

## **The Strategy of Internationalization**

of Technical College of Applied Studies in Kragujevac

2019-2025

### **INTRODUCTION**

Internationalization is considered to be of essential importance for the process of educational, and applied professional and research work. Thus, the Strategy of internationalization represents an integral part of the Strategy of Quality Assurance of VTŠSS Kragujevac.

Internationalization is the process of implementing international, intercultural and supranational elements in higher education, scientific and professional work and research, and additional activities in order to achieve full involvement of the VTŠSS Kragujevac in regional, European and global flows in the fields of science, higher education and knowledge transfer.

Internationalization is a reciprocal process. On the one hand, it is focused on acknowledging and voluntarily accepting different values, standards and achievements, and on the other, in presenting personal values and results in different areas, and in creating conditions for these values to be recognized and accepted abroad.

Internationalization is achieved through scientific, professional and educational interaction that, more or less, leads to acquiring foreign national and / or foreign supranational achievements and standards, in line with the national regulations regarding higher education. In such circumstances, it is necessary to clearly define strategic commitments and establish a balance between the need for VTŠSS Kragujevac to be properly involved in contemporary trends and the need to achieve other interests of the higher education community and society as a whole.

### **1) LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

For the purpose of long-term development of international cooperation, the strategy is focused on the following long-term goals:

- Strengthening educational, professional and research position and the international reputation of VTŠSS Kragujevac;
- Developing international and intercultural awareness among students and staff;
- Continual improvement of study programs and increase of their relevance at the regional and global level;
- Intensive exchange of knowledge, experience and creativity through the mobility of students, teaching and non-teaching staff for inclusion in a single European education area.

## **2) STRATEGIC GOALS AND PLANS**

For the strategic period, 2019-2025, the following goals for the internationalization of VTŠSS Kragujevac are established:

- introduction of modern and generally accepted standards of educational, professional and research work which are applied in developed countries;
- introduction of contemporary study programs in cooperation with foreign higher education, professional and research institutions;
- introduction of at least one study program in English;
- establishing wider cooperation with higher education and professional and research institutions in the region and world;
- creating conditions for the realization of mobility of students, teaching and non-teaching staff in higher education and professional and research institutions in the region and world.

In order to achieve these goals, five long-term strategic programs have been developed:

1. Standardization of study programs based on national and international standards and requirements
2. Development and realization of student mobility programs
3. Development and realization of teaching and non-teaching staff mobility programs
4. Development and realization of programs of joint / double degrees
5. Participation in joint educational and / or professional-research projects

The strategy is based on positive experience in international cooperation and the best international practice in the field of internationalization. The territorial focus of our activities will be higher education, professional and research institutions from the countries of the Balkans, especially Western Balkans, and the leading educational centers of the European Community and beyond.

## **3) STANDARDIZATION OF STUDY PROGRAMS BASED ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS**

Internationalization and standardization of curricula will be applied to all study programs organized by VTŠSS Kragujevac. The primary goal will be to harmonize programs with the best international practice, by applying the highest standards in all teaching areas. Besides the standardization of the methods of work and the content of the program, special attention will be paid to the knowledge of foreign languages and strengthening intercultural competence of all students and staff. At the same time, information on various national and international grants and funding will be systematically given to students and staff in order to promote mobility.

By introducing standardized programs on international bases, the students of VTŠSS Kragujevac will acquire skills that will increase their competitiveness on both domestic and international labor market. As part of the strategy, the standardization of programs will be continued through harmonization with and implementation of the best international education experience.

#### **4) DEVELOPMENT AND REALIZATION OF STUDENT MOBILITY PROGRAMS**

As part of the strategy, short- and medium-term student mobility programs will be organized and realized in cooperation with international partners. The harmonization of programs will enable efficient student mobility and recognition of mobility period, which is facilitated through common European System of Transfer and Accumulation of Points (ECTS).

Student mobility programs are crucial in increasing the mobility of both outgoing and incoming students. The promotion of international experience and development of international competence of students are of great importance for the growth of international competitiveness.

#### **5) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING MOBILITY PROGRAMS**

VTŠSS Kragujevac intends to improve the process of mobility of both teaching and non-teaching staff. Steps will be taken to start partnerships and active cooperation with higher education and partner institutions. The management of VTŠSS Kragujevac will support mobility programs by providing the necessary conditions (official, short-term leaves, contacts with partners, etc.) in order to facilitate the process of international mobility of teaching and non-teaching staff. At the same time VTŠSS Kragujevac will support arrival of visiting professors and other staff and provide necessary assistance in administrative work, finding accommodation etc. It is expected that teaching and non-teaching staff mobility will significantly contribute to the growth of professional competence. After the mobility, the teaching and non-teaching staff will contribute to increasing the quality of the teaching process, study programs and overall work of the VTŠSS Kragujevac. Incoming staff will directly contribute to VTŠSS Kragujevac work by disseminating knowledge and best practices. In order to provide the necessary conditions for teaching and non-teaching staff mobility, VTŠSS Kragujevac will provide all available information related to the mobility funding (Erasmus + etc.).

## **6) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT / DOUBLE DIPLOMA PROGRAMS**

The aim of this cooperation is to develop programs of joint or double degrees in the field of natural sciences and technical-technological sciences. The synergy of activities will greatly contribute to the improvement of study programs, teaching methods and standards. In the upcoming period, from 2019 to 2025, all possibilities for establishing joint/double degree programs will be explored.

## **7) PARTICIPATION IN MUTUAL PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**

In accordance with its present experience, VTŠSS Kragujevac will take steps to continually participate in international projects dedicated to the improvement of vocational education. Together with the current and future partners, appropriate programs will be selected for joint participation. Additionally, VTŠSS Kragujevac will consider all other opportunities for participating in international projects, thus meeting new challenges.

Successful internationalization will increase the visibility of VTŠSS Kragujevac and lead to improvement of professional experience and cooperation with higher education and partner institutions on projects. VTŠSS Kragujevac will consistently work on finding partners and participating in international projects with all its material and work capacities.

## **8) STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES FOR INTERNALIZATION**

In order to effectively and efficiently implement and achieve presented strategic mission, goals and plans, VTŠSS Kragujevac will establish a Team for international cooperation, that will:

- inform students and staff on possibilities for mobility;
- assist students and staff before, during and after mobility;
- participate in signing contract with higher education and partner institutions;
- participate in preparation of international project;
- complete other tasks in their domain;

## **CONCLUSION**

By defining the Strategy of internationalization, and with the willingness to work on its continuous development in the future, VTŠSS Kragujevac confirms its orientation to the internationalization through standardization of study programs, student and staff mobility, development of joint/double degree programs and participation in international projects.

VTŠSS Kragujevac will devotedly work on promoting cooperation with current and future international partners in line with the strategy and professional interests of VTŠSS Kragujevac.

The Strategy of internationalization of VTŠSS Kragujevac shall enter into force on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of adoption and publication on the notice board of the College.

Kragujevac  
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President of the College Council  
PhD Vladimir Nedić