



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Environmental Protection College (in the following the **EPC**) has determined in its vision to achieve its objectives in the field of education and research work by approaching to **international standards** in this profession with the use of modern teaching methods, research findings and practical work.

To achieve its vision the EPC is planning and performing **sustainable development in International Mobility**. For this reason sustainable development in International Mobility is defined in all fundamental development documents, i.e. in strategic documents and annual work programmes, including the financial plan.

The EPC exercises sustainable development in International Mobility by achieving **long-term strategic objectives**, i.e. in the form of **active involvement and integration of the EPC in the international environment**. To achieve its long-term objectives in the annual work programmes the EPC is planning specifically defined measures (tasks) for achieving such objectives; and Erasmus Programmes and some other Lifelong Learning Programmes are each year included in these work programmes. Erasmus and other Lifelong Learning Programmes incorporate active involvement and integration of domestic and foreign teachers and researchers in International Mobility and joint projects, establishing and expanding the so-called education network with foreign educational institutions – conclusion of interinstitutional agreements, participation in international projects, following EU tenders/calls for strategic guidelines for environmental issues. The EPC will continue with its international cooperation and searching for new international contacts, especially within the Erasmus programmes, in Europe and even more globally.

Its strategic documents and annual work programmes are dealt with and adopted by the highest EPC's governance bodies, the Administrative Board and the Senate.

Participation in the Erasmus programme is one of the fundamental indicators of the EPC's integration in the international environment. On this basis quality performance of the first-degree and the second-degree study programmes of Environmental Protection and Eco-technologies and Lifelong Learning contents are being and will be performed. By participating in the Erasmus programme the EPC will continuously integrate in the common area of higher education through International

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Student Mobility, Teaching Staff Mobility and Administrative Staff Mobility of the EPC. The EPC will provide professional trainings of its teaching staff and acquiring international experiences, which is of invaluable relevance for a further development and recognition of the EPC and for each individual professional who will participate in the Erasmus programme. Furthermore, that will enable individuals their personal growth and recognition in the international arena, and it will allow them to increase their employment possibilities. Through the Erasmus programme the EPC will also contribute to a **higher level of education of the EPC's graduates and researchers in terms of the EU needs** and to a **better quality and adequacy of the study programmes** which are being and will be performed at the EPC.

In the long run the EPC will enhance its visibility and reputation regionally, nationally and internationally. International networking of the EPC, also with the Erasmus programme, constitutes fundamentals for a long-term development of the EPC in terms of a good quality higher education institution, which builds its vision, mission, further development and knowledge in close cooperation with a local and wider environment, with a constant influx of fresh ideas and needs of the economic sector and the public sector, with innovative ideas, and with its participation in the field of education and applicative and scientific research activities. With further participation in the Erasmus programme the EPC will pursue its vision and mission, its long-term/strategic and short-term tasks to achieve its objectives. It will develop transfer of innovative ideas, encourage synergetic effects, further development of cooperation and it will focus on overcoming cultural, political, racial, religious and some other barriers among people, especially of younger generations.

By participating in the Erasmus programme the EPC will continue to integrate in the European area and a wider social space in accordance with its vision, particularly in the Southeast of Europe (Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta etc.) and in some other countries inside and outside Europe (f.e. Brazil, Canada) with a purpose to create common, transnational learning activities, such as common programmes, modules, curricula, and to allow students to finish the study with double/common diploma degrees. That will contribute to integration of tertiary education, research and economic sector in order to achieve excellence and to facilitate regional development, particularly in the Southeast of Europe.

Sustainable mobility will comprise Student Mobility for the purpose of study and students' internship, Teaching Staff Mobility and Administrative Staff Mobility. Preparations for mobility will be versatile also in the future and at the same time adjusted to an individual participant. The EPC will provide equal possibilities for all participants on non-discriminatory basis. It will provide the easiest and most efficient way for participants with special needs to join mobility programmes, according to their needs. It will allow equal possibilities of participating in international mobility of vulnerable groups. It will provide equal work conditions for domestic and foreign mobility participants.

