



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT – OVERALL STRATEGY

Višja strokovna šola Novo mesto (Higher Vocational College Novo mesto) has been involved in the Erasmus programme for many years.

Our partners are selected in different ways. We aim to select partners who provide quality experience. The first criteria in selecting our partners is the compatibility of study programmes and subjects. We search the website of the National Agency for Erasmus Charter holders and try to contact them. Partners from previous projects and mobility exchanges are an important source of information about possible new partners, as well as LinkedIn. The majority of our partners are from the EU countries. However, we aim to extend our contacts also to Turkey, the USA, Canada and Latin America.

Our target groups are our teachers and students. We are committed to providing learning and teaching experience which includes an international dimension and Erasmus programme is an integral part of this. We actively encourage students and teachers to gain international experience, provide information on opportunities for international exchange, internships, and encourage staff mobility as a means to invest in their further development and consolidation of links with international institutions and organisations. Our teachers and students are included in mobility for teaching, training, study and placement.

We strive to prepare students for a global working environment and to encourage them to gain experience of studying and working abroad. Our strategy aims to provide students with a European experience which supports their employability.

The most important objectives of our mobility activities are as follows: exchange of examples of good practice (gaining of new experiences and introduction of new methods of work); language consolidation; encountering new cultures; promotion of our institution and individuals; establishing links with companies; enhancement of employability of our graduates; enhancement of mobility; raising of educational level.

Study excellence: ensuring more quality theoretically and practically oriented key competences of students to improve their employability and personal development. Through the Programme the academic staff will also strengthen their knowledge. We are constantly searching for international projects and are applying either as a partner or coordinator.

As participants in the approved projects we strive to actively contribute to their successful completion and dissemination of their outputs. The outputs are of extraordinary importance to us. They are implemented into our teaching and training practice which represents an added value of these projects; project outputs are also published online and in printed media.

Stakeholders' satisfaction: increasing their competences, quality of life, employability through good services, leadership, economic stability of the Vocational College, cooperation with organizations, international experiences.

Social responsibility: this element will be interconnected through ethical activities in the projects. Activities are integrated in organizational culture values and by implementing behaviour standards for ecological, social and economic sustainability.

Employees' satisfaction: achieving personal development which increases creativity in daily activities. The staff can improve their academic mission; administrative staff also improves their work.

We are a small Vocational College working with young students and adults (who are also employed). We will further on strive to increase the number of our students by providing tutoring, individual support for study, helping to find scholarships, motivate them to graduate as soon as possible. We also have partners in higher education institutions with whom we cooperate; we try to promote further study and encourage our students to continue with their studies.

Our Commission for Quality constantly provides for the quality of educational programmes, teachers' work, and relations to all our stakeholders. Every five years external quality audits are made. We are developing blended learning to meet the needs of our part-time students and to acquire digital skills. Our study programmes are closely liaised with the labour market. The College also has a Career Centre which takes care that our students acquire the necessary skills for their employment and an Alumni Club which tries to track the employment of our graduates provides training, etc.

Our College ensures full recognition of credits gained at study or internship mobility/exchange. We support participants to take part in mobility and exchange knowledge, good practices, consolidate their knowledge of foreign languages, etc.

Our Vocational College has a lot of strategic partnerships with local enterprises, associations. We closely cooperate especially with those who receive our students for work placement. At our regular meetings their contribution to the improvement of our study programmes is discussed. By offering relevant learning opportunities we are promoting innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. Our lecturers strive to bring the world of business to the academic area.

Through the Programme we would like to improve our competences for more effective leadership of our Vocational College. We have developed our own model of strategic planning for more economic use of resources and improving the efficiency of projects. Beside getting funds from the state we are also trying to raise money by ourselves (tuition fees from adults, consultations and Career Centre).