

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014 - 2020

TTK UAS international strategy

In institutional level, strategic goals for modernization and internationalization are described in TTK development plan. TTK also follows the good practice of internationalization in Estonia and the EURASHE guidelines for 2020 in higher education.

One of the main objectives is to improve conditions for International studies. A better support system for mobility participants is being constantly developed together with the Faculties and International Office.

It is necessary to have good partner HEIs and SME base. TTK UAS chooses its partners on mutual interest and based on matching specialty areas and similar study programmes. Faculties are working on developing SME and Alumni base. These activities are crucial links to improve mobility options, training possibilities and finding partners for projects.

TTK UAS' key partners in its most developed areas are neighbouring countries, Scandinavian and Benelux countries, and Germany. In addition to existing networks and partners in Europe, TTK is planning to establish sound relations with partners outside European Union.

Student and Staff Mobility

The main part of student mobility at TTK is formed of semester studies abroad. The most popular partner institutions are in Finland, Denmark and Germany, chosen year by year as destinations due to their quality programmes. The success of these partnerships is also shown by the amount of transferred credits, which exceeds 22 ECTS per student for semester. TTK also has long term cooperation with 2 Belgian universities in the field of automotive engineering, as for the last 5 years, students have chosen TTK for the partner university for completing their graduation thesis. This cooperation started from an IP project and has developed into a successful student exchange.

Intensive projects form the second most important field of mobility. In Construction Faculty, two strong networks of energy efficiency operate, IP projects are also organized in the fields of environmental engineering, textile, transport, mechanical engineering and entrepreneurship. The base for successful networks is formed by mutual trust, quality programmes, matching research topics, quality level of teachers, supervisors and project management. The invitations from partners to join new networks shows the trust in the institution's quality and reliability, which we highly appreciate. The laboratory work, study in small groups and close contacts with industry are valued by our partners. TTK has a strategic goal for 10% of students being involved in networks and projects by 2015, and by 2020, the aim is to increase this share for 15%.

As TTK is a practice-oriented HEI, traineeship mobility is very popular among students. 20 out of 50 mobile students choose a company internship for their Erasmus experience. The internship companies

that host students are also a source for inviting international enterprise representatives to lecture at TTK to enrich the education of non-mobile students.

Staff mobility is closely connected to other mobility activities of Erasmus programme- student exchange, network building, mutual cooperation, preparatory visits and improving the quality of studies. In most study programmes, mutual teacher exchange takes place. Staff mobility is seen as a possibility to raise academic competences, acquire new ways of thinking and teaching, to compare teaching methods and curricula, share best practices, introduce innovative teaching methods at home and enhance the quality of teaching. Staff mobility also helps to establish long-term connections, facilitate the creation of extended cooperation networks and to increase student mobility, as an inter-institutional agreement containing only teacher exchange at first may lead to intensive projects, networks and/or student exchange in the future. Staff mobility, both teaching tasks and supervising students in IP projects and study visits, is accounted as part of lecturer's work load. The preferred mobilities are mutual teaching visits, project network meetings, student mobility promotion visits and preparatory visits for new projects.

International Projects

Cooperation projects are integrated in TTK UAS's modernization and internationalization plan – the goal is to have at least one student mobility project (Erasmus, NordPlus or faculty-supported) per study programme. Involvement in projects and networks is encouraged in faculty meetings and highly valued by management. International (mobility) projects options and advice is given regularly to the faculty members and staff by IR Project Manager. The idea of the project should derive from the faculty, IRO staff is providing guidance, marketing and administrative support.

TTK UAS has successfully completed several international projects. In 2011, 7th Framework Programme project B2B Loco in the field of logistics was finalised. This project involved management, the faculty and IR office was responsible for administrative side. This project was closely connected with SME's and Alumni.

Once a year, International Project Manager Day is organized by the Faculty of Construction. This event brings together people from the industry, teachers, mobile students and home students. This is the fastest way to get new knowledge and interact with the specialists from your specialty.

Intensive projects, currently 10 at TTK UAS, are getting more popular among our students and staff. They provide a good way of getting international practical experience in a short time.

In addition to student mobility projects, TTK is involved in several development projects, both on institutional and faculty level. Participation in higher education networks UASNET (Universities of Applied Sciences Network) and EURASHE (European Network for Higher Education Institutions) is considered strategically important for TTK and is likely to continue in the next programme period. One of the strategic development goals of TTK is to have 30% of staff involved in international project networks.

TTK UAS and Erasmus Programme

In the coming years, TTK UAS will be faced with a significant decrease in the number of enrolled students, as well as likely implementation of educational reforms. In managing these changes, we must be ready to put even greater efforts into the constant improvement of TTK UAS. Participating in the Erasmus Programme will give us a great advantage and a possibility to face the challenges ahead.

By participating in the Erasmus programme and its different projects, TTK UAS can improve the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training. This is one way of keeping new graduates in the education field and the quality of our teachers/trainers.

TTK UAS has increased the number of outgoing students every year and we plan to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study and training options abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance.

The goals for quality improvement include the strengthening of the knowledge triangle by linking education, research and business. TTK UAS offers competitive technical education in the field of engineering where practical subjects and trainings for engineers and technicians constitute a considerable part of the learning process. Faculties keep close connections with the industry. Different specialty based conferences/seminars/info days are meant to bring together all three parts of the knowledge triangle and exchange best practices and know-how. As Europe has a great need for internationally competitive applied engineering specialists, the support from Erasmus Programme for reaching this goal is considered highly important.

TTK UAS is lead by innovative management team, seeking new opportunities to modernize our institution and to create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence. Erasmus Programme has considerably helped to improve the education quality so far and will continue to do this in the future, adding a global approach for the new period 2014 – 2020.