**Erasmus Policy Statement of State University of Tetova**

Since the accreditation of the State University of Tetova in 2004, one of the top priorities has been its internationalization. All SUT governing structures have taken very seriously the image that SUT should have abroad. In doing so, we have developed excellent relationship with a wide network of partners from Macedonia and beyond. SUT’s international strategy lies primarily in the generation and transfer of knowledge proceeding from a high degree of social engagement. To this end, the university pursues knowledge in an inquiring, critical, investigative and flexible manner, with a strong international orientation and based on the values of professionalism, teamwork and fair play. The strategy has the following goals: to foster cooperation among all Albanian speaking universities from the region, to foster cooperation with all leading universities in the WB, initiate and foster cooperation with EU based HEIs, increase the diversity of campus communities, improve global and cross-cultural competency, enhance opportunities for international collaborations and partnerships and to increase unique areas of expertise to engage in international development. Some of our strategy’s guiding principles are: excellence and high quality in both teaching and learning, cooperation, integration, diversification and a strong financial standing.

SUT’s international strategy highlights the elements that would make it truly international university. These elements are as follows: an international student population on the campus, an appropriate international collage of teaching, research and support staff; a curriculum which is international in content and a range of extra-curricular opportunities that reinforce awareness of different cultures; the promotion of an element of studying abroad as an integral part of graduation requirements; international teaching and research collaborations and exchanges; high quality support systems for international students; an embedding of the internationalization agenda all segments of the academic policy that it employs as well as a true commitment to this agenda being reflected in the overall organizational culture.

While focusing on our fields of excellence, SUT strives to develop multiple or joint degrees with all interested HEIs through various funding instruments, and primarily through EU funding schemes. We were the first university in Macedonia to initiate and successfully implement a joint degree with two other national universities and an EU based university.

SUT in line with its international strategy will not focus only on partaking in initiatives that have been initiated by other HEIs. On the contrary, SUT is and will be investing a great deal in equipping its team with well qualified professionals that will be able to design and compile world class projects and be able to lead complex consortia of HEIs from across the globe. This is also reflected in the initiatives that the governing structures are making in building up skills and competences of existing teaching and administrative staff, as well as make it a prerequisite to the employment of the future staff of SUT. In doing so, SUT once again, confirms its commitment to its leadership role it wants to attain not only in Macedonia, but also in the region and abroad.

At SUT, we will be focusing on the developing project ideas that will push forward our international agenda and position ourselves as a leading university in teaching and research, both nationally and internationally.

SUT’s education strategy is fully in line with EU’s modernization agenda. Hence, the expected outcomes strengthen this path that we have chosen. As per the 1st objective:1.Increasing attainment levels-SUT through ERASMUS has undertaken actions and steps to recognizing prior learning and previous qualifications, to reach out to the marginalized and underrepresented groups through various funding schemes as well as hope in tackling the overall drop-out rate. As per the 2nd priority, Improving quality and relevance, we expect to increase our percentage in the employability of our graduates, to benefit from an ever more available ICT and its potential, to design schemes for awarding best teachers and admin staff, to design study programs that are fully in line with market needs, etc. As per the 3rd objective, Mobility and international cooperation for quality, we expect to enjoy an impact on an efficient recognition of studies undertaken abroad, as well as we expect to benefit greatly from the transfer of knowledge that both staff and students will bring back to their home institution as well as expand the network of international partners through which we expand our window of opportunities in teaching and learning. As per the 4th priority, strengthening the language triangle, we expect a direct impact on creating and retaining collaborations with businesses, and local governments through encouragement of various initiatives in stimulating entrepreneurial, innovative and creative skills. As per the 5th priority, creating the right governance and funding conditions, at SUT we believe strongly that the key components for attaining success and excellence in teaching as well as in all other areas mentioned above, are undoubtedly an effective governing structures, and the funding system the institutions have.