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VILNIUS COLLEGE OF DESIGN

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ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT



Vilnius College of Design (VDK) is strongly supportive towards the EU Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda for Higher Education, and the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is integral to the realisation of our institutional plans, strategies and aspirations.

The underlying aspirations and values include responsibility, professionalism, openness, respect and sociality. Student and teacher participation in Erasmus programme is highlighted in the plans of all academic units.

In terms of strategy, we are emphasizing on: strengthening strategic partnerships, stimulation of international and intercultural competences of the students, internationalization of the study programs, inspiration of the teachers, possible enrichment of the curriculum, contribution to the satisfaction of students, lecturers and staff members, raising awareness abroad through promotion of the positive reputation of Vilnius College of Design. International activities could also be considered in cooperation with companies/organisations in the region.

Our beliefs include that higher education is a power for good and makes a significant economic, intellectual and cultural contribution to the world. We are committed to international excellence through the creation of world-changing research and high quality, inspirational teaching within an inclusive academic culture.

All successful partnerships are the result of shared commitment to, and mutual benefit from, the relationship. The principles of responsible selection of partners will be implemented by means of internal quality assurance system. Almost all of our partnerships result from certain links between administrative as well as academic staff and positive student experiences. Meanwhile, others have been introduced through existing partners or other networks (Cumulus association for example). Vilnius College of Design is currently cooperating with just under 70 higher education institutions abroad, mostly from European countries, seeking to establish strategic partnerships on institutional, faculty, department or curriculum levels. Our international partner institutions are considered as diverse, reflecting the different needs and priorities of our partners' and our own students and staff. All of our inter-institutional collaboration agreements are revised

yearly and strengthened if necessary. Also, internationalization is starting to get more attention beyond the territory of the European Union. Collaboration with institutions from non-European countries through KA-107 partnerships is focused mostly on countries following the national priorities.

In regard to mobility we are committed to extend the range and nature of the opportunities we can offer to our students, as integral or optional credit mobility components of an ever-increasing range of degree programmes at Bachelor level. We are also planning to explore short-term mobility in order to encourage participation by a more diverse student body.

Vilnius College of Design is aiming to become one of the top Lithuanian higher non-university institutions by the percentage of students going to study a semester or have a work placement abroad and by the number of academic and other staff mobilities. Therefore, we will continue active engagement in exchange programmes, look for new partners, and develop collaboration with current partners by co-designing study programmes, improving the recognition of academic achievements abroad, and strengthen the relationship with foreign companies and organizations to secure strong placing for practical training and internship. We will seek that the teachers would use professional development possibilities in variety of European companies and organizations. Teaching mobility is strongly encouraged as one of the key factors of professional development and assessment.

Both students and staff members need to be able to experience the added value of the partnership on the base of (exchange) mobility between the partners. Mobility activities are for first cycle students and staff members. Currently outgoing student mobility covers ~5% from total student number with the ratio of incoming and outgoing students 2:1, while outgoing staff mobility is in the range of 3 to 5 per cent. However, by 2027 we strive to achieve that student mobility number would be in the range of 15 to 20 per cent of the total number of students with the ratio of incoming and outgoing students 1:1 and to have one of the top mobility ranking percentage from total student number among both students and teaching/administrative staff of all Lithuanian colleges and universities.

Vilnius College of Design is considering engaging in a couple of double degree (bachelor) programmes (with or without making use of European or national funds depending on the opportunities). Our policy is to strive towards degrees which reflect the structure of the programmes. VDK strives to issue joint degrees to joint programmes and is taking actions to reach that goal by looking at good practices from the past and monitoring its potential joint (double degree) programme.