



Univerza v Novem mestu
University of Novo mesto

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027

Our Institutional Strategy in Correlation to Erasmus+

As a national scientific educational centre, University of Novo mesto (“university” from here on out) has set itself many meritable goals and visions for the foreseeable future, but growth and expansion in the international space is at the core of our interests.

Our **Internationalisation Strategy** commits to raising the level of internationalization and advancement of the university in its members, to develop responsible social and environmental cooperation at the international level, and to internationally promote our university. We aim to make the university internationally recognizable as an established higher education institution that trains active, critical-thinking, and responsible citizens. We provide quality education and research and put emphasis on the development of lifelong learning, digitalisation, and green infrastructure which all leads to a sustainable development of society.

Implementation of Erasmus+ Practice and its Key Actions

Our university plans on implementing all three major actions: Learning Mobility (KA1), Cooperation among Organisations and Institutions (KA2), and Support to Policy Development and Cooperation (KA3).

In terms of Learning Mobility (KA1), internationalisation and modernisation are at the heart of our strategical thinking and planning. In achieving our target of an improved internationalisation, we plan to increase an involvement of student and staff exchange, more numerous research projects, entries in publications and scientific journals, and more modernised tools and digitalisation. We aim for every student to be able to spend a semester abroad should they wish to, and we also plan on inviting more foreign students and lecturers and other staff to come to us. Likewise, we plan to send more of our staff abroad. One key factor in including our students and staff in the process is to listen to their wishes, to see where their preferences and interests lie, what countries, universities, faculties, programmes they wish to engage with. To make our university a more attractive destination to prospective student and staff exchanges from abroad, we are foreseeing an implementation of new study, research, and didactic cooperation approaches. Our university aims to develop internal mechanisms

of encouragement to prioritise didactic and research activities and projects that are by default taking part in the international network. We also want to form a tighter bond with other economic and non-economic EU subjects. Due to general modernisation of the world we live in, we strongly support the European Student Card Initiative and will make sure our technology and our digital competences are of the highest standard.

To ensure adequate international Cooperation among Organisations and Institutions (KA2), our university plans to build a solid network of strategical partnerships with EU and non-EU high education institutions. We also cannot rest on laurels of our current work and achievements, we need to establish an even bigger presence to ensure a satisfactory rapport between our university and our international partners. Due to many viable, practical factors such as geographic vicinity, fewer language barriers, knowing the culture, and similar study programmes we are currently partnering up with institutions and faculties from Eastern and South-eastern Europe. Our immediate plan foresees creating partnerships with other EU countries and to extend our reach to the North and West of the European Union and to cooperate with numerous renowned high education institutions there.

One way in which we wish to Support Policy Development and Cooperation (KA3) is to come up with ideas on how to better organise the established forms of international cooperation. Some means might be becoming redundant, especially in these new trying times of the pandemic, so implementing entirely new ways of didactic cooperation and research mobility is of outmost importance. Our wish is to include foreign staff and mentors in our learning process, work, and research, and to form international student teams. Full autonomy to shorten process time and unnecessary bottleneck situations, along with digital advancement for online communication and building a greener society by pushing for eco-friendly mobility to decrease the carbon footprint are all aspects of our goals towards more similar and equitable values in education. Our goal is to represent an institution where transparency and equity of all and inclusion of those with fewer opportunities is of outmost importance.

Expected Erasmus+ Impact

Our university is waiting to become an active member of the Erasmus+ Programme with great anticipation. The expected impact would be visible on many levels, we believe. There would certainly be more numerous individual student exchanges, which would extend to our researchers and staff as well. Higher results could be achieved by students and staff by broadening their knowledge of other cultures and education abroad, which would bring better understanding due to potential discrepancies in social, ethnic, and cultural circles and an even more positive relationship with European projects and EU values. Inclusivity, transparency, tolerance, equity are matters very important to us and we have a zero-discrimination policy. Language skills would also improve overall, language barriers minimised or removed altogether. Exposure during international exchange would also harbour stronger self-initiative and business sense and confidence, thusly better vocational competences and a bigger concern for the environment, implementing more eco-friendly practices. Due to constant development of

media and modernisation of the world's communication, our digital competences would improve and enrich as well.

We put a lot of focus on the research activities, so this is also an area that would benefit greatly from our university being included in the Erasmus+ Programme. As a result of extensive research, our entries in scientific journals and publications would increase in number and value. We expect the quality and competency of our educational and didactic methods to improve and become even more sufficient, and for our university to see more dynamic, modern, and professional environment within and outside of its walls.

All of this is included in our plan to implement the so-called knowledge triangle, namely more integrated education, research, and entrepreneurship for excellence at the regional, national, and international levels, and more developed research, innovation, and entrepreneurial knowledge at the university through interactive learning environments and enhancement of the knowledge transfer infrastructure.

The university also strives for improved governance and funding, which will benefit the advancement of individuals and groups focused on international research and teaching, improved revenue and resources management, improved system of performance reward to attract the best teaching and research staff, and improved introduction of new study and research approaches and programmes.