

ERASMUS+ POLICY STATEMENT (Overall Strategy 2021- 2027)

Through the individual mobility project, we realize the goals set in the internal documents (e.g. the Development Strategy of the Vocational College of the Kranj School Centre and its Rules of Quality Management) both compliant with the national and international level documents (e.g. ECHE Charter, Quality Policy for Mobility Project 2021 - 2027). Thus, on the basis of the vision of the School Centre to "train for the professions of the future with modern knowledge and good interpersonal relationships among all participants", we are also implementing the renewed vision of the Higher Vocational College that "we want to become an excellent school for the professions and the society of the future". Participation in school activities, cooperation with the economy and the local environment are important components of our success in education of participants, therefore we transfer knowledge that enables them to successfully integrate into the national and global environment.

The mobility exchange project has been one of the important means of achieving recognition and competitiveness at home and abroad for 15 years. We are spreading the awareness of respecting values while achieving goals such as diligence, professionalism, responsibility, innovation, ethics, cooperation, fairness, positive attitude, concern for the environment. An effective and validated system of assistance for in / outgoing participants before, during and after the exchange has been established, as well as an effective system for recognizing achievements abroad, which is constantly being improved.

In the framework of the Erasmus programme the partnerships are chosen on the basis of previous mobilities. We intend to continue the successful activities in terms of staff and student exchanges, visiting lecturers, invited staff of enterprises and to start the SMS so that our students could study abroad as well.

We constantly look for new contacts and partnerships, focusing on the similarities of courses content in order to ensure their recognition in curriculum. An approval process ensures that a student's course choices are acceptable for recognition and progression. All placement opportunities are evaluated, including the work programme and learning opportunities, accommodation, travel, health policies and the working environment. It is made sure that the hosts understand their responsibilities and the expected learning outcomes. To ensure the professional development of our staff we support and acknowledge the teaching staff mobility. The staff mobility is supported by the allowance of time away from normal duties and the replacements for the outgoing staff. All work completed abroad is individually reviewed and evaluated.

Our institution highly welcomes the staff from partner institutions. Incoming students can participate in work placements in our institution, as well as in Slovene enterprises. The same guidelines which apply to our regular students apply to incoming exchange students. In the field of thematic networking we intend to maintain the existing ones, look for new contacts and develop new partnerships with educational institutions and enterprises in EU.

The mobility partnerships have already been established in Germany, Spain, Belgium, Lithuania, Croatia, Great Britain, Hungary, Sweden, Denmark and Italy, Serbia. The objectives of our institution's participation in the Erasmus mobility activities are to exchange knowledge, skills, experiences, acquire new competences and come to know new cultures. We strive for optimal integration of high-quality education and training into tertiary education and training, comparable to international level. We are well aware of the importance of economic success of a country and hence the priority of educational institutions to enhance partnerships between education and training institutions and the broader society. What makes our institution special is the fact that it offers specialist higher education programmes: Mechatronics, Informatics, Electroenergetics, Economics, Administration, Security, Social Welfare and is widely supported by neighbouring industry, alongside local, regional and national bodies. These work-based higher education programmes provide high quality education and training thus catering local, regional and national needs. The curricula of Mechatronics (a synergy of mechanical engineering,

electronics and computing), Informatics (ICT), Electroenergetics (renewable energy resources), Economics, Administration, Security and Social Welfare give our endeavours a European dimension by providing highly trained specialists qualified on an internationally comparable level, reflecting the needs of the economy and of industry and increasing importance in research on the European dimension as well. Our institution takes part in several Lifelong learning and mobility projects and activities thus enhancing creativity and innovation of our teaching staff and students, enriching and broadening the content of courses we offer and enhancing new pedagogical methods. These cooperation projects also enhance partnerships between our institution and enterprises and other educational institutions in other European countries. The cross-organisational and cross-border cooperation forms the basis for the constant quality improvement also in the field of employment and market conditions, setting up one's own business, contributing to the economy development and raising awareness of the importance of using renewable energy resources. Moreover, foreign students and invited staff from other countries help to promote our institution and our country throughout Europe. The participation in the Programme enhances new ways of delivering education and training within the international mobility activities. It raises the level of specialist knowledge and the quality of skills, improves the educational outcomes and encourages further researches at home and abroad. The sufficient enrolment in all our HE programmes is also a result of the fact that all of them are offered at secondary level within our school centre and that the vertical leading to equivalent studies at higher level encourages further specialist studies and also reduces the drop-out.

