

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

*1) Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.*

The Landscape Governance College Grm Novo mesto is applying for the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the first time. As it is an entirely new educational institution with many of its academic and administrative bodies still undeveloped and with its international activities correspondingly limited, it is necessary to present the College briefly before any information on its international activities can be provided. The Landscape Governance College Grm Novo mesto was founded by two institutions: 1) Grm Novo mesto - Centre of Biotechnics and Tourism, and 2) URS Novo mesto (University and Research Centre Novo mesto). Landscape Governance College Grm Novo mesto was founded in order to educate and train highly qualified employees in the following fields: life sciences, agriculture, forestry, fishery, environmental protection as well as business and administration. The College has designed the professional higher education programme Landscape Management, Cycle 1 (3-year programme), its main purpose being to combine theoretical and practical applicable knowledge and educate for the needs of the countryside. The programme is markedly interdisciplinary and cannot be defined and determined by one study field alone, as it consists of both social (business) sciences (organisation, management, marketing, economics) and natural sciences (ecology, living environment), environmental protection (management of agricultural and forest land, nature protection), scientific disciplines from the field of landscape and countryside management, regional development and agricultural management. The College will register the first generation of students in the academic year 2014/15. The College does not have yet a department for international cooperation, neither has it taken any institutional measures yet concerning the participation of our staff and students in European and international mobility schemes, nor has it signed any bilateral and other agreements yet, but the letters of intention have been signed with the following foreign enterprises and educational institutions:

- Univerzitet u Beogradu. Poljoprivredni fakultet, Beograd,
- Sveučilište u Zagrebu. Agronomski fakultet, Zagreb,
- Elmwood College International Office, St Andrews,
- Bernhard and Company LTD, Heidelberg,
- Institute Dr. LUNG für Angewandte Resenforschung, Stuttgart,
- Optimax Saatenvertriebs GmbH&Co. KG Dusslingen,
- Euroquality, Paris,

which, the College hopes, will lead to bilateral and other agreements. The exact procedures concerning the interinstitutional cooperation will be determined by the Senate which will design a relevant plan in line with the guidelines of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education.

The College will have the following policy: to strengthen its relationship with any institution as much as possible in order to achieve synergy in the following fields: student and staff (teaching and non-teaching) mobility, projects, research, practical training.

The survey of the institutions with which the College has signed letters of intention reveals that a) our potential partners concentrate on the same or related fields of activity: studies in the field of biotechnical sciences: agriculture, countryside development, landscape management, organic farming, agrotourism etc;

b) the College is vitally interested in establishing the cooperation with the countries of the EU as well as the candidates for the EU (Croatia and Serbia);

c) the College will target foreign experts in the aforementioned study fields of biotechnical sciences as well the students from foreign educational institutions to spend a certain period of time at the College, hoping in this way to obtain new expertise, visibility, recognition, connections and international support for its activities. At the same time the College will be sending its own students

to respectable foreign enterprises and related educational institutions with well developed facilities for academic work and practical training.

The College hopes to expand this list of its potential partner institutions significantly, especially in the following fields:

- EU research projects,
- other international research projects,
- bilateral programmes,
- multilateral programmes,
- interuniversity programmes,
- thematical networks,
- intensive programmes,
- mobility of higher education teachers,
- mobility of students,
- the rest.

The College will tend to cooperate with commercial companies within the frame of Eu and outside in the field of students' exchange for training, research, and joint research projects and invitations to visiting lecturers etc.

At present the Landscape Governance College Grm Novo mesto does not have any structures or offices for the implementation and organisation of European and international mobility. It will, however, organise such structures in the academic year 2014/15, paying due attention to the division of tasks as well as the relevant operational and communication methods.

*2) Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.*

The College will encourage international cooperation and students' mobility. Their work and study at foreign educational institutions will be fully recognised by the College, which - as a sending institution - will follow the recognition procedures according to the principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. All study commitments successfully fulfilled abroad by the students will be acknowledged in a transparent way by the College. Both the study and practical work will be recorded in the Diploma Supplement in the form of credit points (ECTS).

The College has designed its Course Catalogue and at the same time it provides all relevant information on accomodation, courses, academic organs and administrative services, and contact persons on its website. The College will also appoint academic mentors as well as contact persons to solve problems and provide all necessary assistance. In regard to its own outgoing students, the College will be in touch with the receiving institutions and will obtain from them all the relevant academic and other information which will be forwarded to the College's outgoing students several months ahead. The College will participate in exchanges of teaching staff and assistants via the Erasmus network, with the emphasis on longer academic periods, because they contribute to a greater amount of knowledge and experience, and they contribute to advancing the teaching staff's career. The non-teaching employees will be given an opportunity to receive training at foreign universities within the framework of the Erasmus Mobility scheme for training purposes and they will be encouraged to attend Erasmus Mobility workshops. In order to implement these exchanges within the framework of the Erasmus Mobility scheme, the College will conclude bilateral and other agreements with related educational institutions abroad.

*3) Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda \*and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.*

This College will be particularly relevant for adults who already work, because it will give them an opportunity to obtain higher education which otherwise they would not achieve. The College will endeavour to attain a high level of quality. Apart from offering high quality lectures and tutorials, it

will also participate in national and foreign scientific-research and professional projects with Slovene and foreign higher education institutions, institutes and other allied organisations. The College will also monitor the quality of its academic staff's performance by taking into account the number of publications indexed or scientific monographs published in the field of biotechnical sciences. The number of publications in internationally recognised scientific journals will be together with the successful implementation of scientific and research projects, national and international, the most important criterion for the evaluation of the scientific, research and professional work of the academic staff. One of the College's functions will also be the preparation of its students for work in the business sector. For that reason the College has concluded agreements on practical training for the envisaged number of enrolled students who will engage in practical training within the framework of the study programme Landscape Management. Apart from that, higher education, research and business will merge into the economic cluster for the countryside promoted by Grm Novo mesto - Centre of Biotechnics and Tourism, one of the two founders of the College, with the College having an active role in it. In this way both Grm and the College will be given an opportunity to improve their funding and governance. In addition, the College will be applying for public tenders and international projects. The students will be given a possibility of gaining work experience in Grm's training centre as well as on 40 other farms and in various enterprises. It is Grm's as well as the College's ambition to expand this list of farms and enterprises in such a way as to gradually attract all the countries within the EU and the candidate countries for the EU, thus involving Grm and the College into Erasmus activities. The activities within the framework of Erasmus coincide with the vision of Grm and the College as educational units for the countryside for our region, SE Slovenia, within the EU. By exchanging staff (teaching and non-teaching) and students it will be easier for the College to realise this vision.