

University of Kragujevac

Mobility Strategy of the University of Kragujevac

students and staff

2016 - 2021



The University of Kragujevac, through education, research and innovation, plays a key role in the personal development of an individual, linking higher education, research and economy and providing economic growth in general. This is primarily done by offering and improving of skills and knowledge of graduates in accordance to today's labor market demands, and is closely related to improving the quality of teaching and enhancing the activities in domain of international cooperation.

The Strategy for the Development of Education in Serbia until 2020 and the Strategy of Internationalization of the University of Kragujevac 2015-2020 clearly affirm the national, that is the institutional commitment to improving the quality of teaching and enhancing of teachers' and researchers' academic, scientific and artistic skills and expertise through the process of internationalization in which mobility of students and teachers plays the most important role.

The Strategy of Internationalization of the University of Kragujevac and the accompanying Action Plan clearly confirm the position of the University that internationalization is not the goal in itself, but serves the purpose of upgrading the quality of teaching and research and enhancing of social and intercultural skills of its students, as well as the skills and competences that are relevant to improving employability of graduates. As a process, internationalization requires the work and dedication of all members of the academic community, the timeframe for establishing an appropriate legal framework and for networking and cooperation with foreign partners. Accordingly, and with the obligation to respect the institutional autonomy and academic freedom regulated by law, the Senate of the University of Kragujevac, pursuant to Articles 18 and 104 of its Statute, at its session held on September 29, 2016, adopted

Mobility Strategy of the University of Kragujevac

students and staff

2016 - 2021

INTRODUCTION

The University of Kragujevac integrates the functions of all its member faculties and organizational units by pursuing a unified policy aimed at continuous improving of higher education activities, that is, the quality of teaching, scientific and artistic work, as well as securing the highest academic standards in accordance with the needs of society and projected regional and national development.

As a partner recognized by international higher education institutions, the University of Kragujevac is determined to provide to its students, teachers and staff the conditions for improving knowledge, skills and competences through the enhancement of academic cooperation and the dissemination of research results and internationalization within the European Higher Education Area.

Mobility to certain country / institution represents incoming or inbound mobility, while mobility from certain country / institution to other country / institution is outgoing or outbound mobility. There are several types of student mobility:

- a) credit mobility means staying and studying for a period of three months to two semesters during which the exchange student is attending classes and taking exams that will be recognized after returning to the home institution and
- b) mobility for the purpose of obtaining a degree (degree mobility– degree seeking student).

As for the the staff mobility at higher education institutions, we also distinguish two basic types of mobility:

- a) teaching mobility which implies holding lectures at a foreign higher education institution (teaching mobility) and
- b) mobility for the purpose of professional development (training mobility).

One of the main programs for mobility support which is available to higher education institutions in Serbia, allowing both the above mentioned types of mobility of students and staff, is the Erasmus + program (European Commission program for the period 2014-2020). Additionally, the Erasmus + program provides professional internships abroad (Erasmus + traineeships), but this part of the Program is currently not available to universities in Serbia.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBILITY

As one of the key parts of the Bologna process, mobility enables the development of international cooperation, improves the quality of higher education and research, and enables personal and professional development. Mobility helps students acquire skills and competencies which are important for career development and employment, and teachers and administrators have the opportunity to acquire knowledge about new methods and organization of work/teaching and procedures in the international environment.

The importance of mobility for students and employees at the University of Kragujevac is confirmed by the results of the Erasmus Program Impact Study (*Erasmus impact study*, European Commission, 2014), which examined the impact of mobility on the skills and employability of

students, as well as the internationalization of higher education institutions. The results have shown that linguistic and intercultural skills, self-confidence, tolerance and flexibility, which are improved during mobility, are significant from the perspective of employers and that students with mobility experience have better developed skills relevant to employability, while the importance of mobility for both teaching and administrative staff in strengthening cooperation with foreign partners, developing personal, pedagogical and professional competences, getting acquainted with a different business culture and teaching methods. Also, teacher mobility contributes to the strengthening of international cooperation between professors and higher education institutions in research projects. Erasmus mobility, as well as other mobility programs, allow dissemination of research results through international networks, publications data bases, conferences and seminars, which is certainly an important way to present the research capacities of an institution that contributes to increasing cooperation with international partners.

MISSION

The mobility of students and staff at the University of Kragujevac contributes greatly to the internationalization of the entire institution. The members of the academic community with teaching mobility experience play an important role in motivating their students and colleagues to get involved in mobility programs, underlining the importance of mobility at the institutional level. Mobility also has a great impact on the improvement of teaching methods and pedagogical competences that are transferred to the home institution upon the return of outgoing staff, while the teaching mobility programs at the same time generate new research contacts and activities, in the form of joint research works and projects.

Students and employees participating in mobility programs are also the ambassadors of their home institution, education system, language, culture and country, and in that sense they represent important mechanism for promoting all institutional capacities at the international level, which certainly has a positive effect on the internationalization of the institution in whole.

Taking into account all the aforementioned - previous accumulated experience and new opportunities for academic mobility, and pursuing the Strategy of Internationalization of the University of Kragujevac for the period 2015-2020 and adopted measures and activities in the corresponding Action Plan, the following objectives for upgrading mobility of students and staff at the University of Kragujevac can be identified:

OBJECTIVES

1 Information about the importance of mobility

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 1.1 Strengthening the logistic teams for the implementation of the mobility programs
- 1.2 Upgrading of Information system
- 1.3 Enhancing the cooperation with student organizations

- 1.4 Providing mobility information and counselling to students and staff
- 1.5 Improving the University of Kragujevac web page
- 1.6 Improving the web pages of member faculties and their better linking to central University's web page
- 1.7 Promotion and sharing information via social networks.

2 Improving the capacities of the University (academic activities)

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 2.1 Identifying the capacities of individual member faculties and organizational units
- 2.2 Continuous upgrading and updating of the Course Catalogue for foreign students
- 2.3 Improving teaching methods and conditions for foreign students
- 2.4 Recognition of ECTS acquired during academic exchange
- 2.5 Establishing summer / winter schools
- 2.6 Development of new study programs

3 Improving the capacities of the University (organization and administration)

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 3.1 Improvement of administrative procedures relevant to all aspects of mobility
- 3.2 Improvement of services for foreign and home students
- 3.3 Upgrading language support system for foreign and home students
- 3.4 Enhancing the orientation program and extracurricular activities for foreign students

4 Monitoring and evaluation of mobility and achieved results

This objective will be achieved through the following activities:

- 4.1 Development of an electronic database
- 4.2 Establishing the system of students and staff mobility assessment (incoming mobility)
- 4.3 Establishing the system of students and staff mobility assessment (incoming mobility)

University of Kragujevac Senate

File no. III/01/749/25

September 29, 2016

President of the University of Kragujevac Senate

Prof. Dr Nebojsa Arsenijevic, rector