

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Jekabpils Agrobusiness college (JAC) offers first level professional higher education studies in two departments. 1. In the Economics department one can achieve a qualification in the following professions: accountant, business specialist, house manager, marketing and sales specialist. 2. In Information and technology department one may achieve a qualification in administration of computer networks.

The aim of Erasmus policy in Jekabpils Agrobusiness College is to facilitate international dimension in learning process, offering and providing students and staff members with usage of new experience in acquisition of knowledge and sharing experience so that quality of education would correspond to European requirements and would allow them competing in the labour market of equal value with graduates and staff members of the other European higher educational establishments.

JAC has set the following aims of an international strategy:

- 1) To introduce internationalisation of higher education;
- 2) To improve curricula of higher education and students' experience, promoting mobility of students and staff members, thus facilitating providing of harmonious environment in the college;
- 3) To get involved into cooperation activities of European and outside the European countries;
- 4) To participate in the development of the united European higher education system position;
- 5) To ensure high quality service and curricula for incoming exchange students and staff members;

The general aim of Jekabpils Agrobusiness college (JAC) as regards the lifelong learning programme is to participate in Erasmus programme, starting a successful mobility of students and staff members.

Participating in the Erasmus programme, JAC will increase its capacity and get international partnership and cooperation. Increased competence of staff members and lecturers will improve quality of study process and more successful integration of participants into the labour market in Europe. Participating in Erasmus+ programme, JAC will provide an opportunity for more students and staff members of higher educational establishments take part in mobility, getting new experience and knowledge. JAC students and staff members will be provided with thorough information about mobility opportunities, having cooperation with the foreign organizations.

JAC study programmes have passed an international accreditation in the year 2013. Study programmes have been accredited for 6 years. JAC has introduced academic transfer system of credit points ECTS, that will facilitate acknowledgement of studies and practice between partner organisations.

JAC will offer for outgoing mobility participants administrative and practical preparation for mobility, ensuring of study place in the higher educational establishments, practice placement in

the enterprises, preparation courses in the English language, a comparable system of credit points, accommodation, insurance, information about mobility partner state organisation etc.

JAC will offer for incoming mobility students available study programmes, will ensure practice placement, a comparable system of credit points, accommodation assistance and friendly integration.

JAC actively supports mobility of teaching staff to share their experience and introduce knowledge and methods in their working place and increase their qualification as well.

There will be organised a selection of mobility participants in a fair, transparent, coordinated and documented way. JAC will ensure an equal attitude to every mobility participant. JAC normative documents follow the international, European and Latvian equality principles of human rights.

JAC will ensure publicity of Erasmus activities for EPS un EUC attracting and informing as many students and staff members as possible about an opportunity to spend their time abroad qualitatively in the frame of the programme. This information will be placed in JAC website, distributed delivering the presentations in undertakings, and placed on information desks. There also will be provided experience stories about participation in mobility programmes in the bigger undertakings and mass media. The best way how to get the students interested in participating in mobility is successful experience of others.

EPS will be published in JAC website.

JAC is open to cooperation with higher educational establishments that take part in the project with compatible study programmes to be able to comply with the bilateral cooperation requirements, and with enterprises as well that in their operation can take students for practice ensurance.

Basically we would like to cooperate with Erasmus programmes countries, however, if it is necessary we are also ready to cooperate with other partner countries. JAC is open for considering all cooperation offers.

Jekabpils Agrobusiness college has not participated so far in the organisation of international cooperation projects in the frames of Erasmus+ programme. However, considering internationalisation and modernisation of JAC, there is created a new position (Specialist of public relations/ project manager), whose main tasks is to promote international relations and cooperation opportunities, organise student and staff member mobility, and promote participation of JAC in European and international cooperation projects as well. So far there have been started negotiations and developed cooperation agreements with 3 Lithuanian Universities, which will be signed in June of this year.

According to the JAC development strategy, there are defined organization quality criteria for study process. They require that one of the most important activities is international cooperation and mobility of students and teachers. JAC believes that participation in the Erasmus program is

a big step towards the development, internationalization and modernization, providing students and staff to acquire new skills, complying with the requirements of the European labor market and give the benefit of higher education in the country as a whole. Students and staff will be encouraged and motivated to participate in the activities of the program in order to increase their understanding of the processes of education and research institutions in all participating partners. Also, participation in the Programme contributes to the implementation of the Bologna process within European Higher Education Area.

To achieve the 5 key priorities for higher education modernization program, JAC will ensure:

1. Participation in the program is part of the process of internationalization of education. Gaining international experience and Erasmus+ mobility programs very significantly increase the level of knowledge of graduates and will allow better integration with the common European work space. Lecturer research activity is directly dependent on the capabilities to operate internationally with other countries, researchers, universities and businesses.
2. JAC has close cooperation with regional enterprises and they are involved in the study process to improve the quality recommendations and opinions. Quality recognition for student from foreign universities and companies for mobility is very important because so it is possible to improve quality and consistency of the international labor market.
3. The quality of mobility and cooperation is increasing along with the experience of the organization. At present, the key is to inform and attract students and staff about the possibility of mobility, as well as the successful launch of this process. JAC is a public company and is located relatively far from major cities which provide one of Europe's higher education policy issues – education availability. College students are mostly from neighboring regions and getting to know with shared values and increased mobility would broaden their mental outlook and increase cross-border cooperation.
4. JAC is university with experience of stable education quality and a good quality of training specialists. It already provides regional businesses with good professionals. Therefore, educational modernization will contribute greatly to the mobility, a direct impact on the business development level and quality to suit the current trends.

Participation in Erasmus+ program will improve the quality of JAK management. Funding will be an effective way to enhance the quality and improve the education system to meet labor market demands.