

Erasmus Policy Statement

The Technical University of Varna (TUV) has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the „Erasmus+“ Programme period 2021 – 2027.

The Erasmus Policy Statement sets out institutional strategy in relation of the Charter.

TUV has a policy on internationalisation which is focused on integrated embedding of internationalisation in its strategic policy.

This is considered important because of international, national and regional developments.

The main motives are:

- increasing internationalisation of the labour market and professional practice;
- advancing integration within the EU;
- stricter international rules for professional practice;
- increasing mobility of labour and companies increasingly orienting towards the international (European) market;
- there is a national requirement that the achievement level acquired on completion of the study programmes should fit in with the level acquired by foreign (European) colleagues;
- the growing competition on the education market;
- the international (European) and multicultural dimension of Varna and its ambitions to be a strong, internationally competitive city.

TUV has the following international ambitions:

1. Training students who are familiar with the international aspects of professional profiles and professional practice, and who are capable of functioning in an international (European) and intercultural professional practice.
2. Enforcing the university's competitive position both in the Bulgaria and abroad by offering up-to-date, innovative study programmes using the available opportunities and attractive to regional, national and International students.
3. Participation in international (European) projects fitting in with the strategic spearheads of TUV, used to present itself as an innovative knowledge institution. Implementation of these ambitions will particularly be realised by the following instruments:

- a. Internationalisation at home.

Incoming European mobility (teaching staff and students), participation in European networks, etcetera, enables strong support of this form of internationalisation.

b. Student and staff mobility. It is important for the University's schools to decide on mobility (related to professional profiles).

Factors important in the selection of countries are leading professional developments, affinity with the view on education and the extent to which a partner will be able to contribute to knowledge development and expertise related to the University's spearheads.

c. Projects: specifically aimed at cooperation with multiple European partner institutions, as well as with partner institutions outside Europe.

All projects should result in intrinsic enforcement and exchange of knowledge focused around the University's spearheads. There is a preference for multidisciplinary projects. Cooperation with higher education institutions in the EU and companies in the context of the Erasmus+ programme is an important objective for most faculties at TUV. More than half of the exchanges are realised within the EU (slight focus on Germany, France, Spain, Greece, Portugal). Others are focussed on Turkey, Russia, Ukraine.

TUV's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme:

- The international office publishes the information they receive on European and international cooperation projects from the National Agency, the European Commission, colleagues and other information suppliers through mailings, website and intranet.
- Some faculties have their own subsidy and project coordinators who publish and disseminate these opportunities within their schools and look for cooperation with other faculties within TUV.
- The faculties are free to initiate and/or cooperate as long as the projects are in line with the institutional policy and the vision set by the institute itself.
- Support (regarding finances, administration, promotion, legal issues, etc.) can be found at the central departments and within the faculties.

The expected impact on our participation in the Programme on the modernisation of our institution in terms of the policy objectives we intend to achieve can be described as:

➤ Increase the output (higher % of students that complete their degree in a short time) and improve the transfer from senior secondary vocational education to higher vocational education.

- Improve the cooperation of the existing bodies of knowledge with the universities, while focussing research on the educational programmes, the practical issues and the business environment.
- Increase and improve the international opportunities for students and staff by improving the cooperation between the universities and reforming the international support (central/decentral). TUV wishes to be closely connected with society and to teach their students to link their knowledge and skills to a sense of social responsibility. Therefore, we cooperate closely with enterprises and organisations. This benefits both the business environment as well as the quality of our education. Project assignments, internships and graduation projects are an important part of the curriculum. Development and dissemination of knowledge is part of our commitment of strengthening and developing professional practise. To achieve this, research groups and lectureships have been established that work closely with relevant study programmes, professors, lecturers, students and experts from the professional field to address issues that require a multidisciplinary approach.
- Quality assurance is integrated in the TUV institution as a whole and in all faculties and departments separately.

All deans and directors have implemented a quality assurance system and have developed specific and measurable targets .

These quality systems should assure a similar and coherent vision and execution of the ambitions TUV has set: training its students, strengthening TUV's position and participate in international programmes and projects.