



АКАДЕМИЈА ТЕХНИЧКО ВАСПИТАЧКИХ СТРУКОВНИХ СТУДИЈА
THE ACADEMY OF APPLIED TECHNICAL AND PRESCHOOL STUDIES

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Academic Mobility Strategy for period 2020-2025



1. INTRODUCTION

The mobility of teaching / non-teaching staff and students is gaining in importance in today's higher education system. The matter of mobility represents a quality standard within a unique European Higher Education Area. The mobility of teaching / non-teaching staff and students is an important element in the development of human resources of a higher education institution, especially if one considers a fact that mobility and internationalization are key aspects of the Bologna Process. The last one is especially highlighted in the framework of the "Mobility strategy 2020 for the European Higher Education Area", which was adopted by Ministers from the countries of the European Higher Education Area.

The mobility is a challenge because it requires management and engagement of human and financial resources, specific and clear goals and tasks, which requires clear and precise agreements, preparedness of all participants for international and interstate long-term cooperation.

The last requires the creation of new management systems, new strategies and work methods. It also requires a critical analysis of own educational practices, as well as the desire to enrich, improve and innovate them. Likewise, mobility is being implemented in projects that go beyond education (e.g. regional integration projects) and becoming an instrument for achieving more ambitious goals and consolidating strategies developed at various country levels.

The mobility is an opportunity to bring closer different cultures, lifestyles and languages, share research, knowledge and relevant information, and that students which are in contact with other and different communities gain the ability to understand better the current state of their own country.

Mobility programs are divided into: national, bilateral and regional.

- National programs are organized at the national level, where the country is responsible for their financing and coordination.
- Bilateral programs are based on the interstate cooperation of the two countries, both of which contribute to the financing and organization of the joint program,
- Regional programs include more than two countries from one part of the European area.

The abovementioned forms of mobility may vary, depending on whether they involve the mobility of teachers, professional associates, non-teaching staff or students. They can be distinguished by the length of time spent outside the mother institution (short-term and long-term mobility, or training abroad), but also, more importantly, by the purpose of mobility.

Teachers can use mobility for study visits, as lecturers or participants in teaching exchange. In this sense, short-term mobility could also imply a special type of mobility for participation in international scientific conferences.

Mobility also differs in terms of funding, since it can be financed from allocated support funds or scholarships but can also be foreseen by a work contract, in the form of paid leave of absence.

European orientation of Serbian higher education law is confirmed by Article 91. To encourage the mobility of teachers Law on Higher Education provides opportunities for students to spend one school year abroad. Teaching staff is entitled to paid leave of absence for up to 12 months every five years.



An important factor for raising the quality level of the teaching process in Serbia from the standpoint of internationalization is enhancing of the international mobility of foreign lecturers and professors towards Serbian higher education of vocational orientation (incoming mobility). To this end, it is necessary to change or adapt national and institutional programs to facilitate the organization and coordination of activities related to joint research, development and innovation.

In particular, for incoming mobility towards the Academy of applied technical and preschool teacher studies Nis (hereinafter: ATPSS Niš), the following teaching staff of partner institutions could be invited through the institution of visiting professors: university professors, professors of university of applied sciences, professors of higher vocational schools. They may be engaged in carrying out seminars and workshops, but also for teaching and research development activities at ATPSS Niš. The period of stay can last between 1 and 12 months.

Regarding the student mobility, in strategic management it is very important to determine the objectives of mobility and to distinguish:

- mobility with the aim of obtaining a diploma, where the emphasis should be placed on master's degree studies
- mobility with the aim of obtaining ECTS points within bachelor or master level of studies;
- the number of foreign students incoming to ATPSS Niš and the number, outgoing students of VTŠ Niš;
- mobilities within bachelor studies, specialist studies, master studies, research, training, language learning, etc..

For the establishment and implementation of the mobility of teachers and students, ATPSS Niš defines the Academic Mobility Strategy (hereinafter: the Strategy) which includes:

- national policy objectives related to academic mobility in higher education;
- national academic mobility programs in higher education.

COMMITMENT OF ATPSS NIŠ

ATPSS Niš aims to promote the mobility of teaching and non-teaching staff and students in the context of cooperation agreements with other countries and their higher education institutions.

ACTIVITIES

The position of ATPSS Niš as well as all other institutions is determined by Article 43 of the Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Serbia, according to which a high school of vocational studies is an independent higher education institution that provides bachelor vocational studies, specialist vocational studies and master vocational studies in one or more fields.

Mission ATPSS Niš: inclusion into a single European educational space in accordance with the highest quality standards in the field of educational, scientific and professional work.

Vision ATPSS Niš: a modern and recognizable institution that can be compared to high-level foreign higher education institutions by results, quality and conditions for the implementation of mobility of teaching staff and students.



PRINCIPLES

The main task of the Strategy is to establish principles and a comprehensive organizational structure responsible for the implementation of academic mobility.

The establishment, implementation and further improvement of the Strategy will be based on the participation of all staff members of the ATPSS Niš and all of its organizational units. The implementation of the Strategy will create conditions for ATPSS Niš to be able to respond to contemporary trends in the development of higher education institutions within the higher education system of the Republic of Serbia. In this way, the requirements will be met, and the expectations and needs of the teaching staff, founders and the society as a whole will be fulfilled.

The academic mobility will be based on the flexible structure of ATPSS Niš organizational units, which will enable its adaptation to new needs and requirements of teaching staff, not teaching staff and students.