The specialist programmes, e. g. Mechatronics, Electroenergetics, Informatics, Security, Economics, Administration, Social Welfare provide graduates with synergetic skills necessary for the knowledge-intensive jobs and deficitary occupations as well. Due to the variety of programmes the students can participate in double degrees. The learning outcomes are regularly evaluated, as well as the quality of delivering courses. The college is well equipped with multimedia computers, internet access, laboratories, workshops and other facilities. The courses are supported by ICT, using Moodle VLP and Teams application.

Mobility exchanges, research, crossborder cooperation and cross-organisational cooperation will be continued and encouraged also within our School Centre organisational unit Intercompany Education and Training Centre, the regional and national Chamber of Craft and Small Business and Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The graduate employment possibilities and outcomes are tracked and evaluated yearly. The graduates are well qualified to respond quickly to changing market conditions and set up their own business thus contributing to the local, regional and national development. Financial support is offered to students of lower income backgrounds through the Public Fund. As a public institution we look for additional sources of funding, primarily within our Intercompany Education and Training Centre.

Through the individual mobility project and in cooperation with other international projects at our institution, we increase the competitive advantage at the national level and gain on the reputation of our institution globally.

With consistent observance of the principles of the ECHE Charter for the period 2021-2027 and quality system documents at the institution, such as the "Long-term development program of VŠŠ ŠC Kranj, for the period 2020 - 2025" and EU recommendations, our activities in practice will be aimed at strengthening the development of orientation, growth of competitiveness and business success in both the local and international environments, therefore we will continue to:

- spread a positive attitude towards regional integration, ideas about the openness of society, accepting and tolerating the diversity of cultures, for work and life both in the community within the EU and outside it;
- spread content in the field of knowledge of the EU, which includes measures aimed at increasing the employability of young people, offering education and training opportunities for all, encouraging learning, thinking and discussions about European integration and belonging;
- develop ideas for innovative entrepreneurship and promote innovation and the development of high potentials in the participating regions within the country and in doing so cooperate and

connect with economic and non-economic organizations outside the borders of our country to achieve business growth and organizational stability;

- advocate for cooperation in projects and research groups based on the need of the economy and education for the competent training of young people for the profession, which we cover within the framework of 7 educational programs and modules, and in doing so establish long-term cooperation between vocational educational institutions and companies in the field training of students and employees with the help of modern information and communication technology;
- in terms of environmental protection and economical consumption of energy resources, we will participate in projects to promote a positive attitude towards environmental protection in terms of sustainable development, social responsibility and economical consumption of energy resources.

We will share the common vision of EU Member States to help through the Erasmus+ programme, the exchange project at VSŠ ŠC Kranj:

- develop knowledge, skills and attitudes towards climate change and sustainable development and support integrated institutional approaches to education for environmental sustainability, such as carbon footprint reduction, green development oriented areas for sustainable development (GREEN E+);
- introduce digitalisation in all possible areas (DIGITAL E+);
- reaching more individuals with fewer opportunities and involving them more effectively in activities or engaging them in participation (INCLUSIVE E+) and
- strengthen European identity, active citizenship and participation in democratic life (ACTIVE E+).

Of the 4 areas of action listed above, the priority area is INCLUSIVE E+. In bringing this to our institution, we will promote equality of opportunity and access, inclusion, diversity and equity in all actions of the programme. We will work to remove barriers and thereby reduce inequalities and equalise opportunities for all target groups, such as:

- participants with disabilities;
- participants with health problems;
- participants with barriers related to education and training systems;
- participants with cultural differences, social and economic barriers;
- participants suffering from barriers related to education and training systems and
- participants with geographical barriers.

In doing so, we will define, through an integration strategy document, how to implement activities and tailor-made preparation and support for participants at all stages of mobility.

Kranj, junij 2024

Jože Drenovec, B. Sc.,
Principal of the Kranj School Centre