

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

State University of Novi Pazar

The State University of Novi Pazar (SUNP) adopted its Internalization Strategy in 2014, and updated in 2020. The State University of Novi Pazar is the first integrated and officially accredited university in Serbia, established in 2006. The original department model of organization of the teaching process and dynamic study programs which currently have around 3,500 students, are aligned with the conditions of Bologna declaration, and also offer a possibility of making new and modern profiles of the university educated experts who are significant for the regional development, but also important for profiles which are competitive on the knowledge market in the country and abroad.

The University serves the needs of its local community through dynamic improvement in education, research and engagement. It continues to deliver significant public value to local community while in same time seeks to extend its reputation across the national borders.

Internationalisation and increasing international visibility have been one of the primary goals of the State University of Novi Pazar since its foundation. It intends to enhance the quality of learning, teaching and research in order to improve sense of community among all participants in higher education. State University of Novi Pazar sees process of internationalization as an opportunity to further improve quality of teaching and research work at institutional level. The key concepts identified by the institutional strategic plan and the internationalization policy involve a multidimensional strategy to create a multicultural student experience and supporting student and staff mobility, international research & development activities.

The main objectives are defined as following:

- To strengthen global reputation and international profile by forming new international collaborations in line with our strategic objectives
- To increase the number of our students and postgraduate researchers in international mobility and other international engagement activities
- To increase inbound and outbound mobility at all levels which will improve the quality of our research and teaching
- To adopt a multidimensional strategy to facilitate a multi-cultural student environment

The University actively participates in TEMPUS, CEEPUS, ERASMUS/MUNDUS and other programs, international calls for allocation of funds for scientific research and development of the educational process, acquisition of material resources for the improvement of university teaching, makes regular contacts and cooperation with organizations for student exchange so that the students could participate in summer and professional training, etc. Until now 30 of our students have successfully completed their stay in international universities and have had comprehensive experience. The University's management will support and stimulate participation of its employees in international projects in accordance with its financial, human and other resources at its disposal.

Internalization strategy confirms the University's strategic orientation to continue active participation in programmes within Erasmus+ framework. Until now, SUNP has participated in several successful Erasmus+ projects. Most of the projects were under Capacity building in higher education, but also under Strategic partnership and Knowledge Alliances. In future University aims to fully continue to participate in all three Key actions which are available to HEIs, together with Jean Monnet projects.

For KA1- Learning mobility of individuals. It will support mobility in the education and bring long lasting benefits to our University

For KA2- Cooperation among organization and institutions. It will develop, share and transfer best practices and innovation in the field of University's education

For KA3- Support policy development and cooperation. It will improve policy dialogue and implementation.

Participating in Erasmus+ Programme will bring benefits such as curricula modernization, developing teaching methods, exchange of ideas, driving innovation in research and teaching, establishing laboratories and facilities, and making valuable contacts with other EU universities for future projects and cooperation. As stated in the Strategy for academic mobility, adopted by the University Senate, one of the measured to implement strategic goals for academic mobility is "To improve access to national and international scholarship opportunities such as the Erasmus+ program".

Strategic orientation of the State University of Novi Pazar is to continue cooperation with Western Balkan countries as part of regional cooperation. Moreover, during past projects we have the opportunity to successfully cooperate with universities from various programme and partner countries. During this cooperation we have expanded the network of HEI and other institutions which can become the potential partners for future projects. Therefore, we are determined to continue cooperation with various programme and partner countries, in accordance with our strategic goals, interests and priorities.

The internationalization of the university cannot be a goal on its own, but a long-term mean to provide a defined and clear place of the State University of Novi Pazar in the world's academic space.

Strategic approach of the University for a permanent alignment of its work with the European goals and the strategy of development of Serbia, means that the following key goals are being implemented:

1. More active involvement of the University in the field of international cooperation in the next five years;
2. Secure appropriate financial support for internationalization;
3. Form study programs of all levels base on international standards and norms, as well as to organize joint study programs;
4. Involvement of a greater number of teachers and associates in the research work through process of internationalization by means of staff exchange;
5. Promoting mobility of students more through:
 - a) possibility of achieving part of a study program abroad;
 - b) increasing the number of guest professors;
 - c) including administration and students who were already on exchange so they could help those students who are interested in participating.

Tasks of the University management shall be directed to develop institutionalized framework for the process of internationalization. Beside that it is necessary to have a better record of evaluation of potential institution ready for cooperation. To get closer to standards necessary for more active participation in internationalization, it is necessary to:

- a) develop curriculum in English;
- b) include domestic and foreign professors in the process of teaching in English;
- c) create a climate for studying and accepting foreign students introducing visas, providing places in the multifunctional University facility for accommodation, dealing of health issues, introducing the

system of record of foreign students through the work of the office for career development and tracking of graduates and question of cooperation and student mobility);

d) obtain a degree in English which shall be acknowledged in the world and provide help in further employment.

e) have five to ten percent of foreign students in the next five years

Office for career development and tracking of graduates (alumni) has role to provide the students of the State University of Novi Pazar with adequate support in acquiring those knowledge and skills which shall be the most useful for them during the employment process and to help them in acquiring knowledge on the business world, to prepare the students for successful transfer to the next level of career development upon graduation. The role of the office is to provide relevant information to students so they could use potential possibilities of employment by directly contacting employers and any other information that can help them in their employment.

