

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2017

The participation of VSB - Technical University of Ostrava in the Erasmus+ Programme will contribute to achieving the goals set up in the Strategy for Internationalization and in the Long-term plan of educational and scientific, research, development and innovation, artistic and creative activities of VSB-TUO. Internationalization is one of the key elements and the long-term support of this process is fully integrated in the internal university structure. The above-mentioned documents are fully in line with the national strategy and the goals for internationalization which is one of the key priorities of the Czech Republic.

The active participation in the Erasmus+ Programme fits into the modernization concept of the University with the aim of transforming it into the "University for the future" with all possible elements - smart, dynamic, digital, green, sustainable, innovative etc. Sharing experience and gaining new skills fully support this concept and are open for both students and staff.

European Education Area can only be built when the University plays a proactive role and networks, finds new partners, exchanges best practice and implements the mobility scheme as its own strategic system. The existing support for both incoming and outgoing mobility as well as joint cooperation projects within the programme are a good point for deepening of the activities and principles at the university level. Students and academics with experience from abroad will help to achieve the goals and will increase the quality of VSB-TUO. The University will be stronger and smarter thanks to people who will bring new skills and contacts and will enhance the international reputation among other European Universities.

The activities covered by KA1 (mobility of higher education students and staff) will be implemented in the form of the student mobility for studies and traineeship. The staff will be sent abroad for a teaching or training mobility. Both mobility options will bring the necessary quality once the student and/or staff return back. Experienced people can help the university grow and work to achieve excellence.

The activities covered by KA2 will support the existing partnerships between the universities by submitting joint project applications. The University will work closely with its partners and spread its portfolio of new partners. The business trips and on-site visits will enable to get to know the partner institutions better and develop the project collaboration, too. Thanks to the project collaboration, the University will be able to

extend the capacity building and become a member of new consortia. The members of these consortia will transmit its know-how in a selected field of excellence.

The University is keen on joining the European Universities initiative and becoming a member of one alliance. This alliance will create a specialized hub of universities and work closely together. VSB - Technical University of Ostrava has already joined the Call for Proposals and waits for the results of the current call. As the University has a technical background, there is obviously an interest to join in the Partnerships for Innovation and share best practice with other technical universities.

The activities covered by KA3 will help to work on strategic development and introduce new, innovative ideas to support the policy documents. VSB-TUO is ready to be active also in this Key Action.

The Impact of VSB-TUO participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will strengthen the internationalization of the University and make it more attractive to students, academics, and university partners in general. Mobility targets will be set with regard to the current programme period and the attractiveness for both students and staff (e.g. student mobility for traineeship which is more and more popular among VSB-TUO students). There are around 240 outgoing staff, over 230 outgoing students and over 600 international students, most of them benefiting from the Erasmus+ project. We also establish cooperation with third countries.

An indicative timeline is clear and simple. Starting from the first year of the project implementation (Y1), a revision of existing partnerships will be processed in order to find out whether the relationships are functioning or not. The communication with partners will start even before the project starts so that there is enough time to cover the task. During Y2-Y4, new Agreements will be signed and it will also be possible to carry out mobility periods at new institutions. The quality of the implementation will be ensured by putting more emphasis on the evaluation and final remarks made by the participants (Y1-Y7). During the whole programme period (Y1-Y7), a stronger effort will be made to widen the portfolio of cooperation projects in KA2. The success rate of the proposals will be monitored (Y2-Y7) with the aim of increasing the number of project proposals submitted by VSB-TUO (Y3-Y6) and especially selected for funding (Y1-Y7). The sustainability of the project results will be achieved with the help of outgoing students and staff who will inform their colleagues about the experience they gained abroad and motivate them to participate, too (Y1-Y7). This is a long-term goal which has been done in the current programme period and will be improved in the following one.

VSB-Technical University of Ostrava has a good functioning internal technical tool also used for the purposes of the mobility. The work on the improvements will continue in order to ensure one of the big goals - Erasmus without Paper.

Concerning the quality of the implementation, an overview showing the interest and the participation will be prepared and presented so that the University and Faculty managements can see the progress. A wider discussion on how to increase the number of participants and how to efficiently work with the results of mobility periods will be made with relevant VSB-TUO stakeholders. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in all kinds of mobility and involved in the cooperation projects if possible.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "a".

prof. RNDr. Snášel Václav, CSc.
Rector