



“Erasmus+” Programme (2014-2020)

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Trakia University/TrU/ is an autonomous state institution. It was established in 1995 and dispose with rich and modern infrastructural facilities. TrU covers six of all areas of higher education/pedagogical, social, economic, nature and environmental, technical, agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, health and sports/. TrU implemented a number of goals, aimed at the ahead training of the specialists, in accordance with the current level of knowledge, actual practice and dynamics of the labour market. High quality of training activities for the preparation of qualified professionals, enhance its prestige and competitiveness of majors in TrU. Alignment of study plans and programs with standards, regulations and trends for development in the European educational system. Improving the quality and competence in teaching, introducing innovative methods in teaching. Updating the existing and introducing new market oriented majors and programs for bachelors, masters and PhD, postgraduate qualification in career. Continuous dialogue with business, users of stuff, governmental and non-governmental organizations, related to modernization of higher education. Widespread promotion of majors and main activities of TrU to attract more foreign and Bulgarian students. Encourage student and teacher mobility. Diversification and competitive educational services, including e-learning, integrated learning in English, distance learning, enhanced language training and others. Finalizing of procedures for European accreditation for majors studied in TrU. Establishment of a unified e-learning information system for student access to all the information about the structure, content, procedures and stages of their training. Placing students at the centre of the learning process, encouraging creativity and activity in the search for knowledge about the formation and professional self development. Creative scientific research oriented with applied values of scientific products. Improving the system for development and participation of teacher staff and students in research projects, providing of scientific forums at TrU, national and international level. Sustainable partnership with Bulgarian universities, scientific research institutes, business, government and non-government organizations in joint projects in the priority areas of Bulgarian science and practice. Teamwork and interdisciplinary approach to research development. Expanding the student participation in scientific-research activity. Balance between fundamental and scientific applied research, active experimental, implementation and popularization work. Upgrading of equipment and facilities for scientific research. Accreditation and certification of scientific research and diagnostic laboratories and centres. Creation of new regional, national and international centres for educational, scientific and practical-application activity as auxiliary units to the structural units of TrU. International cooperation based on communities of interest in order to greater international recognition of Educational Services and Scientific products. Enhanced international cooperation in developing joint projects and contracting of EU programs and others international programs. Encourage teachers' contacts of teachers of Faculty and Departmental level with foreign universities. Establishment of joint programs with other foreign higher institutions in foreign countries. Continuing and expanding of the ongoing practice of creation of international centres at the territory of TrU for staff training and conducting of applied research seminars on issues of science and practice. Conclusion of contracts for the exchange of students and lecturers with foreign partner institutions. The international and European cooperation has a

decisive importance for the future of TrU, for the development of new directions of teaching and research, or experience exchange and for further development of the TrU's infrastructure. Internationalization of education is widely supported at our University and it has become an integral part of the strategic plan of its development. TrU has signed Agreements for international cooperation with many universities, aiming at developing academic relations and long-term cooperation in the field of higher education, exchange of academic staff, student exchange and support of research activity. TrU is open for new partnerships. All efforts of TrU authorities are directed to achieve a better quality of tuition and training and to allow an improved utilization of possibilities offered by both staff and student mobility. TrU authorities encourage teachers and students to broaden their international contacts and to realize them in joint projects. These activities conform fully to the stated European policy of TrU, following activities are emphasized: the integration between training and science through the involvement of students.

International cooperation in TrU aims to support the academic, educational and research activities through an active exchange of experience with foreign universities and participation in international projects and programs. The international and European cooperation has a decisive importance for the future of TrU, for development of new directions of teaching and research, for experience exchange and further development of the infrastructure. Internationalization of education is widely supported at TrU and it has become an integral part of the strategic plan of its development. TrU has signed Agreements for international cooperation with many universities, aiming at developing academic relations and long-term cooperation in the field of higher education, exchange of academic staff, student exchange and support of research activity. TrU is open for new partnerships. Main tasks: 1. Enhanced international cooperation in developing joint projects and contracting EU Programs and others international programs. 2. Encourage teachers contacts of teachers of Faculty and Departmental level with foreign universities. 3. Establishment of joint programs with other foreign higher institutions in foreign countries. 4. Continuing and expanding of the ongoing practice of creation of international centres at the territory of University for staff training and conducting of applied research seminars on issues of science and practice. 5. Conclusion of contracts for the exchange of students and lecturers with foreign partner institutions. 6. Sustainable partnership with Bulgarian universities, scientific research institutes, business, government and non-government organizations in joint projects in the priority areas of Bulgarian science and practice: teamwork and interdisciplinary approach to research development, expanding the student participation in research activity, balance between fundamental and scientific applied research, active experimental, implementation and popularization work, equipment upgrading .

Trakia University (TrU) provides quality higher education for professional career in fields of human and veterinary medicine, pedagogy and education, engineering and technology, agriculture, economics, ecology and environment- for professional and personal development of the specialists necessary for economic and spiritual prosperity of the country and the region. For its implementation TrU is guided by strategic directions to which orients all work. 1. Periodic depth assessment of the strengths and weaknesses, the opportunities and risks associated with the activities and development of TrU in the new conditions and realities. 2. Providing the stability and sustainability of the specific activities of TrU and its basic departments. Achieving successful institutional and program accreditations in the fields of TrU. 3. Placing students at the centre of the learning process, encouraging creativity and activity in the search for knowledge about the formation and professional self-development. 4. Innovations in teaching, scientific research and administrative activities to increase the efficiency of the work in TrU. 5. Introducing new methods and criteria for the planning, implementation, stimulating and reporting of scientific-research activity. 6. Balance between fundamental and applied research, experimental activity, implementation and

popularization activity, Phased construction of modern facilities, equipment and IT with equipment and technical means appropriate for the purposes of teaching and research activities through the maximum use of national and EU funds. Mission, strategic directions, objectives and main tasks are presented in institutional documents and can be updated as in significant changes in key areas of socio-economic and spiritual life of the community and according to the interests and prospects of TrU. Information about the mission, objectives, strategy and all aspects of TrU are publicized through the timely issuance student candidate guides, promotional materials, regulations, publications etc. to reach in time to the interested people in the country and abroad. TrU implemented a number of goals, aimed at the ahead training of the specialists, in accordance with the current level of knowledge, actual practice and dynamics of the labour market. The new European Programs will support learning opportunities and will give TrU access to projects and activities, to promote bilateral, multilateral partnerships, transnational mobility of individuals to achieve a better quality of education and training systems throughout Europe. Bulgarian students are able to acquire experience when they encounter another type of culture in European universities. Foreign students, who wish to visit Bulgaria within the frameworks of student exchange activity, will undertake the challenge to see the different sites of Bulgarian living.