MOBILITY OF TEACHING STAFF

The mobility of teaching staff contributes to the expansion and enhancement of academic cooperation, the spread of innovation and knowledge within the European Higher Education Area, the continuation of internationalization of higher education institutions and their improvement through mutual comparison, promotion of employability and personal development of teaching staff and strengthening the cultural identity of Europe. It is one of the prerequisites for ensuring the high quality of higher education. Academic mobility programs support both incoming and outgoing mobility.

ATPSS Niš distinguishes two main types of mobility of its teaching staff:

- Short-term (several days or weeks, up to one month).
- Long-term (several months, up to one year).

Both types of mobility involve going to another higher education or scientific institution and within the framework of a work contract.

ATPSS Niš defines the framework programs of academic mobility in which teachers / lecturers, assistants, associates can participate in teaching / non-teaching staff can be involved.

ATPSS Niš recognizes the importance of mobility of teaching staff and establishes mobility and internationalization programs and teaching staff as its general goals. ATPSS Niš supports the mobility of teaching staff not only in terms of their academic scientific, research professional dimension, but also in order to develop their professional skills and competences.

ATPSS Niš has committed to integrate the results of academic mobilities into the institutional system of career advancement of teaching staff.

ATPSS Niš will, through its strategic plan for mobility of teaching staff, specify a set of recommendations such as the promotion of two-way international mobility of teachers, professional associates and researchers. Enabling teaching staff to engage in research, development, professional development, and the enhancement of general teaching competencies at the leading European and world institutions is a prerequisite for providing quality research and development personnel.



ATPSS Niš will, through its team for international cooperation, coordinate activities in the planning and implementation of academic mobility, or the establishment of a network of academic mobility.

ATPSS Niš recognizes the promotion of internationalization and enhancement of mobility of teaching staff as important goals that should be linked to a national policy on staff mobility in higher education.

MOBILITY OF STUDENTS

ATPSS Niš recognized the promotion of internationalization and the increase in student mobility as important goals that should be linked to a specific national policy on student mobility.

Student mobility should provide at the same time education and training of experts for work in international environment, including large international corporations in Serbia, but also for working abroad, which requires better foreign language skills, organization of international practical placement. However, the latent danger of "brain drain" should also be taken into account in each project of internationalization and student mobility.

ATPSS Niš, recognizes the importance of student mobility and establishes student mobility and internationalization programs as its basic goals.

ATPSS Niš supports student mobility in terms of developing their professional skills in competence and personality.

ATPSS Niš is determined to integrate the results of student mobility into the institutional system of career development of students.

ATPSS Niš will, through its Strategic Student Mobility Plan, outline a set of recommendations such as the promotion of two-way international mobility

ATPSS Niš will, through its team for international cooperation, coordinate activities in planning and implementation of student mobility, i.e. establishing a network for student mobility.

ATPSS Niš will, within the framework of its strategic mobility plan, specify the procedures for recognition of ECTS acquired during the mobility period and set up all necessary bodies and committees.

In order to promote mobility and increase its transparency, ATPSS Niš will develop informative support through the creation of two databases for systematic monitoring of mobility:

- a) on scholarships and financial forms of mobility support,
- b) on implemented mobility.

ATPSS Niš will make efforts to implement academic mobility, strategic programs, individual programs, as well as dedicated mobility programs, and will especially insist on programs that encourage incoming and outgoing mobility of teaching staff.

MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

In order to implement the Strategy, it is necessary to amend the relevant general acts of ATPSS Niš. In order to effectively plan, implement and monitor academic mobility, it is necessary to:

- determine the competence of the existing bodies and organizational units of ATPSS Niš, which are in charge of academic mobilities,



- to constitute, if necessary, new organizational units and bodies for the monitoring and development of academic mobility, with a clear definition of their scope of work, authorizations and modes of operation.

The implementation of the Strategy will start after the adoption of appropriate acts and the constitution of the necessary organizational units and bodies. During the implementation, the following activities will be undertaken:

- Establishment of the Action Plan for the Strategy for the period 2020-2021;
- Implementation of the system of institutional support to teaching staff members who intend to apply for some form of academic mobility;
- Implement institutional support system for students who intend to apply for some form of academic mobility;
- Defining the procedures for evaluating incoming and outgoing mobility;
- Continuous and systematic providing, monitoring and improving conditions and mechanisms for the implementation of all types of academic mobilities;
- Implementation of a systematic monitoring of mobilities (system of academic and student mobility databases with all appropriate supporting information contents);
- Ensuring improved dissemination of teaching mobility;
- Take measures to increase the motivation of teaching staff to apply for some form of academic mobility;
- Promote the Strategy to the teaching community, as well as to the scientific and wider community.

MANAGEMENT OF ACADEMIC MOBILITY

The procedures for providing, monitoring and improving academic mobility are the duty and obligation of the International Cooperation Team ATPSS Niš. In this complex process, all bodies, organizational units of ATPSS Niš are included, in accordance with the Statute of ATPSS Niš and other accompanying general acts.

Undertaking coordinated measures for systematic providing, monitoring, improving and developing academic mobility is becoming one of the priority tasks of the bodies, organizational units and services of ATPSS Niš.

PROMOTION OF THE STRATEGY

ATPSS is obliged to publish and promote the adopted Strategy to the staff members and students, as well as to the wider academic and professional public.

ATPSS Niš is obliged to publish the information from the previous paragraph in the form of a publication in printed or electronic form, as well as on its WEB site.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE STRATEGY

The strategy is in line with the strategic commitment of the country as well as the European goals of the exchange of higher education and scientific potentials.

Based on the regular annual report on the implementation of academic mobility, ATPSS Niš reassesses and improves the conditions and mechanisms for creating preconditions for better academic mobility.