



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT – OVERALL STRATEGY

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

We strive to find partners that provide quality experiences. The first criterion for selection is compatibility of study programmes and subjects of study. We search the National Agency website for Erasmus Charter holders and try to contact them. Partners from our previous projects and mobility exchanges as well as LinkedIn are an important source of information about possible new partners. The majority of them are from the EU countries. However, we are aiming to expand our contacts to Turkey, the USA, Canada and Latin America as well.

Our target groups are our teachers and students. We are committed to providing learning and teaching experiences that include an international dimension, and Erasmus programme is an essential part of this. Students and teachers are encouraged to gain international experiences, and are provided with information about opportunities for international exchanges, internships and staff mobility, which is an investment in their further development and an opportunity to strengthen relationships with international institutions and organisations. Our teachers and students are involved in mobility for teaching, training, study and placement.

We strive to prepare students for a global work environment and encourage them to gain experience studying and working abroad. Students should gain European experience that will enhance their employability.

The main objectives of our mobility activities are: exchanging examples of good practice (gaining new experience and introducing new working methods); deepening language skills; encountering new cultures; promoting our institution and individuals; establishing links with companies; improving employability of our graduates; enhancing mobility; raising the level of education.

Excellence of studies: ensuring a higher quality of theoretically and practically oriented key competences of students to improve their employability and personal development. Through the programme academic staff will also improve their knowledge skills. We are constantly searching for international projects and apply either as a partner or as a coordinator.

As participants in the approved projects, we strive to actively contribute to their successful completion and the dissemination of their outputs. The outputs are of extraordinary importance to us. They are incorporated into our teaching and training practices which

represents an added value of these projects; project outputs are also posted online and published in media.

Stakeholder 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 linked through ethical activities in the projects. The activities are integrated into the values of organizational culture values and the implementation of behavioural standards for environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Staff satisfaction: achieving personal development that increases creativity in daily activities. Staff can improve their academic mission; administrative staff also improve their work.

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

Our Quality Commission constantly ensures the quality of educational courses, the work of the teachers and the relations with all our stakeholders. External quality audits are conducted every five years. We develop blended learning to meet the needs of our part-time students and to acquire digital skills. Our study programmes are closely linked to the labour market. The College also has a Career Centre which takes care that our students acquire skills they need for employment, and an Alumni Club which tries to track the employment of our graduates, provides training, etc.

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

The College has numerous strategic partnerships with local enterprises and associations. We closely cooperate particularly with those who host our students for work placement. At our regular meetings their contributions to the improvement of our study courses is discussed. By providing relevant learning opportunities we foster innovation, creativity and inclusion. Our lecturers strive to teach the world of business, promote sustainability goals, increase digital and media literacy, and develop social skills.

Through the Erasmus programme we aim to improve our competences for more effective management of our Vocational College. We have developed our own model of strategic planning to use resources more economically and improve the efficiency of projects.

