge in school's development plan. We have gained a lot of experience about various types of Mobility (Students' work placement, Teaching and Staff) through Leonardo, Erasmus programmes (2007/2013) and also Erasmus+ programmes (2014/2020). And of course, we will do everything to be even better in the new Erasmus+ program period (2021/2027).

We have many undersigned contracts about cooperation, both with employers and educational institutions. When choosing our partners, we have been looking for comparable schools of lower tertiary education and have been trying to expand our partnerships into various and numerous countries from all EU countries. Our goal is to find partners also outside the EU: this will add value to all our work as we will be able to get familiar with the new educational programmes and labour specifics. Our school's strategy (enhancing the quality of theoretical and practical knowledge and enabling the student's possibility of entering the labour market even more successfully, not just in Slovenia but also outside our borders) will be performed through various measures, namely with:

- Including even more employees and students into mobility projects, giving a chance to participate to all those who are interested;
- Finding new partners and establishing cooperation with college and university programmes within and outside the EU, and thus enabling a comparison of the college and university programmes. Employees are the key element of this cooperation as they are the ones who travel abroad and bring back valuable experiences and knowledge;
- Cooperating in/or managing of innovative projects, supported by the latest ICT, development of new modules, curriculums and other forms of education;
- Offering intensive courses for all who will take part in the projects.

The key activities within this strategy are and will be:

- **Enabling students' work placement mobility.** Our students get valuable experience and additional knowledge in their given field of work, learn more about business customs, behaviour, and ways of communication and improve their knowledge of foreign languages, become more self-assured, learn about other countries' culture and specifics, establish new contacts and learn to be tolerant to all who are different. All that leads to a better chance of finding a job and easier and faster compliance to the demands of the labour market. Our operative goal is reached through additional knowledge and experiences, gained abroad and specific to partner countries;

- **Cooperation with similar institutions** (the ones that educate in lower tertiary programmes) abroad to enable students' mobility during their education. That way we enable higher transparency of education and specific topics or subjects and of acquired competences and broaden the level of qualifications, gained in higher levels of vocational education. We also reach our goal of transparency through international cooperation. Students get the possibility to learn about foreign education systems, the possibilities of studying abroad and establish links, which are extremely valuable for their future professional career;
- **Lecturers' and staff exchanges lead to further cooperation with the schools of lower tertiary programmes.** They obtain a chance to exchange knowledge and experiences and the possibility of learning in various areas: pedagogically, professionally, culturally and also improving their language skills. This enhances transparency of topics and competences, especially with the help of good practices, the use of new methods and technologies in the teaching process. Lecturers are thus involved in the process of life-long learning and share their new quality, effective and useful knowledge with the graduates;
- **Cooperation in the joint-projects that enable the development of innovative practices in education at tertiary level** by transferring all that from one cooperating country into another. We will do this by cooperating with similar schools, companies and other institutions or associations in the projects. The basis for this will be the development of innovative topics, services, pedagogy and life-long learning practices which are based on ICT;
- Encourage participants to raise awareness of "**green Erasmus**" strategies and **digitalization**.
- **Performing new intensive programmes for gaining additional competences for students and employees.** These intensive programmes will be offered also to our former graduates: to promote life-long learning.