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## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Although the University of Novo mesto Faculty of mechanical engineering (abbreviated UNM FS, hereinafter referred to as the faculty) is a young institution, it will, through the quality of the study, assert itself at home and abroad, especially in countries of the European Union. Renowned lecturers, a quality learning process and successful graduates with high expertise will contribute to the reputation of the institution. The mission of the faculty is above all to provide quality education in the field of mechanical engineering technologies and systems, and the proliferation of human resources in the region and in Slovenia.

The vision of development follows the strategic plan of the faculty, which, in its vision sets ten strategic objectives, which primarily aim to contribute to the development of tertiary education in the South-eastern Slovenia, to a better quality of higher education, and reducing the time between the creation, production, transfer and use of knowledge. The vision of the faculty is co-operation with regional and national economic and non-economic entities, and international cooperation, particularly with the European Union and South East Europe. Faculty wants to become an established, recognized and professional institution of higher education that will provide students with the highest level of knowledge.

The most important international strategic goals of the University of Novo mesto Faculty of mechanical engineering (UNM FS) are:

- to ensure students and staff enhancement of their professional, social and intercultural skills and employability;
- to increase modernization and internationalization of higher education at the faculty and, consequently, in the country, as well as in the institutions and partnering countries participating in the bilateral and multilateral levels;
- internationalization of the curriculum, which will be reflected in an increase in student and staff mobility;
- to increase the number of programmes to which will contribute experiences gained in international cooperation;
- to develop new skills that will be used in the preparation of new programmes;
- participation in international projects and international networking;
- finding appropriate partners for collaboration;
- updating the ECTS credit rating based on cooperation with other higher education institutions;
- adequate preparation of students for the exchange, where special attention is kept in the linguistic preparation of students;
- help in accommodation of students coming to the exchange;
- strengthening the international office;
- promotional activities in the framework of the programme for the modernization and internationalization of higher education;
- to provide funding for the exchange.

Partners will be selected based on similarity of curricula, whereby partners will be also searched in the fields where new programmes could be developed in collaboration, which could be offered to both domestic as well as foreign students.



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The focus will be primarily on the countries of South East Europe (Greece, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia, etc.) as well as the other EU countries (e.g. Republic of Austria, the Netherlands, etc.) and on the third countries (Switzerland, etc.).

The main participation objectives of the faculty (UNM FS) within the programme are:

- increasing the mobility of students, teachers and other employees;
- search for further funding opportunities for mobility offered by the programme for the modernization and internationalization of higher education;
- promotion of the study programme on UNM FS;
- integration of foreign lecturers in the study process.

UNM FS will encourage to implement projects:

- linking with strategic partners: additional linking of UNM FS with enterprises in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, education and research institutions to contribute the objectives of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education;
- linking with other HEIs and enterprises for promoting of creativity, innovation and new methods for education;
- international cooperation with the objective to support the modernisation and internationalization of Higher Education in the Partner countries.

#### Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

It is expected that encourages for study and additional assistance for students will lead to more quality level of study. This should results in more graduates and researchers. Co-operation in the Programme will provide better information on educational opportunities and enable to study people from underrepresented groups and »non-traditional« learners. Besides it is expected that cooperation in the Programme will reduce drop-out. Faculty will endeavour to set up a fund for students from lower income backgrounds.

#### Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Involving experts from industry into educational and research process and into design of a programmes increase quality of higher education. It is also expected encourage for greater variety of study modes (e.g. part-time, distance learning, continuing of education for those who have not graduate in the past,...). This will enable better quality of study from time and financial point of view. Implementation of ICTs advantages (e.g. eLearning) will also lead to better and easier study.



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### Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

UNM FS wants to build learning mobility more systematically into curricula and eliminate unnecessary barriers to switching institutions between bachelor and master levels and likewise cross-border cooperation and exchanges. It is expected efficient recognition of credits gained abroad through effective quality assurance, comparable and consistent use of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement. It is also expected incoming improvement of students, teachers and researchers from outside the EU regarding to current legislation restrictions and improvement of their employment and progression opportunities. This can be important for income of best foreign students, academics and researcher to UNM FS.

### Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

UNM FS wants to stimulate the development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills in all disciplines and promote innovation in higher education. Besides co-operation and partnership with industry is endeavoured, where UNM FS can become a regional hub of excellence for knowledge triangle network.

### Improving governance and funding

UNM FS wants to encourage independence and autonomy to set strategic direction and facilitate access to alternative source of funding. Besides it rewards performance to attract the best teaching and research staff.

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