



Erasmus+ 2014-2020

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

1.

B2 Vocational College Ljubljana is an independent educational institution, accredited in 2001. We carry out eight publicly valid study programs:

- Economist
- Business administrator
- Security
- Wellness
- Informatics
- Logistics Engineer
- Creation of visual communications and marketing
- Organizer of the Social Network

The founder of the B2 Vocational College Ljubljana is the B2 Ltd, a company with long-running experience in the field of secondary, post-secondary and tertiary education. B2 Vocational College participates internationally in interdisciplinary fields, including information-communication technology, e-commerce and e-learning. A good way of getting reliable partners is to get know them through common European projects. The founder of the school is involved in research projects that include domestic and foreign partners from economy and research organisations in the Leonardo da Vinci, FP7, Eureka, REC, Lifelong learning – Grundtvig and CIPS/ISEC 2012 research programs.

We are aware the internationalisation of the Slovenian post-secondary education is the key to its development which ensures quality. Cooperating in the Erasmus+ program is part of our institutional strategy for achieving internationalization, i.e. in strengthening both the international cooperation activities and the international dimension of studying or practical training in Slovenia. Our international partners are chosen according to a number of criteria, including fit with the B2 Vocational College in terms of mission, size and shape and congruence with our values. Among these, most important is the quality of the student and staff experience.

The internationalisation strategy of the B2 Vocational College is based on the school's vision and is in line with the internationalisation strategy of the Slovenian higher education set for the 2016 - 2020 period.

One of the main objectives of the B2 Vocational College is to become part of the international higher education area by continuously improving its quality in cooperation with comparable partner institutions abroad.

By following such practice, the B2 Vocational College shall gain recognition across borders and become an attractive destination to students and experts for not only higher education studies but also teaching activities, research and professional work.

As priority areas for international cooperation the B2 Vocational College is focused on the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe (both, EU and non-EU countries), while within its internationalisation strategy for achieving its set vision the B2 Vocational College is directed towards the following five areas of cooperation:

- Student mobility for study purposes and teacher mobility for teaching and training purposes,

- Integrating the intercultural dimension into the study process,
- Cooperation in implementing transnational education,
- Cooperation in quality international research projects,
- Promotion of the development of student and staff intercultural competences.

In the up-coming years B2 Vocational College plans to develop its participation in international networks and strives for an increased cooperation with strategic partners. At our school, having qualitative cooperation with a limited number of strategic partners is found to be more important than having a large amount of agreements. When looking for new partnerships, we will try to establish the widest possible cooperation between the involved institutions, with special emphasis on partners offering similar programmes for student, teaching and administrative staff mobility projects. We will search for partners through various channels and database and also contact similar institutions and cooperate in international activities within the Community of Vocational Colleges in Slovenia.

Embracing the spirit of widening participation, there will be no geographical limits for our activities. Nevertheless, it is expected that the majority of our partners will be from the EU member states. The objective of our school is to increase the attractiveness of the Slovenian higher education post-secondary education area, setting an example of good practice in the field of regional mobility.

B2 Vocational College assures academic atmosphere that welcomes students, teachers and staff, irrelevant of their national origin, gender, religion, ethnic background, sexual orientation or physical disability, fostering non-discriminatory policy in all of its activities, including its cooperation in European and international projects. Participating in the European and international projects is considered the main tool for achieving overall strategic objectives, which are determined as follows:

- assurance of high-quality research and teaching,
- internationalization and promotion of student and staff mobility,
- promotion of international ties with partners institutions,
- involvement in European trends awareness of the European integration,
- contribution to social, cultural and economic life of the region.

Education and its links with research and innovation are of the uttermost importance in providing highly skilled and competitive human capital which Europe needs to create jobs in order to improve its economic growth and prosperity. B2 Vocational College Ljubljana School works actively on its programs, thus making it possible to build strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances with both EU and non-EU post-secondary education institutions in order to create international cooperation and capacity building projects.

All students who are interested in student mobility and placements and meet the Program criteria have the opportunity to participate in our Program activities. Students receive full recognition for completed activities as specified in the Learning and Placement Agreement respectively.

Teaching staff, wishing to participate in mobility activities is to be encouraged and given financial support, and research staff encouraged to participate in international research activities.

Students who for different reasons cannot participate in the Erasmus mobility activities shall instead be provided with the opportunity to participate in international activities of the school.

2.

B2 Vocational College will make a strong strategic commitment to enhancing opportunities for the mobility of our students and staff by encouraging members of our community to gain international experience as part of their study programme or professional development.

School will strive toward:

Study excellence: we expect key contributions of ensuring more quality oriented and internationally relevant competencies that students need to improve employability and personal development. Very important are also the breadth and depth of competencies of academic staff that will be strengthened through the Programme.

Research excellence: Implementing projects in the Programme will contribute towards improving research excellence and with its results will in the long-term ensure pedagogic excellence.

Business excellence: Through the Programme contributing to long-term security and financial stability of B2 Vocational College. Included is the satisfaction of students and partners as their satisfaction is our best reference and indicator of business excellence.

Student satisfaction: Through the Programme we will diversify, expand, and enrich studies and with that also enable students to complete their studies quicker, enriched through international experience and towards a more complete personal development enabling them to become more proactive and responsible EU citizens. The key is in increasing their employability and quality in their lives.

R&D satisfaction: Through the Programme we will also contribute towards the satisfaction of R&D clients; namely because of working with the Programme the quality of our work will improve.

Employee satisfaction: The key is in achieving such personal development of employees that creativity and innovation is a regular occurrence in their daily routines. Academic staff improve their pedagogic and research missions, administrative staff improve the quality of their work.

Social responsibility: These principles will be interconnected through all partner projects, especially through ethical activities that are integrated in the organizational cultural values and by implementing behaviour standards based on efforts towards economic, social and ecological sustainability.

3.

B2 Vocational College will try to attract more people to the fields of study where shortage exist or are emerging. We are aware that all students, irrespective of discipline, need to acquire advanced transversal skills and key competences that will allow them to thrive. International competences, high level digital competences, numeracy, autonomy, critical thinking and a capacity for problem-solving are increasingly crucial attributes. Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development will be one of our priority. We will ensure our graduates leave education with the skill sets they and the modern economy need.

The impact of Erasmus is particularly important when it comes to quality assurance. By participating in the Program, the B2 Vocational College aims at and strengthens the quality of its services by



means of providing student and teacher mobility. Teaching exchanges shall give opportunity to compare teaching methods, discuss learning outcomes and improve the quality of curricula. We believe that only teachers with international competences can contribute fruitfully to the implementation of the intercultural component in the study process and understand the real significance of internationalized learning outcomes. A developed networking between researchers on an international level also contributes to students learning outcomes since it enables teachers to present the latest findings in their subject areas.

Europe is facing social and democratic challenges. B2 Vocational College will strive to participate in building inclusive and connected higher education system. Lifelong learning should be seen as a key strategy with regard to inclusiveness, in particular also in view of a better transition from vocational to higher education.

Innovation is the most important driver of economic growth. We are aware of the need to build an outward looking culture of innovation and entrepreneurship and better prepare of our graduates for working in innovative businesses. We will do our best to contribute to innovation in the rest of the economy. B2 Vocational College will use best of the human and financial resources available.

We are aware, that in today's time of globalization, the intercultural dimension is indispensable for the economic success of the individual and society as a whole. Integration of the intercultural component will be achieved through the active collaboration with international partners through the mobility of staff and students and in-depth research work with foreign partners.

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