

## Strategies of International Cooperation

### Sanitary Medical School of Applied Sciences "VISAN" Belgrade

Internationalization relates to the process of introducing international and intercultural elements into higher education, teaching, research, and associated activities, for the purpose of the Institution's participation in the regional, European and global trends in the fields of science, education and knowledge transfer.

VISAN sees the opportunity for its future growth and development in its active involvement in the global and interconnected field of higher education. Increasing its international visibility and reputation through cooperation with international institutions, continuously modernizing and improving the competitiveness, quality and standards of its study programs and curricula in the field of vocational education, its goal is to maintain its position as an important and influential leader in education for the future, and helps create highly employable, competent and socially responsible professionals for the 21st century.

VISAN strives to fulfill its mission in the domain of science, education and knowledge transfer in accordance with the system of values generally accepted in developed European countries and applies the academic standards set out in international agreements signed and ratified by the Republic of Serbia. By implementing unique European standards and acting in accordance with good and commonly adopted practices of the European countries, our institution removes obstacles that prevent or hinder the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge, people and resources in the European Higher Education and Research Area.

By implementing its international activities, VISAN will strive to provide its teachers and researchers with the most favorable research environment, and its students with opportunities to gain knowledge, skills and competences in order to raise their competitiveness not only at the national level, but also at European and global labor market, and within the academic community at the same time.

Primary goals in the process of internationalization are as follows:

*Improvement of study programs:*

- Improvement of existing and development of new study programs (preferably part/whole of them in English) that will enrich the academic offer of our institution for both domestic and foreign students,

- Support to improving the language skills (English and other foreign languages) of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, which will ensure their active participation in the process of the internationalization process.
- Prepare students for international professions

*Increase of the number of incoming and outgoing mobility (students, teachers, and administrative staff):*

- Legal and administrative preparation for active participation in Erasmus + and other mobility programs,
- Establishment of new and upgrading of the existing cooperation with foreign higher education institutions and organizations,
- Raising the quality and visibility of academic offer of the institution in order to increase the number of incoming students, teachers and researchers.

*Improvement of the cooperation with partner institutions through international projects:*

- Legal and administrative preparation in order to provide the conditions for increased participation in international funding programs, such as Erasmus +, Horizon Europe and other programs,
- Increasing the participation in international projects and promotion of cooperation with foreign universities, and other partner institutions in various fields of science, education, research and innovation,
- Raising the visibility of research capacities and results achieved at national and international level.

*Digitalization of the mobility process, inclusion and ecological sustainability:*

- Digitalization of the academic process, systematical development of the institution's technical capacity and human resources with the aim of implementing the new European Student Card Initiative, involving full transition to the Erasmus Without Paper system and other tools envisaged for the realization of new forms of international cooperation.
- Ecologically acceptable practices - consistently implement environmental protection measures when managing international projects and mobility program. The measures and good practices which are already in place to a certain extent include cost-effective travel choices, digitalization of administrative procedures, communication via online platforms, e-publications, usage of online promotional materials, and development of strategic cooperation with relevant stakeholders involved in environmental protection activities.
- Social inclusion and equal opportunities for participation in international projects and mobility program and development of a joint institutional policy which would ensure a higher extent and quality of participation of all vulnerable, disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. The measures and policies adopted at VISAN should encompass

disability, poor socio-economic backgrounds, educational difficulties, cultural differences, health problems, refugees, and all other disadvantaged groups.

- Civic engagement and active citizenship in the internationalization process - with the help from student organizations, VISAN needs to integrate international students into the local social community via activities beneficial for its development, find mechanisms for acknowledging and recognizing students' community volunteer work, and develop cooperation with all the sectors of society which facilitate civic engagement of students and staff.

According to the above-mentioned, VISAN and its services in charge accept responsibility to: promote and sustain relations with higher education institutions abroad, cooperate in the matters of formulation, implementation and representation of the international projects, identify, analyze and disseminate information concerning international cooperation, coordinate and monitor the participation of VISAN in various networks, consortiums, associations and institutions of international cooperation and update the relevant information, support the services in charge of international mobility of the school, students and other staff and coordinate their activities.