

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The international strategy of School Centre Šentjur Vocational College's cooperation within Erasmus project with institutions that educate in substantially comparable programs, institutes, employers and others within and outside the EU, includes the establishment of new contacts and renewal of existing projects for transfer of innovative knowledge and skills, scientific and research based co-operation with the participation of lecturers and other staff in international conferences, professional consultations, symposiums and other events, and organizing events at our Vocational College. It also involves the tasks related to "outgoing" mobility of students and staff, the tasks related to "incoming" mobility of students and staff, integration of foreign visiting professors in the execution of courses, promotion of our professional higher college institution and of our potential in the international arena, the implementation of the mechanisms of promotion of the research results and increase the visibility of the institution in the research environment, the presentation of our studies at educational fairs abroad, for example in countries of the former Yugoslavia as well as advertising in the geographical target regions. The "outgoing" mobility target groups are the students attending a short cycle Vocational college in the professional fields of countryside and landscape management, food and nutrition, nature conservation, and tourism and hospitality industry especially for the practical training purpose and in case of demonstrated interest also with the purpose to undertake study experience. The staff target group are the lecturers and other employees that wish to contribute to the exchange of knowledge and decide to undertake mobility for the purpose of teaching or training and foreign students who can undergo practical training at our institution's training facilities as well as "incoming" lecturers with the purpose of either training or teaching. Geographically we do not wish to focus on any specific areas of EU or in the third countries or automatically eliminate others from our interest. The basis of our choice of partners are institutions/organizations that represent certain professional interest previously expressed by our lecturers, other members of staff and students (Portugal, Italy, Croatia, Austria, the Netherlands, France, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Finland ...) or have themselves indicated interest in co-operating with our institution. Participation will be expanded by inviting a number of institutions/ organisations within Member States and outside EU in the interest of co-operation. Main objectives of Erasmus mobility are to promote mobility and support for students and staff through co-operation with partners in the EU and outside the EU, taking into account the principle of non-discrimination and ensuring equal access and equal opportunities for mobile individuals, to allow students to acquire innovative knowledge, skills and learning experience in another country/school/organization which is after mobility recognised by the sending institution, promoting peer education within the wider community of tertiary education, strengthening research and development co-operation with the institutions that educate through comparable programs, with industry, public sector and other users of knowledge. Our objectives are also to support the integration of research findings and the results into the teaching process, to increase the interest in mobility among employees, employees' results and achievements recognition made on the basis of mobility, collaboration that leads to sustainable and equitable benefits for all parties involved, raising the quality and relevance of education through cross-border cooperation by utilizing the outcomes of internal monitoring of international cooperation.

Acquisition and implementation of research/ development based co-operational projects within the EU and in the third countries, that are (co)financed by the EU, the Ministry of Education and other ministries, development agencies, etc. to support the technological, higher educational and scientific needs of the economy and the public sector, transfer of knowledge and lifelong learning is essential to strengthen the research and development co-operation among the institutions that educate in comparable programs and also with industry,

public sector and other users of knowledge as well as to support the integration of research findings and results into the teaching process. We are aware that the internationalization and modernization are crucial in maintaining or increasing the quality of knowledge transfer at our institution, therefore we based our strategy on strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation and thus gaining innovative views that entangle our national priorities with the needs of the EU, as we had already set our operations in this direction through the implemented mobility of students and staff. The planned upgrade of the existing integration efforts is represented by newly established or renewed integration with the institutions of tertiary education, employers, etc., in the form of strategic partnerships, joint implementations of modules, and creation of joint educational programs, expanding the network of employers to carry out practical training of our own and of incoming students. Before deciding to participate in a particular project we intend to make well informed decisions whether to participate in a specific project with a specific partner. The strategy of our institution also involves encouragement of staff to experience mobility and involvement in cooperative projects with strategic partners as well as recognition of the importance of their work and lastly the dissemination of the results of such integration.

Through participation in the 2014 -2020 EU program we are expecting a variety of benefits in the modernization of our higher vocational college. Promotion of mobility and support for students and staff through participation in mobility activities with partners in the EU and outside the EU, acquisition and at the sending institution recognized innovative knowledge, skills and experience of education in another country/school/organization and promotion of peer education within the wider community of tertiary education will contribute to strengthening level of education of our graduates in relation to the needs of the EU and also to broadening of the horizon of our young intellectuals. It will also contribute to staff's greater flexibility in delivering our expertise and innovative approaches to addressing challenges within the professional field. Strengthening the research and development co-operation among the institutions that educate for comparable programs and also with industry, public sector and other users of knowledge through mobility and cross-border cooperation and support for the integration of research findings and the results of participation in the teaching process will aid the modernization of our institution in terms of raising the adequacy and relevance of our educational programs and, consequently, also their quality. The participation in the new program will have a positive impact on the aspect of modernization priorities through co-operation and integration of tertiary education institutions and the economy for excellence and regional development. Achievement of other objectives such as increasing interest in the mobility of our lecturers and other members of staff, recognition of the results and achievements gained through mobility, collaboration that leads to sustainable and equitable benefits for all parties involved, raising the quality and relevance of education through cross-border cooperation through the implementation of the outcomes of the internal monitoring of the international cooperation, an insight into how other institutions implement the mobility and the connected activities in an innovative and effective way, how do they motivate the participants to undergo mobility, how do they reward their achievements will be beneficial in the context of modernization of our Vocational College through improvement of management and financing. Our institution therefore undertakes to contribute to the achievement of the priorities of the EU's agenda for the modernization and internationalization of higher college education.