

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

SANITARY MEDICAL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES „VISAN“ Belgrade, Serbia

SANITARY MEDICAL SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES „VISAN“, Belgrade has developed into a recognizable higher education institution, and for decades has been educating young people and making them experts in their fields striving to become part of the European educational space through the mobility and cooperation programmes.

The exchange of people, ideas and results enhances individual and general progress, while working together leads to a balanced but competitive atmosphere for the benefit of all the participants.

International Strategy of ``VISAN`` sets priorities and goals for all aspects of quality education. It aims at raising the quality of the study programmes, mobility of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, and supports training through participation in international projects as means of continuous improvement of the quality.

We plan to expand the scope and type of teaching innovations, knowledge, and skills through our academic community and administrative practice, as well as the organizational structure, scientific and research activities. Therefore, different forms of cooperation, whether the result of bilateral agreements or specialized programs such as Erasmus, are a crucial component of our institutional policy.

Strategic goals are aimed at strengthening institutional capacities and position through Erasmus programs, thus establishing cooperation with those institutions already committed to the modernization, construction and internationalization of higher education. We are also devoted to European values that promote inclusion strategies which involve vulnerable groups in mobility, that ensure green practices in organizing Erasmus + activities, implement digitalization through the European Initiative for Student Cards and Erasmus + Mobile App, as well as to strengthening the civic engagement of mobile students.

The institutional capacities of the School guarantee active participation and implementation of project results. The institution takes regular and concrete measures that encourage and motivate employees and students for participating in projects while providing legal, financial and other administrative support by all relevant bodies and authorised persons through the Law Department, the Accountant's Office, the Student Parliament, including the Director.

The School has also established the International Relations Office with the aim to provide help for incoming/outcoming students and staff, and offers them full assistance with application, admission, accommodation, and all formalities. There is likewise the Mobility Coordinator who takes care of the realization of mobility at the School. The Office organizes special English courses that are offered to further develop the language competences of future applicants for the Erasmus+ programmes. Web service is used for dissemination of project results.

Our Institution prioritises the continual promotion and improvement of the teaching process and the development of students' practical skills, with a strong emphasis on the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and social inclusion, civic engagement, innovation, digitalization and environmental sustainability, in Europe and beyond by enabling students from all study fields and at all study cycles to have the opportunity to study or train abroad as part of their studies.

We hope that ``VISAN`` will become able to join the sphere of European education as a partner, capable of contributing to the goal of building a European Education Area.

The objectives of the participation in Erasmus are as follows:

- expose students to different views, knowledge, teaching and research methods as well as work practices in their study field in the European and international context;
- develop their transversal skills such as communication skills, language skills, critical thinking, problem solving, inter-cultural skills and research skills;
- develop digital and green skills, that will enable them to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow;
- facilitate personal development such as the ability to adapt to new situations and self-confidence.

The objective is also to enable staff to:

- share their expertise;
- experience new teaching environments;
- acquire new innovative pedagogical and curriculum design skills as well as digital skills;
- connect with their peers abroad to develop common activities to achieve the programme's objectives;
- exchange good practices and enhance cooperation between higher education institutions;
- better prepare students for the world of work.

Mobility provides ``VISAN`` with the opportunity of incorporation of new teaching and learning methodology into already existed academic curricula, thereby continuously improving the quality and relevance of ``VISAN`` education. ``VISAN`` is also recognised as an institution attempting to be up to date with the ever changing needs of employers. Thus, ``VISAN`` seeks to strengthen related professions by organizing lifelong educations and offering career guidance and counselling. Mobility increases the chances of becoming familiar with the best practices of school with similar orientation and their application in Serbia.

The major expected impact of the EU programmes is contribution to the modernisation of our institution by helping students become globally competent graduates, and by improving the quality and relevance of our programs. Also, mobility will have a strong impact on development of the capacities of our students and researchers to participate in important international knowledge communities.

Partner selection is driven by the shared professional interest of the two Institutions. The Institution's commitment to mobility and internationalisation extends to all student and staff groupings. For students in particular, widening access will be a major focus, helping students from underrepresented socio-economic groups benefit from the experience of studying abroad.

Our mission involves commitment to regional economic development, job creation and facilitating the employability of students. Erasmus mobility activity contributes directly to this mission; increasing the employability of students and helping them stand out in the workplace. Staff mobility and cooperation within EU/Non EU projects also promotes continual professional development and promote further collaboration on best practice exchange, curriculum development, joint research, knowledge transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship. We aim to expand our International activities using benefits of the Erasmus Programme and other EU and non/EU cooperative projects to build strategic partnerships and provide valuable opportunities for staff and student mobility.