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ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2014–2020 (ECHE)

The 2014-2020 EU programme for education, training, youth and sport supports, among other policy objectives, the European modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education.

We have been awarded with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education under the Erasmus+ Programme:

Application Reference Number	*Name of the organisation*	*Institutional code*	*Erasmus institucional coordinator:*
237293-LA-1-2014-1-SI-E4AKA1-ECHE	BIOTECHNICAL CENTRE NAKLO	SI NAKLO01	Milena Jerala, Higher Vocational College Manager Tel.: +386 4 277 21 45 E-mail: milena.jerala@bc-naklo.si

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission. Description of our institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy: a) how we choose our partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of our mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles).

In our school we encourage lifelong learning and mobility inside EU and in other countries. We offer programs for the acquisition of secondary education for youth and adults and various courses for the completion of professional education and leisure. We have three professional programmes at the tertiary level.

We are organising international conferences to gain new partners every year.

We want to make strategic partnership especially in field of horticulture and agriculture in former Yugoslav republic, Republic of Kosovo, Albania, The Netherlands, Sweden, Russia, Canada and Argentina.

A good way of getting reliable partners is to get to know them through common European projects. In past years our project office has been active in many projects, including Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtwig.

In the framework of Erasmus mobility programmes we want to encourage many students and teachers to acquire new knowledge, skills and experience in other European schools at the tertiary level, companies and other organizations. We are aware that the new knowledge will help to

improve their capability and competitiveness in the labor market. They will have opportunity to apply for a call for mobility.

With the student and faculty exchange, we want to exceed the limit of Slovenia and to promote intercultural dialogue, get to know other cultures, learn foreign languages and make new acquaintances. All this enriches personal growth and expands horizons. In the Erasmus mobility, we strive to improve the quality and scope of cooperation with other schools to the tertiary level and companies in Europe. We would like to attract some students from neighbouring countries (minority) and the former Yugoslav republics.

All current Erasmus activities are published on the school website. Erasmus coordinator will seek to inform and raise awareness about the importance of Erasmus activities for students and faculty. The programme coordinator and all interested parties will always have the option to get more information about Erasmus programme.

On the school website Erasmus policy statement will be published. Thus, all students, faculty and other visitors to the website will have access to the contents Charter, where the principles and rules are intended to indicate the school is committed to the signing of this Charter. In the selection of candidates for training in Erasmus programs, we will consider the non- discrimination principle what we respect as a public educational institution already anyway. All interested candidates will have provided equal opportunity for application.

Our programmes at the tertiary level have been renewed by the Bologna standards and are evaluated and allowed for the ECTS credit system obtained by setting credit points. Study takes two years. Study programme is evaluated with 120 credit points (CP), according to European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Practical education contains 800 hours. Practical work organisers from the college will cooperate with the mentor in the organisation, adjust the programme and contents of practical education for each student, and consequently ensure transparency and goals fulfilment.

General goals of the subject are: to practically fortify the competence of professional and general modules and subjects, to organise one's own work and to plan one's own practical education, to communicate with the surroundings in the range of one's own professional field.

Our students who will be trained abroad will be evaluated in accordance with the ECTS credit system made their study abroad agree and acknowledge. The students will be provided with all necessary information about the study abroad. We will also give them all the information about the manner and the conditions of training abroad.

In the programme course "terminology in the foreign language" our students learn technical terminology from their study field. All the students have already learned foreign language in high school, so we leveled no special preparation courses. A basic Slovenian languag online course will be provided for foreign students interested in such courses.

We will also help them to integrate into the new working and learning environment. What's more, we will help them with the accommodation and the linking of contacts with our students. In order to consider their interest as mush as possible , we will look at the opportunities for a quality recreation, and sightseeing to get to know culture, people and places in Slovenia. We will survey the training course and satisfaction of the overseas students with the training and with the stay in Slovenia every time.

Our management encourages the staff mobility. With the exchange of experience/new knowledge we encourage their professional and personal development, contacts and examples of good practices. The lecturers get as well the possibility of learning foreign language.

Description of our institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

Mobility is understood as mobility of both staff and students.The mobility of teaching staff can have positive impact on the individual and his/her organisation. Quality in staff mobility includes more factors: enhanced knowledge; new pedagogical practices; stronger transnational partnerships and the establishment of joint projects. Building up our own network of new contacts for the Erasmus students and lecturers exchange programme is urgent. And a good way for getting reliable partners is to get to know them through common European projects.

Within the existing EU projects we will also highlight cooperation with the former Yugoslav republics. We have 3 memorandums already signed to cooperate in the field of high and higher education including professor and student exchange programmes, international projects, horticulture and agriculture research, documents and information exchange about high and higher school educational systems and programmes, active participation at the international academic conferences, the organization of informal education, expert excursions, the use of the information and communication technologies and other activities contributing to higher quality level and know-how in the field of horticulture and agriculture.

Learning mobility, i.e. transnational mobility for the purpose of acquiring new skills is one of the fundamental ways in which individuals, particularly young people, can strengthen their future employability as well as their personal development.

Studies confirm that learning mobility adds to human capital, as students access new knowledge and develop new linguistic skills and intercultural competences. Furthermore, employers recognise and value these benefits. Europeans who are mobile as young learners are more likely to be mobile as workers later in life.

We will encourage e-learning opportunities with some professionals abroad. That's how we would like to get some funds also for videolectures.

Explanation of the expected impact of our participation in the Programme on the modernisation of our institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives we intend to achieve.

Our modernisation will include all 5 priorities. We will require our partners to ensure our students a high quality practical training. With our partners we will agree on the scope and the manner of supervision of practical training. Students will be trained under the guidance of a qualified mentor with whom they can communicate in English or in German. The activity of the mentor should be in the area for which the student is formed.

The vocational college is a part of tertiary education – vocational education with a lot of practical education in companies, education for labour market. We want our graduates to be employable, irrespective of their age, including the older students, who have lost their jobs, trying to requalify. We are sure mobility is one of the ways to provide that. An effective communication strategy is needed to raise the profile of mobility and its benefits.

The mobility of teaching staff can have positive impacts for both the individual and their organisation. Quality in staff mobility includes more factors: enhanced knowledge; new pedagogical practices; stronger transnational partnerships and the establishment of joint projects. We are aware of the fact that the raise of the employability rate of our graduates of all ages is the basic criteria of the school quality. Only in communication with the economy sector we can learn the importance of being entrepreneurially conscious, flexible and adaptable to quick changes on the labour market. Therefore, competence based learning will be the focus of our attention. Mobility gives a chance to experience the examples of good practice abroad – of cooperation between schools, employers and policy working together in order to achieve higher rates of employability, forms of intensified cooperation between the creators of policies and decision takers and encouraging collaboration between educational, qualifying and working fields.

Biotechnical Centre Naklo is an educational, research and development institution, which places the emphasis on feeling for nature, concern for production and processing of healthy food and care for the management of land in cooperation with economy. We want to promote entrepreneurship, innovations, personal development and employee-friendly work environment. Our goals are to educate and train student and adult learners for the biotechnological sector and related activities (tourism, alternative energy sources ...), develop new programmes, with biotechnical high school to contribute to rural development, conservation and the prevention of migration of population from rural population. Another goal is development of research in activities in organic agriculture, food and nature conservation, participation in various Slovenian and international projects, connection with similar schools and centres abroad and cooperate actively with them, linking up with the economy at home and abroad, and actively participate in it.

Strahinj, 1. 10. 2013

Milena Jerala, Higher Vocational College Manager

dr. Marijan Pogačnik, Director

