



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose **your partners**, b) in which **geographical area(s)** and c) the most important **objectives and target groups** of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the **development of double/multiple/joint degrees**:

### a) Partners

The Nova University was founded as a private higher education institution with elements of public-private partnership. It consists of three members - European Faculty of Law, Faculty of State and European Studies and Faculty of Slovenian and International Studies. The Nova University emphasises research activity in the field of law, administration, international relationships, European studies, dispute resolution, security studies, Slovenian studies, ethics and interdisciplinary programmes of law and management of real estate, infrastructure and sustainable construction. Through its study programmes and scientific fields, the university is integrated in European and wider international higher education space. The Nova University selects its European and non-EU partners based on mutual interest and quality. As a research-led university, Nova University seeks partnerships with leading institutions globally, but also pays attention to cultural diversity, research excellence, institutional values, wide academic offer and provided services. Nova University tries to be the bridge between different cultures in order to bring them closer. Partner universities/faculties are selected according to the adequate programs and fields of study that correspond with the above-mentioned fields of interest. Besides that, the Nova University enables students and staff to come up with ideas about possible future partner faculties.

### b) Geographical areas

The aim of Nova University is to establish Erasmus co-operation with higher education institutions in all countries, which participate in the Erasmus programme. It is committed to enhance cross-border co-operation in the neighbouring countries,





but also in the wider region of South-Eastern Europe. Although Nova University is registered in Nova Gorica, it has its faculty centres also in Kranj, Maribor and in the capital city Ljubljana. It has the privilege of having a geostrategic location where many cultures and nations flow together. The university is linked in the middle of Europe near to Italian border and Gorica region, neighbouring Friuli-Venezia Giulia. This makes it not only a borderline between Slovenia and Italy, but also a connection between west and east, north and south Europe, west and east Balkans, European and non-European (Union). The strategic objective of internationalisation is also being attained by study programmes which are already conducted in cooperation with universities in Kosovo, Croatia, in the United States of America and in Israel.

### C) Objectives and target groups

The university offers no short cycle programmes. Taking into account the principles of renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area the target groups for mobility are students of all study cycle (Bachelor, Master and PhD), as well as the academic and administrative staff. All target groups of mobility activities are equally important (study, traineeships and teaching and training). Following the award of the Erasmus Charter, the Nova University is going to invest actively in establishing formal bilateral exchange, educational and research relationships based on inter-institutional agreements with numerous academic institutions throughout Europe that several of its staff members have already co-operated with. This is in line with the institutional internationalisation strategy. Thanks to it, the university will be able to extend its visiting professors program. In so doing, even the students not participating in the exchange programs will benefit from the Erasmus scheme by learning from visiting scholars. The mobility of academic staff benefit to all study process disseminate their newly acquired knowledge to the future generations of students. The benefits of the Erasmus program will be reflected in extra-curricular activities: summer schools, workshops, seminars. As for staff, the Nova University encourages their mobility as part of their career development, making research and teaching abroad a prerequisite for promotion. The International Relation Office and the Career Centre also help with the practical arrangements to facilitate the mobility of the incoming and outgoing academic and professional staff.



#### D) Development of double/multiple/joint degrees

Nova University is developing as internationally recognized higher education institution. Its study programmes correspond and develop according to the needs of national and international environment and consist of all three Bologna study cycles. The Nova University, as also its' faculties, has already established several bilateral agreements with internationally recognised institutions through which students, academic and administrative staff regularly participate in international activities and mobilities. In recent years, taking into account the EU digitalisation strategy, Nova University established the "eUniversity" which allows students to study in accordance with the method of Open learning and to acquire additional digital skills. The Nova University also collaborates in a special exchange Program with Mississippi College School of Law, which is an unique opportunity for students to study in USA. Considering all this, Nova University, aims to extend its international cooperation and to develop joint/multiple and double degree programmes, strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances with international partners in Europe and beyond. Its aim is to facilitate knowledge and experience transfer, increase opportunities for placements and traineeships, support knowledge transfer, support modernisation of education and create relevant learning opportunities. All this will enable Nova University to preserve and strengthen its reputation as the leading Slovenian educational institution in European and international affairs.

*Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain:*

As already stated above, the Nova University has adopted a centralised approach to participating in international cooperation projects in and outside mobility actions. The internationalisation strategy represents one of the key development pillars of Nova University. The strategy of organisation and implementation of international projects is an inherent part of the institutional documents. This pertains to projects under the Programme as well as other international projects. The heads of departments and the deans for international cooperation have formally been given the right to sign applications, agreements and reports and it is thus their responsibility to make sure that the projects are well-founded and within the priorities of their units. The central offices disseminate information related to projects and offer some support services, e.g. financial administration, but for the most part, the departments and faculties are the key players. The institutional Erasmus programme



will facilitate and enhance research activities by formally setting up research networks and consortia with its Erasmus partners. To do so the university departments have already been successful to secure funding for various Erasmus programmes and Jean Monnet projects and it has been successful in securing financing for post-doctoral projects with the Slovenian Research Agency and has applied for funding for younger researchers. All this will enable Nova University to preserve and strengthen its reputation as the leading Slovenian educational institution in European and international affairs.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area\* and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue:

The participation of Nova University in the programme will contribute to its modernisation in relation to the national Strategy for the Internationalisation of Slovenian Higher Education 2016-2020 and the National Higher Education Development Program 2020. Increasing attainment levels, improving the quality and relevance of higher education, strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation, making the knowledge triangle work, and improving the governance and funding have already been addressed in the current institutional strategy of the Nova university.

By joining the Erasmus programme Nova University aims to attract students from all level societies, including members of disadvantaged minorities, and also students who are already working, in order to achieve the increased number of graduates from layers and generations of society.

It will also attempt to decrease the percentage of students who do not graduate, improve the quality and relevance of teachers and researchers training by providing work-related instructions and organising specialized workshops/ seminars on new innovative and creative modes of teaching, introduce innovative e-learning methods to its curriculum through open learning and eUniversity, improve additional skills to students through study and training abroad and by taking part in other extra curricular activities, such as international conferences, summer schools, workshops, seminars and other research and training possibilities abroad as also improve higher education performance.



One of the most important objectives is to strengthen the Doctoral study. The Nova University encourages interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary study and exchanges as well as research achievements with other universities at home and abroad, thus contributing to the Slovenian and world knowledge treasury and contributing to the dissemination of these achievements among students and other users.

Nova University is committed to ensuring the highest quality in academic mobility activities and to openness when accepting students who finished their first degree on foreign institution. The Nova University will consider possibilities of building learning mobility more systematically into curricula and thereby increasing participation in some of the currently underrepresented fields of study. Moreover, special emphasis will be given to improving the processes and procedures for credit transfer in order for exchange participants to be able to expect full recognition even before their mobility period. It will continue its commitment to ensure effective recognition of credits obtained abroad.

Nova University has been far active in connecting education, research and business and will strive to strength their cooperation. It aims to develop this knowledge triangle further as it is committed to offer students and researcher the best possible integration between education, research and business. Nova University considers traineeships as a vital part of the Programme in linking it closer to students' labour market / professional orientation, as well as to labour market, business and industry. In this way it will support, promote and assist staff and students in the development of their entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills.

Finally, Nova University is fully committed to upgrade the effective and funding mechanisms in support of excellence by conducting and applying for EU and non-EU projects. It will aim to develop centres of excellence in various fields of research. In this way, it will seek alternative sources of funding by applying to not only to public institution but also to private foundations.