

University of Kragujevac
students and staff
mobility strategy
2022 – 2027

УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ
У КРАГУЈЕВЦУ



Republic of Serbia Strategy for the Development of Education by 2030 and the University of Kragujevac Internationalization Strategy 2022-2027 confirm the national, that is the institutional commitment to enhancing of education, raising the level of teaching quality and ensuring the professional development of young scientists, researchers and artists, looking at the internationalization as a process with the mobility of students and academic and administrative staff being one of its key elements.

Today, in the time of overall globalization and digitalization which erase the boundaries between countries and nations leading to rapid changes in economy, science, technology, communications, society and culture, the traditional teaching methods have become insufficient. As the need arises for reconsidering the existing mechanisms of higher education, new models have been adopted linking theoretical and practical learning whose outcomes result in new skills and competences in accordance with the latest requirements of labor market and scientific and technological development of society. University of Kragujevac strives to play a key role in the professional development of the individuals empowering them with knowledge and skills the labor market today requires from graduates, which is closely connected to enhancing the quality of teaching and the activities in domain of international cooperation.

The Strategy of Internationalization of the University of Kragujevac clearly confirms the position of the University that internationalization is not the goal in itself, but serves the purpose of upgrading the quality of teaching and research and enhancing of social and intercultural skills of its students, as well as the skills and competences that are relevant to improving employability of graduates. The mobility programs which are implemented at the University of Kragujevac strongly support the internationalization process and require engagement and dedication of all members of the academic community in order to establish an adequate legal and administrative framework and procedures for networking and cooperation with foreign partners. Accordingly, and with the obligation to respect the institutional autonomy and academic freedom regulated by law, the Senate of the University of Kragujevac, pursuant to Articles 22 and 97 of its Statute, at its session held on February 24th, 2022, adopted

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INTRODUCTION

The University of Kragujevac integrates the functions of all its member faculties and organizational units by pursuing a unified policy aimed at continuous improving of higher education activities, that is, the quality of teaching, scientific and artistic work, as well as securing the highest academic standards in accordance with the needs of society and projected regional and national development.

As a partner recognized by international higher education institutions, the University of Kragujevac is determined to provide to its students, teachers and administrative staff the conditions for improving knowledge, skills and competences through the enhancement of academic cooperation, dissemination of research results and internationalization within the European Higher Education Area.

Students and staff mobility at the University of Kragujevac is realized within several categories which include: participation in international mobility programs, participation in educational and scientific projects, mobility based on the bilateral agreements signed with foreign institutions of higher education worldwide, individual research cooperation, students and staff scholarships offered by foreign governments and foundations, organization and participation in international conferences, as well as other forms of collaboration.

The largest number of incoming and outgoing mobilities at the University of Kragujevac are realized via one of the major mobility programs available to Serbian higher education institutions funded by the European Commission – Erasmus+ program 2022-2027. The University of Kragujevac received its first Erasmus Charter of Higher Education in 2018 which was the precondition for the participation in this program and covered the period until 2020 during which the Republic of Serbia changed its status from an Erasmus Partner Country into an Erasmus Program Country. The University was successful in applying for the renewal of the Erasmus Charter covering the period of new Erasmus cycle from 2021-2027 during which the University of Kragujevac can submit the application for funding students' mobilities for study and traineeship and staff mobilities for teaching and training at one of its Erasmus partner institutions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBILITY

The mobility of students and teachers is important for an institution of higher education since it contributes to its internationalization, improves the quality of teaching process and study programs, enables the transfer of skills and competences and enhances the visibility and competitiveness of the given institution. As for the importance of mobility for an individual, it helps students acquire transversal skills and competencies (communication, linguistic, digital, intercultural, analytical, research, organizational and other skills) which are important for career development and employment, as well as enables the professional development of teaching and administrative staff, exchange of experience in their fields of work, sharing the examples of best practice, modernization of curriculum and acquiring of new innovative pedagogical approaches and knowledge about new methods and organization of work and procedures in the international environment.

