

## **Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020**

The Academy sees the internationalization as a process involving the whole academic community that is why students, academic staff can actively participate in gaining new partners by the institution. All the suggestions are directed to International Office and this unit verifies each notification taking into account the Academy's strategy regarding the geographic area and field of activity of potential partners. International Office contacts representatives of indicated institutions, collects information about the way they function, the possibility of establishing cooperation and its range. The opinion making process includes the information provided by the people acquainted with institutions, recommendations from current partners. Once the institution obtains positive opinion of the Academy's authorities the details for signing agreements are discussed. If it is only possible before signing the document the representative of both institutions meet or visits to each institution take place in order partners can get to know each other better.

The Academy will continue to gain partners from EU (where the Academy mainly searched here partners in years 2007-2013) and non-EU countries, in the latter case the efforts will be concentrated on the countries from Eastern Europe, Central and East Asia, North America. The geographic scope for non-EU countries is defined due to the fact that we receive more and more students who are citizens of these countries and another key factor is that we have already took measures to initiate contact with some higher education and we expect to start active cooperation soon (e.g. China, Japan, Ukraine, United States of America).

The key measure to achieve the objectives of the Academy's strategy is further development of the student, teaching and administration staff mobility. The Academy's objectives for the coming years are following:

- 1) Creation of an international dynamic environment for knowledge transfer where students, higher education institutions, artistic and cultural institutions, local authorities of different countries could actively cooperate and benefit from such cooperation. Such wide-ranging cooperation should encourage and enable initiating and modernization of study programmes that will provide students with education and training allowing graduates to successfully compete on the labour market. International exchange between higher education institution will enable the transfer of knowledge and experience. The intensified international cooperation is to

prepare the Academy to increase the number of students, especially international students, due to high quality programmes and introduction study programmes in English.

2) Support of professional, social and intercultural competences of students and strengthening their position on the competitive labour market. The key measure to achieve this is to eliminate the elements that limit the mobility scale so more students of first and second cycles could participate in study or training mobility. With the introduction of third cycle programme the Academy will promote mobility also among this group of students and encourage their active participation.

3) Gaining more partners among international enterprises operating in the field of art and design. Mobility enables to take up individual projects that could be transformed into long-term cooperation as we get to know the partners better. Mobility is the measure to establish well-functioning relation with verified and trustworthy partners who enable participation in international cooperation projects connecting higher education, researches and business. Such partners and projects create environment for modernization of the institution by stimulating the development of enterprise, creativity and innovation. Mobility, being a key element of the Academy's development can have a great impact on turning it into an attractive partner for non-educational institutions and business.

4) Involving into mobility and international cooperation more teaching and administration staff. Only the academic staff that works in international environment is capable of stimulating and introducing innovative solutions and getting involved into activities leading to changes and modernization of the Academy.

Including a joint degree into the Academy's education offer is an realistic objective for the years after 2020. Nevertheless the Academy currently takes measure to acquire knowledge, contact more experienced institutions, participate in conferences and meetings related to the issue of joint degrees. If the introduction of a joint degree will be possible before 2020, it will be considered a great success of the Academy that add prestige to the whole institution. But as a necessary preparation for this advanced project the Academy has to introduce earlier at least one second cycle degree programme run in English as its regular education offer.

The Academy's participation in international cooperation projects will be based upon prior analysis of the institution's needs and measures to be taken suitable to satisfy them. This will help to choose the right type of project and partners that will guarantee the proper and successful outcome. Committing itself to cooperation projects Academy will make sure that they lead to further development of its international involvement which implies that the results of such cooperation should be sustainable and balanced. From the very beginning the objectives for the participation, the role the Academy is to play in the project and the results it expects to achieve must be clear. The organizational structure, schedule of actions to be taken, people responsible for tasks and monitoring measures should be planned in advance in order to secure controlled and efficient implementation. Once committed to a project the Academy will support students and staff participating in it by providing them with administration back-up (e.g. nomination of the administration personnel, preparation of regulations and procedures, secure effective finance management, secures funding), allocate required and available resources to help them carry out their project work. The involvement in project will be seen as an important aspect of professional development of all individual participants and a key component to internationalization and modernization of the institution. The Academy will provide measures to promote the project and ensure dissemination and exploitation of its results in order to maximize its impacts on the individuals, the whole academic community and participating institutions.

The Academy's strategy mentions mobility as a key measure that will enable to achieve the objectives that need to be accomplished in order to internationalize and modernize the institution. Mobility has a great impact on reforming the areas identified in the Higher Education Modernisation Agenda. The Programme is also a platform for other actions underpinned by mobility such as cooperation with higher education, enterprises, strategic alliances, knowledge alliances and capacity building projects. Thus participation in the Programme is vital for the Academy to achieve the objectives that are to modernize it in all five priority areas. The Programme will support mobility and open wider the Academy to cross-border cooperation with institutions of all types. International environment for experience and knowledge transfer together with the scheme of linking education with non-educational institutions, especially with business, will support our efforts to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and by this equipping our graduates with knowledge and competences sufficient to successfully compete on the labour market. The Programme will provide opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad. Improved

study programmes that can result from the Academy's activities under the Programme will to a greater extent address expectations and needs of students. The Academy through its attractive and up to date educational offer will be able to gain more local and international students and could have its part in increasing the number of higher education graduates. Participation in the Programme will support our efforts to create within the institution effective governance and funding mechanisms. New projects mean not only new possibilities but also new challenges and responsibility. Through active participation the institution will be able to strengthen the procedures of effective finance management in order to maximize the effect of the project within the available funding or to maximize the effect by looking for and engaging external additional funding. Under the Programme the Academy will gain new opportunities to verify the strong points of its system and will be able to concentrate to build on them to guarantee the successful performance.