



UNIVERSITETI I TETOVËS
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ ВО ТЕТОВО | UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Tetova has come a very long way since its founding in 1994 under very difficult circumstances, making a major contribution to its students, to the Albanian community and to the country more broadly. As the University moves into its second 25 years, the world increasingly functions with a “knowledge economy.” Thus, the University has joined institutions of higher education around the globe in increasing its focus on the goal of producing as well as transmitting knowledge and of assisting in the solution of many existing challenges through research.

University of Tetova’s (UT) participation in the Erasmus+ Programme has been the most vital part of its own strategy for internationalization. The mobilities of both, staff and students, as well as cooperation with other HEIs and other strategic partners, such as networks and enterprises through cooperation projects, represent the backbone of our internationalization agenda. Since its establishment, UT has focused on attracting leading academics and outstanding students from all over Europe and the world. At UT, we believe that increased mobility raises awareness on issues such as quality assurance in higher education, as well as its practical implications towards the improvement of curriculum design process.

At UT we strive for our students and graduates to become individuals who will be internationally competitive with inter-cultural competencies and skills so they may thrive in an inter-connected global society.

University of Tetova works intensively in fostering the connections with existing partners in higher education as well as the business community, and simultaneously endeavors to expand this network of partners. In doing so, our strategy is not mainly to increase the quantity of the agreements but more so to improve the quality of cooperation. When engaging in the signing of a new agreement or MoU, we meticulously compare the curricula, the fields of study being offered in English and/or other foreign languages. This process enables us to vet the quality of partnership that we are to render to our staff and students as they interact and collaborate. Additionally, we focus on the valued added benefits of being able to engage in other internationalizing efforts, such as joint programs and joint research project activities. Development of such programs will undoubtedly add value to our academic offer for both our enrolled students as well as those incoming.

We strategize in partnering with higher education institutions from diverse parts of Europe and not only, so that we can benefit from diverse experiences. We aim primarily at creating partnerships with the Western part of Europe, while not neglecting the central and the northern ones. Being situated in the Balkans makes it more than logical to collaborate with the program and partner countries of the region, as it enriches our academic experience and assists us in moving forward towards the European Education Area. This is all part and parcel of our agenda to internationalize the university.

Zyra për Bashkëpunim Ndërkombëtar-Канцеларија за меѓународна соработка-International Relations Office

Str. Ilinden nn. 1200 Tetova, Republic of North Macedonia
www.unite.edu.mk – e-mail: international@unite.edu.mk



UNIVERSITETI I TETOVËS
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ ВО ТЕТОВО | UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA

This agenda establishes several priority action-lines to foster mobility and increase the UT's attractiveness to European and non-European students and staff, such as the enlarging of the academic offer delivered in English and the improvement of the English proficiency of local students and staff.

The Erasmus Programme enables UT to complete these actions and re-define this policy, taking into account the assets accumulated since the beginning of the Erasmus Programme: a strong leadership commitment at a central and a faculty level, a professional International Relations Office and a large number of reliable European and non-European partners. From this starting point UT, establishes the following objectives concerning initiatives related to increasing the quality of mobility as well as internal actions, oriented to deepen the internationalization of our university.

By signing this charter, UT agrees to its principles and commits to work towards the very objectives that contribute to the European Union's modernization and internationalization agenda in higher education. UT will specifically contribute in the revised key areas of the renewed EU agenda for higher education and specifically on:

- Building inclusive and connected higher education systems
- Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation
- Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems, and additionally strive to:
 - **Broaden recruitment pools for international students**
 - Improving the quality and relevance of higher education
 - Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation
 - Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.

There is a set of policies that University of Tetova is implementing currently to contribute to each one of the above goals. The recently adopted research strategy of the university (April '20) complements the internationalization agenda and it specifically takes into consideration the vision that EU has for the European Education Area in the years to come, namely:

- spending time abroad to study and learn should become the norm
- school and higher education qualifications should be recognized across the EU
- knowing two languages in addition to one's mother tongue should be standard
- everyone should be able to access high-quality education, irrespective of their socio-economic background
- people should have a strong sense of their identity as a European, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity.

The signing of the Charter will only strengthen the resolve that the University of Tetova has towards the implementation of these strategic documents. Participation in Erasmus+ Programme has been the main pillar in advancing our internationalization agenda so far, and will undoubtedly remain the most significant platform to further help us move forward.