The importance of mobility for students and employees at the University of Kragujevac is confirmed by the results of the European Commission *Erasmus impact study, 2014* and *Erasmus+ higher education impact study, 2018*, which examined the impact of mobility on the skills and employability of students, as well as the internationalization of higher education institutions. The results have shown that linguistic, intercultural, social and digital skills, as well as self-confidence, tolerance and flexibility, which have been improved during a mobility, are significant from the perspective of employers, while the importance of

mobility for both teaching and administrative staff is reflected in strengthening cooperation with foreign partners, developing personal, pedagogical and professional competences, as well as getting acquainted with a different business culture and teaching methods. Also, teachers mobility contributes to strengthening of international cooperation between individual professors and their higher education institutions in scientific and research projects. Erasmus mobility, as well as other mobility programs, facilitate the dissemination of research results through international networks, academic research databases, conferences and seminars, which is certainly an important way to present the research capacities of an institution, leading to an increased overall cooperation with international partners.

MISSION

The University of Kragujevac strives to play a leading role in the development of the Central Serbia Region and its economy based on knowledge and innovation, as well as in the enhancement of the entire social community. Mobility of students and staff at the University of Kragujevac towards partner institutions worldwide contributes to the internationalization of the institution, the improvement of study programs and teaching process, sharing the knowledge and expertise, introduction of innovative teaching and learning methods and acquiring of new skills and competences that are vital for the development of both the institution and the individuals, as well as of the society and economy in general. Students who participate in mobility acquire new experience, skills and competences significant for the development their employment and career, but also important for the development of modern intercultural society. Students and employees participating in mobility programs are also the ambassadors of their home institution, education system, language, culture and the country itself, and in that sense they represent important mechanism for promoting its institution, region and the country at the international level, which certainly has a positive effect on the internationalization of the institution in whole.

Taking into account all the aforementioned, previous accumulated experience and new opportunities and initiatives for academic mobility, and pursuing the Strategy of Internationalization of the University of Kragujevac for the period 2022-2027 the following strategic objectives for upgrading the mobility of students and staff at the University of Kragujevac can be identified:

OBJECTIVES

1 Information about the importance of mobility

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 1.1 Improving the information and promotion system
- 1.2 Improving the Internet presentation of the University of Kragujevac
- 1.3 Improving the Internet presentations of member faculties and ensuring their better linking to the University's central webpage
- 1.4 Improving the cooperation with Erasmus+ coordinators from all University organizational units
- 1.5 Improving the cooperation with student organizations
- 1.6 Providing mobility information and counselling to students and staff
- 1.7 Conducting promotion and information activities via thematic events and social media.

2 Improving the capacities of the University (academic activities)

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 2.1 Identifying the capacities of individual member faculties and organizational units
- 2.2 Upgrading and updating of the Course Catalogue for foreign students
- 2.3 Improving teaching activities for foreign students
- 2.4 Development of new study programs in English language
- 2.5 Development of joint study programs with partner institutions
- 2.6 Organization of summer schools
- 2.7 Improving the system of the recognition of student and staff mobility.

3 Improving the capacities of the University (organization and administration)

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 3.1 Strengthening the administrative capacities of the International Office
- 3.2 Improving the administrative procedures relevant to all aspects of mobility
- 3.3 Upgrading language support system for foreign and home students
- 3.4 Providing the linguistic support to both home and foreign students
- 3.5 Improving the linguistic competences of teachers for teaching in a foreign language
- 3.6 Improving the orientation program and extracurricular activities for foreign students
- 3.7 Establishing active communication with foreign companies and organizations aimed at ensuring additional opportunities for internship placements.

4 Monitoring and evaluation of mobility and achieved results

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 4.1 Improving the system of student and staff mobility assessment (incoming mobility)
- 4.2 Improving the system of student and staff mobility assessment (outgoing mobility)
- 4.3 Improving the reporting system of the candidates after the mobility and the processing of the reports.

5. Digitalization of the mobility process, inclusion and ecological sustainability

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 5.1. Development of the portal/platform for the application and management of mobility
- 5.2. Implementation and active use of digital tools in the organization and realization of mobility programs (*Erasmus+ Mobile App, Erasmus Without Paper, Online Authentication, etc.*)
- 5.3 Providing the conditions necessary for the implementation of *European Student Card* initiative
- 5.4. Improving students' digital skills for the participation in virtual and blended types of mobility
- 5.5 Upgrading of curricula and innovative teaching and learning methods based on ITC technologies
- 5.6 Promotion of democratic values, social inclusion, diversity and tolerance
- 5.7 Promotion of ecological sustainability through mobility programs.

**UNIVERSITY OF KRAGUJEVAC
SENATE**

No: III-01-118/15

Date: February 24th, 2022

KRAGUJEVAC

**President of the University of Kragujevac Senate
Prof. dr Nenad Filipovic, rector**