

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) 2014-2020

Institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy:

According to the strategy of University college to become a more internationalized regional university college whose name is well known in fields of engineering, business research and translation studies, to provide regional development.

Necessary objectives: increase foreign language proficiency among students and academic / administrative staff to encourage ERASMUS exchange in all levels; participation in intensive programs; focus on sending students / staff to European partners than before; increasing the number of English-taught programs and modules; encouraging the faculties to enter into joint or double degrees and IPs by increasing administrative support also cross border projects; award ECTS/DS labels by 2015; increase incoming students by providing more information to partner institutions and offer more courses; to develop Tutor center for incoming mobility participants; in the long term to introduce other activities of the Erasmus program: Erasmus intensive language courses (EILC), curriculum development projects, projects focusing on cooperation between higher education and enterprises and others; provide cooperation with local entrepreneurs to develop possibility of international incoming traineeship; sign more interinstitutional agreements with South European countries, and also Denmark, Sweden, Austria.

Target groups:

The main target groups are students from all study cycles (1st-3rd cycles) and staff including researchers. Student mobility as one of necessary periods in their studies. Especially 3rd cycle students should be more active and participate in mobility when writing their theses. For 2nd cycle students of IT and electronic studies is necessary to sign new agreements with potential partners in Sweden, Denmark, Norway to provide exchange studies a for the 1st cycle students. For the 1st cycle students the most important is traineeship and new agreements to provide an exchange for Intercultural students, IT and electronics.

Partner selection should depend from involved projects in fields of IT, engineering, translation, business management. Lithuanian and Estonian partners will be more important especially in cross-border projects. For future to develop a double degree programs we will consider Germany, Austria, Finland. The nearest aim is to develop a double degree program with Germany in the frame of languages and intercultural communication at bachelor and later at master levels. Also with Austria in the logistic field.

We are still interested in cooperation with Turkey as there are developed entrepreneurship centers in universities, and our newly developed Center for Entrepreneurship Innovation and Regional Development is looking for finding partners in research in this region.

Institution's strategy for the organization and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training:

One of the main players at Ventspils University College is the newly created Center for Entrepreneurship Innovation and Regional Development interested in the long term cooperation with HEIs and enterprises from Finland, United Kingdom, Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Turkey. Training will be provided within project realization through HEIs and enterprises, developing cooperation through innovation creation projects, learning projects for SMEs and publications. For the Radio Astronomy Center, main tasks for achieving the overall university college strategy is to participate in projects with other research centers, HEIs in order to develop international experience. Cooperation with Lithuania, Russian, Estonia, Germany is the main activities to develop more projects and activities connected with radio astronomy. So far the created satellite with Bremen University and it is necessary to launch it in space. For developing cooperation projects in teaching and training, the university college intended to create double degree programs with Germany and Austria. As the university college is not large, for the nearest future plans are for 2 programs. It will include teaching rotation and student exchange possibilities. At the same time more international students from non-participating countries will be attracted.

Also, for such, regional university college one of the main activities is to develop cooperation in fields of engineering, IT, translation, business management, then it can apply for bigger projects and all parties involved will benefit from them.

Expected impact of participation in the Programme on the modernisation of institution:

Ventspils University College is located in Kurzeme region in Latvia. As one of the main goals is the regional development in the field of education and entrepreneurship through research centers. We are planning to strength the cooperation between entrepreneurs, university and research centers and gain experience from Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Lithuania. Participation in the program will help to provide better contacts and direct links with the partners with a bigger experience at the same time to provide neighbor cooperation within different cross border, education projects and teaching staff and researcher experience. As we have the radio astronomy center with radio locators we are interesting partners to Germany Bremen University and Lithuanian universities for developing engineering science. In IT and engineering fields we are looking at Denmark, Sweden and France. With France and Sweden we would like to strength our cooperation in Graduate and Postgraduate student exchange. So far developed Latvia- Lithuania projects and Estonia-Latvia, for future we would like to develop such projects in life long learning for new entrepreneurs as we have a Business Incubator in university. As the main goal in the strategy of university is to become more internationalized and open to the world. For next years we are planning to open double degree programs in intercultural communication and logistic fields. Here the main target regions are Austria and Germany. In that case, university will be more open for exchange students, here more courses will be thought in English. Also, could more provided exchange of staff and more international teachers will be invited. For now full time international teachers are from Belarus, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and United Kingdom.

We have a support from the local municipality to provide salary for international teachers, in the nearest future we would like to invite a such teachers and offer students and other staff to gain more wider experience as we have a Translation study program, and half year placement for students are necessary. We would like to sign more agreements with companies who are providing translation services in Germany, the United Kingdom, France. More participation in Intensive programs, so far we have just one such a program.