

Pursuant to Article 42, items 21 and 32, relating to Article 17, item 24 of the Statute of the College of Professional Studies for Pre-school Teachers in Pirot N° 64-3/2018 adopted on February 26th, 2018, at the session held on March 19, 2018 the Teaching Council adopted the following

STRATEGY

FOR THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES FOR PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS PIROT

1. INTRODUCTION: FRAMEWORK

In the light of global trends, international affirmation and competition of institutions of higher education are becoming an increasingly important aspect of a daily academic life. This document has been prepared with the aim to determine the main guidelines of the internationalisation of the College of Professional Studies for Pre-school Teachers in Pirot. In the wake of its tradition of openness and mindful of its geographical position and professional potentials, the College continues to devote efforts to promote the policy of establishing amicable and constructive relations with university colleges in Europe and worldwide, as well as to promote international exchange of students, teaching and administrative staff.

2. INTERNATIONALISATION OBJECTIVES

General and specific aims of internationalisation have been determined in line with the strategic goals of the College.

GENERAL AIMS

- A more intensive inclusion of the College into the mainstream of co-operation in the region, Europe and the world, and
- Training of students to operate equally well in other environments and cultures, by providing adequate:
 - a) study programmes,
 - b) exchange programmes for students who wish to complete part of their studies abroad,
 - c) joint programmes of professional studies (undergraduate, master) with university colleges abroad,
 - d) engagement of prominent foreign professors, as well as increased number of foreign students at the College,

- e) training of the College administrative staff to work with foreign students and staff.

SPECIFIC AIMS

- To create opportunities for staff and student exchange in order to add an international perspective to study programmes and their implementation, as well as to the professional development of the teaching staff and students;
- To forge stronger links with former students of the College who live abroad by supporting alumni associations;
- To educate students internationally competent in their respective fields.

3. TASKS AND ACTIVITIES

In order to achieve the general and specific aims of internationalisation, the tasks and activities that should continuously be operative in the forthcoming period have been identified. Thematically, they can be grouped as follows:

- a) Promotion of the College internationalisation,
- b) Improvement of study programmes,
- c) Development of mobility programmes, and
- d) Creation of synergy between education, innovation and work fields.

PROMOTION OF THE COLLEGE INTERNATIONALISATION

- Point to the importance and benefits of internationalisation;
- Provide adequate financial support for internationalisation;
- Enable adequate evaluation of potential partner institutions;
- Develop institutional and organisational framework for internationalisation;
- Provide conditions for an easier implementation of the teaching staff mobility programs. The College management should support mobility programmes by providing the necessary conditions (sabbatical leaves, excused short-term absences granted for the mobility purposes, contacts with the host institution), which will facilitate the process of teaching staff mobility;
- To ensure the possibility of complete transfer of ECTS credits which students accumulated abroad during the mobility period. The College, to that end, should establish clear rules for a simple recognition of exams passed at foreign colleges (as stated in the Learning Agreement);
- To promote good practice examples in the sphere of internationalisation, related either to successful international projects implemented at the College or to the work of individuals;
- Stimulate joint participation of different colleges in international projects within the Network

of Vocational Colleges;

- Prepare young teaching and research staff for successful participation in international projects;
- Ensure formal recognition of the participation in international activities at the election for teaching positions.

IMPROVEMENT OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

- Provide the internationalisation of study programmes;
- Initiate an endeavour regarding the offer of study programmes in English and other foreign languages;
- Prepare students for new international professions through harmonisation of the existing national qualifications framework with the international ones;
- Consider the labour market situation in the region and take advantage of education in Serbian language;
- Develop inter-disciplinary study programmes;
- Intensify the promotion of study programmes that are realised at the College
- Develop and implement programmes that will lead to the realisation of joint and double/multiple diplomas;
- Exploit the results of Tempus projects (Capacity Building projects) that have been successfully implemented to further improve teaching at the College (internal dissemination);
- Use already established contacts and networks of higher education institutions in the framework of the Tempus Programme to participate in the Erasmus +.

DEVELOPMENT OF MOBILITY PROGRAMMES

- Attract a decent number of foreign students at all levels: undergraduate and master. Carry out activities aimed at enabling the greatest possible number of students (in accordance with the College capacities), academic and administrative staff to come to the College in the framework of various mobility programmes;
- In order to achieve these objectives, it is necessary to:
 - assist incoming/outgoing students/staff in obtaining visas
 - provide sufficient and adequate accommodation in private rental, through licensed agencies that will guarantee standard quality and prices of accommodation,
 - provide for adequate health insurance for foreign students,
 - provide adequate facilities for students' social life,
 - introduce student ID card that will allow foreign students public transportation at reduced prices, entry to the library, and other student benefits,
 - after the mobility period, issue transcripts in English and the confirmation of stay at the College (to be introduced as an obligation),
 - organise summer courses and summer internship at the College for foreign students,
 - introduce a proper system of recordkeeping for foreign students at the College, which would enable one to follow up on their careers after they return to their home countries;
- Offer reasonable tuition fees that would be acceptable for foreign students (details are arranged by individual Learning Agreements)
- Provide adequate multi-functional support for foreign students to successfully complete their (either entire or a part of) studies at the College, through engaging younger teaching staff, administrative staff and student volunteers (help with accommodation, residence permits, enrolling, information about procedures of health care, transportation, food, etc.);
- Create conditions for administrative services to be able to accommodate larger number of foreign students;
- Provide a functional and informative College website in English. The website should contain current catalogues of study programmes with all relevant logistical information (in English language);
- Strengthen the College International Relations Office by capacity building, in order to adequately respond to the increasing demands for incoming/outgoing students/teachers.

CREATION OF SYNERGY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND WORK FIELDS

- Take on a significant role in defining regional strategy through participation in a rigorous assessment of the potentials of the community in terms of knowledge, skills and competences, including those originating from the College itself, as well as from local businesses, aiming to identify areas of potential growth and development;
- Joint work with the local industry and the local community on the preparation of student projects and internship for students from abroad;
- Co-operate with international companies which invest in the region in the process of developing new study programmes;
- Encourage international mobility of personnel between the College and work fields;
- Promote student entrepreneurship at an international level.

4. CONCLUSION

The College accepts the responsibility to:

- promote and sustain relations with foreign higher vocational education institutions;
- represent the College in all matters involving the elements of internationalisation;
- co-operate in the initiation, formulation, implementation and representation of international projects;
- identify, analyse and promote information concerning international co-operation;
- co-ordinate and monitor the participation of the College in educational and other networks, consortia, associations and institutions of international co-operation and update the relevant information;
- support the services in charge of international mobility of students, teaching and other staff and co-ordinate their activities;
- organise international conferences at the College, as well as visits by representatives of foreign higher vocational education institutions;

The College carries out its international co-operation programmes and provides participation in international projects.

DIRECTOR

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