



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Higher Education Technical School of Professional Studies in Novi Sad (VTSNS) has been present in the educational system of the Republic of Serbia for more than six decades. We have developed into a leading state institution in the professional higher education sector in the country. Since 2007, all our study programmes have been in compliance with the European educational standards stated in the Bologna Declaration, and we see ourselves as part of the European Education Area.

We have always been open for collaboration aware that only through the exchange of people, ideas, results, and mutual work in a balanced but competitive atmosphere, it is possible to contribute and benefit at the same time. Our intention is to further broaden the scope and type of our regional and international partnerships, in order to introduce a variety of novelties in our academic and administrative practices and organizational structure, scientific and research activities, ties with industry and mobility opportunities. Therefore, different forms of cooperation, regardless of whether they result from bilateral agreements or specialized programmes like Erasmus, are a crucial component of the institutional policy.

The main strategic objectives we intend to achieve through our engagement in the Erasmus Programme are to improve as an institution and strengthen our position in the domestic and international higher education environment by networking with those committed to the modernisation, building and internationalisation of the higher education.

We are interested in participating in all three Erasmus key actions as they provide a wide range of collaboration modalities, with programme and partner countries alike. We are ready to be a partner on a project, or to take the leading role of a coordinator. Our institution has gathered valuable experience through previous projects and can successfully perform different tasks including project management on the consortium level.

Therefore, we can say that our institutional capacity to actively participate and implement project outcomes is very high. Our students and staff have been supported to take part in project activities since our first international project in 2009. Concrete measures are foreseen to motivate them, and to assist them to carry out their project work by providing legal, financial and other administrative back-up. Prior to making any decisions on taking a project, we define our priorities with regard to the subject area and take into consideration the sustainability of results and various aspects of a potential partnership.

It is expected that our participation in Erasmus actions will lead to a further development of international involvement of the institution in the years to come, in two ways. First, it will directly influence on the growing number of organisations we collaborate with. Second, it will diversify the collaboration within the networks established.

Participation in a project brings possibilities to compare with peers from partner institutions, and establish contacts that will last and result in new collaborations. An international project community enables nourishing negotiation and communication skills. Then, there are skills concerning creative problem solving and design thinking and finally, participants build

leadership and management skills, which all together contribute to a successful completion of the project, and to their personal and professional development.

As a professional higher education institution, the VTSNS is extremely interested in projects where industry stakeholders are included. Quality training mobility options for students and teachers are of utmost importance for us, as well as the inclusion of industry representatives in the teaching process.

Consequently, on the institutional level the envisaged impact implies the improvement of teaching and training in terms of methodology approaches, course content and new curricula development including joint study programmes. Also, common guidelines, models and policies related to innovative and good practices, and other project outcomes implemented either as a long-term strategy or a short-term solution by the institution exert powerful impact on its operation and development. The number of participants included, products and services created and sustainable outcomes achieved, are quantitative indicators in monitoring the impact.

Along with the personal satisfaction of those participating in project activities and benefiting from them, the best qualitative indicators of our engagement are joint research and publications, co-organized conferences, new project proposals, and alliances born under the auspices of the Erasmus Programme that will contribute to the enhancing of the European dimension of our organisation.

In Novi Sad, on 21-05-2021