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Erasmus Policy Statement

The VSIKMP is currently developing a new Mobility Strategy which aims to increase significantly the number of students engaged in mobility. It is hoped that eventually all our students will be able to benefit from some sort of mobility experience whether that means going overseas for three months to a full year, undertaking a short research or work placement or, possibly, working with overseas institutions to develop virtual exchanges or joint projects.

Active participation in the Erasmus+ program will also facilitate new long-term cooperation and promote new contacts with the foreign companies and educational institutions. As well as participation in projects is also important aspect for internationalization and modernization of our college.

The Erasmus+ program enables establishing a long-term partnership with different institutions and enterprises from other countries that can be our partners in different projects.

We are interested in establishing a long term cooperation between institutions which are dealing with the same specific scope in partner countries and in program countries. That means the VSIKMP is looking for International partnerships with compatible curricula and research interests and will continue to develop and reinforce their partnerships in as many European and world countries as possible. We are opened to participate in projects as a coordinating organization and also as a partner organization. At first we would like to develop closer cooperation with our neighbor countries. We will look for partners who can provide high-quality courses in English and placements according to the internship program. The partner institutions and organisations will be chosen as a result of careful consideration, based on the level of education and expertise. We aim to benefit from each other's strengths and thus contribute to continuing development and increased quality. The cooperation is evaluated and discussed between the institutions, especially in the cases of strategic partnerships.

To initiate and encourage foreign students interest to study at VSIKMP, we will develop a section for international (Erasmus) students on our homepage, where will be available all necessary information such as course catalog, credit system, accommodation, contacts, culture and other practical information. We will also organize new measures what will help incoming students easier adapt in local student life and become a fully integrated member of a college. The information will be disseminate by making information seminars, distributing printed materials around the college, publishing information on website, sharing experience after mobility period. Erasmus Policy Statement and Erasmus University Charter will be published and will be available on VSIKMP's homepage.

Our international strategy commits us to building strong, strategic partnerships with prestigious universities in Europe and around the world as well. Our current focus is Europe and by now we still cooperate with several Universities in south-east Europe (Montenegro, Serbia, Romania).

Using the Maritime theme as an example, the VSIKMP is exploring partnerships with other major international maritime centres in countries such as Italy, Norway, China, etc.

VSIKMP has primarily first cycle students. They are the main mobility target. In the future our objective is to engage as many first cycle students as possible in mobility. The objectives of the mobility is that students may:

- broaden the perspectives in their education in general,
- improve their knowledge and linguistic competence,
- gain experiences from other cultures,
- increase self-confidence and communication skills...

VSIKMP is committed to overcome obstacles to effective exercise of students/staff movement through supporting development of sufficient quality assurance, accreditation practices and recognition of qualifications.

Also, VSIKMP is committed to provide equal mobility opportunities for all student groups, teachers and staff as key driver in order to relate and contextualize their professional achievements to other higher education organizations and international educational reforms. Where appropriate, opportunities for exchanges will be also developed for second cycle students.

The VSIKMP intends to support the organization and implementation of international (Eu and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training within the framework of the Programme.

The involvement of the VSIKMP in European cooperation projects is carefully considered and planned. The decisions are based on the strategical aims for international cooperation and the expected outcomes in relation to needed resources. The impacts on participating students and staff will be considered before commitment. However, as VSIKMP aims to be a European pioneer forum for maritime, education and research, an active role in European projects is expected. We are looking for possibilities where we can enhance strong interaction between the maritime, education and research, and promote its quality and social impact.

Projects introducing innovative educational solutions and using modern information technologies will be given priority, as they prepare the youth to enter the demanding job market. Within the framework of these projects, we intend to expand our teaching and training programmes. The VSIKMP will support international cooperation projects in teaching and training in maritime, science and engineering.

A system of disseminating information on projects available within the new Programme will be developed. In the system, VSIKMP will regularly share information about available projects, will help the departments during application and realization of the project and will support departmental research and international cooperation agents.

Implementation and organization of international projects of the new Programme will be monitored by appropriate. Aiming at organizing and implementing international cooperation projects in teaching, the internal development fund will be used in order to support, among others, teams working with international projects of the new Programme. These enterprises will support student and staff mobility.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is a cornerstone to work on the the modernisation of our institution. VSIKMP's International Strategy strongly support each of the 5 priorities of the Modernization Agenda:

1.In accordance to Croatian Law, VSIKMP's educations specify internationalization as a key competence to support and increase attainment levels. VSIKMP strives to offer quality study and internships in a large number of countries to give students the best possibilities. VSIKMP intends to

support research and educational methods which would join the students and scientists' efforts leading to important scientific discoveries. Support will be given to interdisciplinary and international scientific research. The initiatives establishing connection with international science, especially in European Research Area, will be of priority which will provide professional people prepared for a job/public service, who would be open to the changing world and comprise the European elite.

2. VSIKMP educates well fare professionals who share conditions and needs with professionals throughout Europe. The quality of teaching is ensured by academic staff of international repute, therefore, their participation in the Programme will support providing modern education which prepares the youth to adjust to the demands of European economy and the dynamically changing job market.

3. The Programme provides support for the continuous improvement of student and staff mobility. Mobility and project activities will contribute to VSIKMP's strategic focus areas concerning students and staff in relation to language skills, professional knowledge and intercultural competences. We aspire to build up modern, critically-thinking intellectual elites, with outstanding knowledge and preparation to responsibly fulfill their duties in the society.

Teaching conducted by active scientists benefiting from mobility experience guarantees education of students being open to new ideas, good at creative problem solving and team work.

4. The VSIKMP is committed to creating high-quality programmes which will develop the attributes expected by employers. We aim to increase regional, national and international enterprise partnerships and the number of academic staff with internationally excellent research. The opportunities offered by the programme (e.g. staff mobility and transnational strategic projects) will be promoted to help achieve these goals.

5. VSIKMP's development contract with the Croatian Ministry of Education obliges VSIKMP to reach the outcomes agreed on. Rational management and financial policy is a part of VSIKMP's mission. Our new financial system based on a clear and transparent planning and budgeting process, will combine quality and efficiency of administrative works. The new quality management system of administrative processes will allow to standardize procedures, which will simplify administrative work and facilitate quality control.