In order to provide an efficient system of support to students and graduates in developing knowledge and skills which shall be beneficial when looking for a job or continuing education, this office is obliged to perform the following tasks:

- to enable access to students to the freshest information on current available working posts, professions and skills that the employers are looking for,
- to provide students with information and possibilities of further education and possible grants in the country and abroad
- to work on developing abilities, knowledge and skills which are key to employment process of students and graduates;

to connect student and graduate community with the business world community

Research center is formed with the aim of efficient implementation of research projects. The center provides support and helps in forming of research projects, monitors its implementation, provides material and technical support to the researchers in the department laboratories.

Research work of teachers and associates is being performed by means of their engagement in the research projects, as well as by individual research, by publication of their work in reference journals, participation in domestic and international conferences, work on their master and doctoral dissertations. In order to become part of the European educational and research space within the Strategy of Europe 2020, it is necessary to achieve progress within the following priority areas of innovation, for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, with the aim of improving frame conditions and approaches for financing of research and innovations, to be able to secure possibilities of transforming innovative ideas into products and services.

Strategy, objectives and impact

State University of Novi Pazar accepts and promotes the idea from EU agenda to work jointly towards European Education Area based on trust, mutual recognition, cooperation and exchange of best practices. International openness and cooperation, mobility of teachers and students are elements that contribute to a better quality of higher education. The State University of Novi Pazar will boost its engagement in mobility programmes according to its Internationalization Strategy and Mobility Strategy with specific objectives achieved through modernizing the development of curricula, improvement of education, training and lifelong learning.

The scientific and research activities will be significantly expanded within the framework of international projects of regional and European character. Participation in Erasmus + programme in KA1 with mobility of students, teachers and administrative staff will strengthen our teaching and research capabilities. Exchange of associates and teachers with renowned scientific institutions will further strengthen internationalization of our institution.

The primary activity of KA1 projects will be the implementation of student and staff mobility programmes with the aim of transferring knowledge, gaining international experience, developing professional competencies, promoting and implementing them.

By participating in KA2 projects, SUNP aims to encourage modernization through the development of study programmes, improvement of business practices and processes and the achievement of various forms of cooperation with the higher education sector and society as a whole. Concerning the improvement of the business practices and management processes, the intention is to support the development of the effective and efficient administrative processes, as well as the development of centers for providing various types of support to students and employees. Through the implementation of KA2 activities, the aim is to contribute to national and regional development by transferring the best European practices in interaction with the education sector and the wider community.

The State University of Novi Pazar is constantly working towards improving education, training and lifelong learning by reforming curricula and study programs, promoting teacher training, developing teaching methods, enhance research activities, boosting domestic and international cooperation.

Strategic policy of the State University of Novi Pazar is to follow the demands of the labor market, both in Serbia and in the world, and to dynamically adjust its study programmes and curricula to the ever changing demands and emerging fields. University will encourage teachers to include the most recent research results in teaching together with existing promotion of student participation in conferences and symposiums where they present results of their research done under the guidance of professors. Our plan is to continue with these activities. Most study programmes at SUNP related to technical sciences involve work based learning at the end of the study programme. Unfortunately, the business and industry lacks incentive to be fully engaged in these activities and the HEIs require government assistance and structural measures to address these issues.

State University of Novi Pazar is inclusive and open to talents from all backgrounds. Since the social groups least represented in higher education are more likely to lack basic skills, the preparatory lectures and information meeting which the University already organizes for the future students must be tailored to address the needs and issues concerning vulnerable and underrepresented social groups. SUNP is engaged in the city and regional development, through contributing to development strategies, cooperation with businesses, public sector and especially, NGO sector. Teachers' contribution to wider society is properly evaluated according to regulations on teacher advancement and fellowship. In cooperation with Student Parliament, University will promote engagement of students various projects concerning social cohesion and social responsibility, and in voluntary community work.

SUNP will further improve the development of the curriculum in the English language by involving foreign and domestic professors in the process of teaching in English, obtaining of a diploma in English language which is recognized throughout the world. Further internationalization will be made through joint study programs and mobility of students, teachers and researchers. By increasing the number of cooperation agreements with international universities favorable atmosphere for studying and accepting foreign students will be achieved.

Innovation is the most important driver of economic growth. High quality post-graduate studies and doctoral training are essential. From its foundation SUNP works toward developing high quality PhD study programmes. Doctoral study programmes has steadily increased over the past years, both in quality and quantity. The University aims at promoting and developing interdisciplinary approach in research and innovation.