The EPC does not and will not distinguish between qualifications and knowledge of domestic and foreign students. Regardless the origin of each Erasmus participant, the EPC will perform learning processes and qualifications by the same procedure and with the use of the ECTS credit system. It will be adjustable and open in terms of recognition of knowledge/subjects, since it treats knowledge

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as up-to-date. All Erasmus students are exempt from tuition fee, registration fee, exam costs, library access costs and the costs of lab use.

The EPC will provide for a quality promotion of International Mobility.

The EPC will evaluate the effects with its own methodology used for evaluating the quality system, and this methodology will continuously be upgraded and updated. With results of internal monitoring of international mobility and cooperation the EPC will provide for continuous updating and improvement of quality performance of international mobility, of study, research and applicative programmes, and of some other international activities.

The school management will create the conditions at the EPC to motivate the students, teachers and other higher education professionals, research and administrative staff of the EPC and from other countries included in the Erasmus mobility, throughout high intensity and versatile mobility.

With current participation in the Erasmus programme the EPC made its first contacts with international environment within the EU, it acquired first international experience and enabled first Student, Teaching Staff and Administrative Staff Mobility at the EPC. It is expected at the EPC with further participation in the Erasmus programme to sustaine mobility will comprise Student Mobility for the purpose of study and students' internship, Teaching Staff Mobility and Administrative Staff Mobility. Preparations for mobility will be versatile also in the future and at the same time adjusted to an individual participant.

With the Erasmus Charter the EPC shall be obliged to contribute to 5 priorities of the EU modernisation and internationalisation Agenda:

1. Raising the level of education of graduates and researchers in terms of the EU needs

With current participation in the Erasmus programme the EPC made its first contacts with international environment within the EU, it acquired first international experience and enabled first Student, Teaching Staff and Administrative Staff Mobility at the EPC. It is expected at the EPC with further participation in the Erasmus programme to develop, enhance and upgrade the awareness of the need to expand knowledge and skills of domestic and foreign students, the awareness of collecting life experience by meeting other cultures, customs and habits. Through acquiring international experiences such cooperation will enable personal growth of each mobility participant. It will also raise the awareness of the need to cooperate, integrate and transfer knowledge and skills in pedagogical, scientific, organisational and other professional fields with foreign experts inside and outside the EU.

By participating in the Erasmus programme the EPC will strive to actively contribute to assuring the first priority of the EPC and of its partner institutions.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education programmes

By participating in the Erasmus programme the EPC will acquire new contacts with professionals of the international academic sphere. It will make critical analyses and learn from best cases of good practice from abroad. It will create preliminary conditions for transfer of contemporary knowledge

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and findings from abroad to Slovenia and *vice versa*. In doing so, it will strive to improve the quality of the existing study programme and to upgrade them adequately, to develop new modules, new study programmes and other Lifelong Learning contents by the use of knowledge transfer, finding out the needs for development of new (preferably group) education programmes with partner institutions.

3. Strengthening the quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Through learning about the organisation, teaching and learning methods and forms, and other activities of a partner institution and by making a comparison with the existing organisation and working methods of the EPC (benchmarking), the EPC will strive to introduce cases of good practice into its own organisation, to improve its own work process and to modernise its teaching and learning methods. Simultaneously, the EPC will enable the students and other professionals at the EPC to join common research projects. This way it will substantially intensify common publishing of actual research findings in international periodical magazines. Consequently it will enable raising scientific excellence of professional staff of the EPC and the EPC as pedagogical and research institution itself.

4. Integration of higher/tertiary education, research area and economic sector for excellence and regional development

By participating in the Erasmus programme the EPC will pursue its objective to integrate tertiary education with research activity, which is based on the needs of the economic sector and public sector locally and more broadly. With applicative and scientific research arising from the needs of the economic sector and other institutions, the EPC will contribute to excellence and regional development. With adequate common publications with partner institutions the EPC will provide raising its own scientific excellence.

5. Improving governance and funding

Following the demands of the Erasmus programme and with transfer of cases of good practice, the EPC will improve its own governance and funding. Such improvements will be incorporated in its strategic plans, annual work programmes and financial plans.