



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) 2021 - 2027

Mobility, networking and international cooperation are the core components of Tallinn Health Care College (the College) general institutional policy, development-, strategic- and action plans. The mission of the College is to train innovatively and critically thinking health professionals with technological competences. The vision of the College is to be a nationally and internationally networked organisation in continuous development, where, in collaboration with national and international partners and involving the learners, current challenges are addressed.

According to the College Development plan 2017-2021 and Internationalisation Strategy 2019-2021, 20% of graduates should have international experience and at least 50 teachers/staff members per year should participate in mobility activities. Lecturers should teach at least 2 times in five years in some partner institution and lecturer-assistants at least once in five years.

Participation in next Erasmus+ programme's activities, such as learning mobility of individuals (Erasmus+ Key Action 1) and cooperation for innovation and good practices (Erasmus+ Key Action 2) are the cornerstones of the College activities, contributing towards modernising the College, including its development and internationalisation strategies.

The College is committed to follow the principles of Erasmus+ Charter to guarantee the quality of mobility and sustainability of project results. Equal access to programme activities, all the necessary support and recognition of mobility outcomes will be guaranteed for the whole membership of the College, so that everybody could benefit from programme activities.

Increased involvement in mobility and cross-border cooperation, higher quality of and strengthened links between education, research and innovation contribute to the fulfilment of the priorities of the Education and Training 2020 strategy, the Higher Education Modernization Agenda and the European Education Area 2025.

The College develops its policy for international cooperation by taking into account relevant European policy priorities, geographical and subject area priorities, outcomes from previous projects and the College capacity to participate.

To reach the aims of the valid development plan and the new development plan for the years 2022-2026, the College intends to continue its participation in Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) – The mobility of higher education students and staff and Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) – Partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices.

The College considers important that the results of participation in cooperation projects are sustainable i.e., results continue to be used by the partners after the project ends (or are reusable or the partnership engages in other future activities) and balanced and should therefore lead to the future development of the College international involvement and lead to further development of the European Higher Education Area.

Participation in Erasmus+ capacity building projects will give participants valuable experiences that can and will be used for the preparation of College own capacity building project proposals.

The College partners in Eastern Partnership countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania have showed great interest for cooperation, i.e. they hope to benefit from our knowledge and experiences with the aim to improve the quality of higher education, developing new and innovative education programmes, modernising higher education systems through reform policies and increase cooperation across different regions of the world.

The wider benefit of the participation in Erasmus+ projects is better cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries and support to eligible Partner Countries in addressing challenges in the management and governance of their higher education institutions.

The College shares the vision of the European Education Area that will harness the full potential of education and culture as drivers for job creation, economic growth and improved social cohesion, as well as a means to experience European identity in all its diversity, and will contribute to the creation of the European Education Area by:

- promoting mobility so that studying and learning abroad will become a norm;
- mutual recognition of diplomas and qualifications;
- promoting language learning, so that knowing two languages in addition to one's mother tongue should be standard;
- supporting Lifelong Learning and reinforcing the development of key competences (skills, knowledge and attitude needed for personal fulfilment and development, employability, social inclusion and active citizenship) and basic skills for all;
- supporting technology use and development of digital competencies in educations following the Digital Education Action Plan adopted by the Commission;
- promoting the Council recommendations on common values, inclusive education and the European Dimension of Teaching. Learning about Europe's common cultural heritage and diversity and a strong understanding of the origins and functioning of the European Union is essential for the creation of the sense of European identity;
- becoming a member of the European Universities Initiative;
- implementing the European Student Card Initiative and Erasmus Without Paper network.

According to the goals of the development plan of the College for the years 2017-2021 and the Internationalisation Strategy for the years 2019-2021 20% of graduates should have international experience. In 2021 mobility of academic and support staff should be at least 50 teachers/staff members per year. Lecturers should teach at least 2 times in five years in some partner institution and lecturer-assistants at least once in five years.

All graduates should be trained as 21st century world-citizens, where active knowledge of the profession (including from an international dimension) is integrated in their performance. Internationalisation should be linked to the development of skills like creativity, leadership, international communication, flexibility, independency and self-management etc.

The organisation of studies at the College facilitates student participation in international mobility. Members of the teaching staff encourage students to participate in international mobility.

International lecturers participate in the process of teaching, providing possibilities for internationalisation at home.

To guarantee the quality of mobility, the College undertakes to follow the principles of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education.

The College has defined the quality of its core and support processes, and the principles of quality assurance, conducting regular internal evaluations, which incorporates feedback from students and staff members and/or from external experts.

The College is using benchmarking with compatible and carefully selected national, regional and international partner institutions in order to strategically support overarching institution-wide development priorities. The benchmarking approach will be rooted in institutional needs and included in the new development plan for the years 2022-2026.

Erasmus+ programme provides a unique opportunity for students to live and study or practice abroad. International experiences give them valuable skills and experiences that help them develop not only professionally, but also personally. Erasmus+ experience has improved students' language skills, professional and personal development and has enhanced their general life skills. Students have created an international network of friends that will be a cornerstone of their future professional network.

Implementation of the Student Card Initiative will reduce the administrative burden associated with student mobility and enable the exchange of academic student data through a single online entry point for students to find information, manage all steps of their mobility, get quicker access to services and authenticate themselves online.

Teaching and/or training in a foreign institution has significantly improved professional competencies of teachers and staff members. Possibility to share their knowledge and best practices with colleagues from other countries has given them broader understanding of practices, policies and systems in education across countries, thus raising the quality of education. Mobility has improved academic and administrative staff members' professional and foreign language competencies, intercultural awareness and intercultural communication skills, providing increased opportunities for professional and career development.

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme is contributing to the implementation of the internationalization and mobility goals of the College. Mobility is the cornerstone of the internationalisation and modernisation of education and the main tool for the further development of the European Education Area.