

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Study internationalization is considered as one of the most prioritized strategic activities of SMK that were defined in the Internationalization Strategy of the college for 2013-2017. The college will provide particular attitude to integrate intercultural/ international dimension into study process of the SMK. The main directions for internationalization are as follows:

1. Efficient organization of students', teachers and staff members mobility;
2. Expansion of international cooperation (arrangement of international projects and conferences);
3. International acknowledgment of education provided by the SMK (internationalization of study programmes, representation of the SMK abroad).
4. Integration of international/inter-cultural dimension into study programmes (development of new study programmes and modules in cooperation with partner institutions and common project activity). While implementing these directions the SMK reinforces international image of the institution and seeks the name of active and assuring study quality institution in European higher education space.

Moreover, these activities will contribute to enhancement of overall attractiveness and competitiveness of Lithuanian higher education. Therefore, the SMK chooses its partners strategically and emerges international branding and popularity in targeted markets.

As Lithuania is in the centre of Europe (geographically), we seek to have partner institutions all over Europe, so that our students and staff could move around the Europe freely, using the Schengen area possibilities, and developing their education at any European university/college they want. Other geographical areas of partnership interest are the USA, Africa, Asia, etc, because the SMK seeks to create multinational, intercultural and global academic community. Nowadays youth wish to move around the world, acquire global thinking and develop tolerant communication and education, thus the SMK wishes to contribute to this possibility by creating global cultural sensitivity and understanding at all institutional levels:

1. Constantly develop and maintain multicultural environment in institution ;
2. To adapt global dimension to all study programmes.

Target groups of mobility activities are staff and students of first cycle. At the moment our outgoing and incoming students make approximately 40 participants of mobility. Therefore, wishing to develop as bigger as possible global education at SMK, we wish to increase the number of incoming foreign students enrollment up to 200 per year; moreover, to establish representative offices in targeted markets. In order to increase our current teacher mobility, there is a necessity to assure that at least 60 percent of teachers are able to teach in English. In order to attract more foreign teachers to our community, the SMK needs to provide more study programs in the English language than it has for now (8).

Development of double/multiple/joint degrees: SMK actively participates in the development of joint degrees. Currently, three international Bachelor level degree programmes are offered in



collaboration with European partner institutions. In these programmes, the degrees awarded are joint degrees. At the moment these Joint study programmes are developed – International Business, Technology and Innovation Management and International marketing and branding. In SMK International Strategy there is also foreseen to give more attention for double degree programmes. During the 4 years it is foreseen to achieve that at least half of the programmes are provided with dual degrees from foreign universities.

At the moment SMK is organizing visits to foreign universities in order to discuss possibilities in providing double degrees. Also there is foreseen to get affiliated to foreign universities in order to provide students additional diplomas and continuation of studies, in order to ensure better students' preparation and additional competences necessary for job market.

For this reason, to be able issuing double, multiple or more joint degrees with other international partners, the SMK needs to get international accreditation of its study programmes from such international institutions as EQUIS and CEEMAN. All these international strategic priorities will help the SMK to achieve the main goal while becoming international educational institution, i.e. developing international and multicultural competences of students and staff.

Organization and implementation of international cooperation projects, international students and staff mobility are one of the priorities in SMK strategic goals and plans. Main goals in International SMK strategy are: International branding and popularity in targeted markets, Best performance in international studies and recognition of Quality, Global cultural sensitivity and understanding at all institutional levels.

To meet these goals not only participation in the Erasmus programme is important for SMK, but also active participation in other funding mechanism for internationalization – active participation in LLP programme, structural measures projects, cross-border programmes, ect. Also SMK starts to implement Volunteering programme for academic staff in order to increase non-Europe partners' mobilities to SMK.

SMK already cooperates with over 60 educational institutions across 27 countries in Europe in order to ensure student and staff mobility trough Erasmus programme. Also bilateral agreements are signed with overseas universities – New York State College, Florida International University, Algoma University, Canada, Donetsk State University of Management, Ukraine, ect. Also there is a number of European partners with whom SMK is jointly participating in LLP projects. For SMK also very important is membership in educational organizations. At the moment SMK is a member of BMDA, CEEMAN, NIBS, EURASHE, EAIE, TCI Network, ENAE, Anna Lind Foundation, UNDP Global Compact, ect.