

Erasmus Policy Statement

As the only state college in the field of Arts in Serbia, the College of Fine and Applied Arts (VSLPU) realizes its mission and goals in accordance with standards and values recognized in EU countries.

Vision of the College of Fine and Applied Arts is founded on the idea of flexible and open higher education institution which fosters an encouraging educational environment.

The main goal of the College is to modernize structures of study programs and take active part in the development of creative industries through following technology developments and applying them.

International cooperation and exchange opens the door to teaching and non teaching staff of the College to improve their professional skills. On the other hand, students get access to knowledge, competences and skills for acting globally. In short, they have the chance to become citizens of the world.

Criteria used by VSLPU for choosing partners are mainly based on language similarities (Region of West Balkan) and curriculum similarities of HEIs of EU developed countries. These criteria enable effective and efficient cooperation with desirable partners which can provide valuable knowledge and good practice as well as have benefit from competencies of VSLPU. Also, our partners are foreign HEIs that we already cooperate with and we could continue, expand and improve this work within Erasmus + program. At the moment these institutions are from Slovenia, Croatia and Georgia. The long-term strategic goal is the development and realization of student mobility programs, currently undergraduate studies, and master programs in near future. The College has not accredited any study program in English so far. We are aware of the fact that we would attract foreign students with high quality study programs and courses in English, so the College will work on the development of such programs.

Strategy of Internationalization of the college is realized through:

- Entering bilateral cooperation agreements with foreign institutions. Bilateral cooperation should be established with a small number of partners based on joint capacity building and development of the curriculum through various forms of KA2 projects.
- Networking with foreign organizations and institutions. The aim of the College is to be included in the international professional organizations and associations, that enables permanent and functional connection to a large number of partners in the field of art, design and education.
- Participating in mobility programs of European Union The exchange of students, teaching and non teaching staff is envisaged within mobility programs that is mostly carried out by European Union bearing in mind that such cooperation is founded on similarity of educational systems developed within Bologna process.

Staff of College of Fine and Applied Arts engaged in mobility period should bring knowledge which will be implemented into the internationalization and modernization of the HEI. Involved teachers, gaining experience during that time, will have possibility to improve curriculum of the courses, while non-teaching staff will raise organizational functioning in international activities. Mobility of teaching staff should result in the joint curricula and research projects. Students who participate in mobility program are expected to engage other colleagues to participate in future projects, and to be true ambassadors who will spread positive mobility experience in wider local and regional community.

The College has always encouraged equal opportunities for all its students and employees and has endeavored to eliminate discrimination from all aspects of education.

Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme

Through education based on international cooperation students can acquire common cultural references that will form the basis of the European Citizenship. Openness to foreign cultures and the ability to work and gain education in multilingual environment is necessary for the competitiveness of European economy.

For College of Fine and Applied Arts, cooperation will also have impact on national level in Serbia, considering Serbian national priorities in which arts are especially appointed and activities in this field are encouraged.

The development of international cooperation and mobility is of great importance for further improvement and strengthening of the general standards of education at the VSLPU, so our institution encourages the development of international qualifications, knowledge of foreign languages and intercultural competences among employees and students as well as the promotion of research activities, development and improvement of curriculum.

Particular emphasis is placed on guaranteeing equality to all vulnerable categories of students, providing non-discrimination, as well as their full participation in the society and the wider international community.

The College will encourage participation in Erasmus + projects, such as KA1 Mobility programs, KA2 Strategic partnership, KA2 Capacity Building in the field of higher education (CBHE) projects and Jean Monnet activities.

The main focus of VSLPU international activities will be on cooperation in KA1 Mobility programs and KA2 Strategic partnership projects,

KA1 Mobility programs open space for education and training activities, while participation in KA2 Strategic partnership projects offer great possibilities for innovations and good practices.

The College participated in two years KA2 Strategic partnership project "ArtNeighboryouth" as associated partner. The project was realized from 2015 to 2017 and included partners from four countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Serbia).

The aim of the project was exchange of experience and knowledge, as well as creating of new methodologies in Youth work. The project was highly rated by evaluator, with proposal for

continuation and further development. The final publication was implemented in curriculum of University of Limburg-Leuven (Belgium) and in curriculum of our College. We successfully spread publication in Serbia through mass media, scientific meetings, educational fairs, social media.

The College constituted International office as a part of Project Art Center, unit of College for international and local cooperation, extra curricular activities and communication. The International office starts, maintains and develops cooperation with other higher education institutions abroad and other international organizations. Also, International office provides support to students, teaching and non-teaching staff during engagement in various international projects.

The special attention will be dedicated to KA2 Strategic partnership projects and their specific priorities as follow:

Expected impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of our institution

1. Tackling skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development

Our teaching methodology is based on theoretical knowledge as well as on practical skills in order to create capabilities for solving real-world problems. Result of this process should be students capacity to manage complex information, to take initiative, to have high-level digital competencies as well as creative thinking and efficient communication.

In that sense we try to strengthen collaboration between higher education, research and business. In collaboration with our business partners we also develop various research capabilities of our students as well as of our teachers. Each project is evaluated through various forms of questionnaires involving all participants, students, teachers and business partners. After that process we promote those results through our web site, social media and publications

2. Building inclusive and connected higher education systems

The College is aware of importance to create inclusive and connected environment supporting and promoting equality among students in that process. We choose, prepare and guide students based on their talents and work, not their background. Because of small number of groups we are able to provide flexible pathways between the different types of education and training. Beside this, VSLPU organizes humanitarian events when ever there is an opportunity to support socially vulnerable students.

Through the Erasmus + program the College seeks to create better conditions for intercultural and inter-institutional exchange in order to gain experience and offer new opportunities to all its students and staff members, thus promoting equality and non-discrimination of all professional and educational levels.

3. Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation

The main goal of the College is to modernize structures of study programs and take active part in the development of creative industries through following technology developments and applying them.

Special emphasis is given to production and post production of audio visual multi media digital content, following the trends in graphic advertising industry as well as the use of digital tools in making interior design.

For that purpose the College takes action across all higher education institutions' activities — education, research and engagement with the wider world.

To align educational offer to identified needs the College seizes opportunities for innovation in priority sectors (creative industries), and in cooperation with local businesses and organizations help them to understand and adopt its progressive ways of thinking. The College pays special attention to research activities in order to connect educational process with activities in wider community. For that purpose VSLPU established Project Art Center for international and local cooperation, extra curricular activities and communication.

4. Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems

We realize that ability of the College to deliver excellence in competencies depends on adequate human and financial resources, incentives and rewards efficiently deployed. To improve our institutional leadership and effective internal cooperation and resource management we could benefit from good practice observed in partner institutions through international cooperation. Erasmus + will help VSLPU to observe new work methods and develop new ideas.

At the end, our goals towards a European Education Area and our policy objectives in that process could reflect in efforts to evolve our students and staff into cosmopolitans and citizens of the world, with relevant competences to be employable.

We also focus on academic leadership. All this will be done within an international framework.

We will develop tools with international partners to ensure development of relevant curriculum.

For that purpose mobility gives us the possibility to benchmark, to co-develop and co-establish relevant programs.