

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Academy of Applied Studies Sabac

The Academy of applied studies Sabac (AASS) consists of three Units which operated independently for a couple of decades and were united into the AASS in 2019. Therefore, the AASS is actually a higher education institution with long tradition and background in internationalization and modernization processes, as a holder of Erasmus + Charter 2020.

The AASS's three Units (Unit for agricultural and business studies and tourism, Unit for medical, technological and business studies and Unit for nursery and pre-school teachers) offer 17 undergraduate study programs and 2 master programs. Through the internationalization, the AASS strives to give the strong contribution to the strengthening and improvement of its reputation in the country and abroad. It hopes to become a partner recognized by international higher education and research institutions, with high educational standards which provide students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in compliance with the needs of the society and planned regional and national development.

The activity of the Academy is based on:

- education through the unity of theoretical and practical teaching, as well as performing professional practice with information and results available to the public;
- respect for the humanistic and democratic values of the national and European tradition;
- respect for human rights and civil liberties, including the prohibition of all forms of discrimination;
- harmonization with the education system in the European Union and improving the mobility (exchange) of students, teachers and associates;
- student participation in management and decision-making, especially in relation to issues that are important for the quality of the teaching process
- ensuring the quality and efficiency of studies;

As a higher education institution in modern society, the Academy adheres to the following principles:

- to be open for cooperation and communication, to be competitive and comparable, integrated into the space of higher vocational education, to be coherent, flexible, to easily adapt to the requirements of the economy, health and preschool institutions and the community;
- to promote its traditional good and adopt European Union standards in the teaching process, thus ensuring the mobility of students, teachers and associates;
- to develop a system of quality assurance and improvement in all segments of its activities, following the principles of continuous implementation of modern achievements in higher education institutions in the European Union;
- to encourage the efficiency of studying at all levels through various mechanisms;
- to nurture constant contact with students and strengthen partnerships in the teaching process; in order to be able to meet the set quality requirements

Through the internationalisation, the AASS strives to strengthen and improve its reputation in the country and abroad. The participation in the Erasmus programme will have a positive impact on the modernization and internationalisation of the Academy, an institution which prioritises the continual promotion and improvement of the teaching process and the development of students' practical skills, with a strong emphasis on digitalization and environmental-friendly practices. Our aim is to join the sphere of European education as a partner, capable of contributing to the goal of building a European Education Area.

As a holder of the ECHE, we plan to implement Erasmus mobility (KA1) and international strategic partnerships (KA2) so as to improve teachers' competencies and students' competitiveness in the labour market. We want to modernize teaching process through digitalization and adoption of good practices and align it with regional and global economic needs. We believe that general quality of a HEI is significantly improved through mobility and cross-border cooperation. The improvement of teachers' competencies is one of the main objectives of teacher mobility, which should lead to the improvement of their teaching methodology and design of the curriculum. Student mobility will contribute to the general goal of ensuring graduates leave higher education with the skill sets they and the modern economy need.

A special emphasis is put on the development of students' awareness of European values, such as the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion. The AASS will through participation in the Erasmus programme increase the number of actions promoting social responsibility and environmental friendliness that are already taking place at the AASS, as sustainability comes first as an imperative of all our strategic goals and accompanying activities. As for the quality of the implementation, the AASS will focus on the organizational issues before the mobility (language and cultural preparation, visa issues, travel etc.). During the mobility, we will monitor how well the participants cope with the tasks, social and cultural adaptation communicating with them in person, via e-mail and phone. After the mobility period, the AASS will deal with the academic results recognition and dissemination of achieved results. All these activities will be carefully planned in advance in inter-institutional agreement.

One of the key aspects of international cooperation supported by AASS is the extensive exchange of students, teachers and administrative staff within the Erasmus+ Programme. An important objective of AASS is to achieve the appropriate balance between incoming and outgoing mobility, to encourage student mobility at levels of study, and to make sure that extensive mobility of teaching and administrative staff has a sustainable impact on the process of internationalisation at the institution as a whole. The system of international credit mobility, apart from bringing great benefit to individual students is seen as an exceptional capacity building and quality raising mechanism for providing student services in implementing the priorities set out in the Strategy.