

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Tehničko veleučilište u Zagrebu (Polytechnics of Zagreb) has been awarded with **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education** for the period 2014-2020 by European Commission. Our Erasmus ID code is HR ZAGREB05 and our **Erasmus Policy Statement** is following:

The Polytechnic of Zagreb (Tehničko veleučilište u Zagrebu – TVZ) carries out both undergraduate and graduate professional study programmes in the field of technical sciences under the slogan “The art of engineering”. The modular approach to the teaching organization at TVZ and the introduction of the new curricula and courses that provide monitoring of the technological changes is the way that guarantees the continuity and excellence in professional education and leading position in the region.

TVZ strives to achieve and sustain excellence in education and research, focused on Electrical engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics, IT and Computing. High quality practice-oriented education which combines engineering and scientific expertise is conducted in an atmosphere of partnership and effective cooperation between more than 4000 students, around 100 full-time teachers, 24 administrative staff members and approximately 100 associates.

As TVZ participates in Erasmus since 2010 and since Erasmus was our first international programme, the start point of TVZ's Strategy of International Cooperation Development is growth of student/teacher/staff mobility both in quantity and quality. Important part of TVZ's internationalization plan is also inclusion of partnership with non-EU HEIs (and scholarships for students and academics) as well as participation of TVZ in projects which promote EU higher education worldwide. TVZ makes partner proposals on the basis of similar curricula or on the basis of complementary advantages. Each proposal initiated by a potential partner is carefully evaluated with a strong wish of collaboration if possible. In this process, the possibilities for TVZ to broaden its areas of work and expertise are also investigated.

Considering various socio-economic factors we especially aim at mobility and collaboration within the following geographic areas:

- Neighbouring or near countries
- Mediterranean countries
- Slavic language speaking countries
- German language speaking countries

First three groups are the choice of many beneficiaries – people who want to meet another but not too different culture and surroundings. As English or German language is obligatory subject in all our undergraduate curricula, German language speaking countries are the choice of some percentage of students (some of them have family or private connections there or even have lived there in the childhood).

In our Internationalization strategy we have also the list of HEIs which are especially interesting for TVZ for partnership grouped geographically in: closer EU surroundings, wider EU surroundings and distant worldwide surroundings.

TVZ tends to further support internationalization by new technologies such as e-Learning and internet based administration of student academic success, thus simplifying international access to TVZ and its study programmes. The management will further support and stimulate concrete international initiatives within the framework of mobility, development of double/multiple/joint degrees, interregional programmes, development of EU cooperation and other non-European cooperation. To do so, TVZ uses and will use also its own means next to subsidies.

Main objectives of mobility for the next period are the increase in number of partner HEI in geographical areas of interest and enhancement of incoming mobility. TVZ sees incoming mobility as a very important impact factor to quality of education as many students are exposed to teaching in a foreign language in mixed classes.

In staff mobility action TVZ aims especially at outgoing young teachers who will gain new experiences in different teaching environments as well as new contacts with colleagues from other HEI's and networking possibilities. For administrative staff mobility we expect new working experiences which will result in innovative working processes at TVZ. From incoming teachers it is expected to bring new quality to our teaching process while we expose our students to foreign language, different practice and examples.

As a part of TVZ's practice and entrepreneurial orientation we will encourage the growth of placements. In order to achieve that, TVZ will continue to support students' search for company in which placement will be conducted generating slowly its own database of EU companies willing to conduct high quality student placement. From student placements we expect new working experiences in different enterprises for students. These experiences will make students more competitive in the labour market.

TVZ's major focus at the moment is on development of the concept of a professional PhD study programme in e-Government. This study initiative follows the evidence of Polytechnic nature of TVZ and uprising requirement for interdisciplinary doctoral research related to e-government, targeted to new competencies in central, regional and local government transformations based on ICT.

Based on aforementioned, TVZ has taken the first steps – sharing and communicating the concept in domestic and international academic communities, between political and governmental representatives as well as ICT industry representatives. The overall response has been positive so far. The intention is to enlarge the initial communication to regional and local governments as well as to public institutions.

TVZ is opened to any other collaboration proposal within the Programme and is willing to contribute to implementation of EU and non-EU cooperation projects in teaching and training.

TVZ expects that its participation in the Programme will have the following impact on the modernization of its education and organization:

- 1) Student and teacher mobility brings benefit to all participants who gain from different perspectives gathered on their mobility stay or brought to them by incoming teachers or incoming students integrated into TVZ's life. With increasing mobility, TVZ aims at increasing the interest in its study programmes thus increasing both quantity and quality of its graduates.
- 2) Wisely chosen partners from other EU and non-EU countries with similar competences also bring the new developments in the common fields of expertise.
- 3) Student stay or training will help students gain additional professional and personal skills which could not be obtained by studying solely at their home institution. Additionally acquired professional skills make a difference when entering a labour market while among most important additional personal skills we count higher level of independence a young person gets and ability to sovereign solution of problems.
- 4) Participation in the Programme will additionally motivate TVZ to renew its relations with domestic enterprises and to continuously seek for new partner enterprises both abroad and at home, thus enlarging the internship possibilities and future employability of its own and partner HEI students. In this way, the strengthening of ties and enhancement of cooperation between education and business will be achieved.
- 5) The improvement of governance and funding mechanisms is planned to be accomplished through constant dialog within TVZ and with partner institutions followed by adjustment and implementation of good practice examples.