



**UNIVERZITET
U NOVOM PAZARU**

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

International Strategy

The University of Novi Pazar (UNP) as a relatively young institution, was founded in 2002, with the aim of education and continuous pursuit of knowledge acquisition to be the best and most recognizable brands of the region. This higher education institution was among the first in our country to conceive a system of study based on the model of Western European countries.

UNP is based in a multicultural region, Sandžak, a major crossroad of Europe. This crossroad has always had tradition of openness to the multiculturalism and internationalization and therefore UNP has always been dedicated to high-quality education, internationalization, student and personnel mobility, regional cooperation, especially cooperation with other universities in the field of education and scientific research.

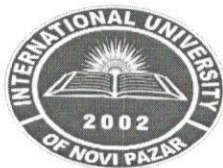
UNP advocates internationalism through participation in the global world of scholarship, by being receptive and responsive to issues within the international environment as well as the recruitment of international personnel and students. The University's vision and its value of internationalism make it imperative that students and personnel internationalize all their intellectual inquiries and analyses. To achieve this end, all members of the University of Novi Pazar community need to foster an environment of active research, teaching and other interactions on a regular basis with intellectuals and societal leaders from around the globe. Only by so doing will the University of Novi Pazar community obtain the cutting edge knowledge and skills required both to serve the best interests of the region and to undertake study and research on equal terms with peers from outside the region.

In line with its Strategy of Internationalisation, the University of Novi Pazar is focusing on the following aims:

- To ensure the inclusion of the University of Novi Pazar into the mainstream of academic cooperation in the region, Europe and the world
- To encourage excellence and relevance of existing study programmes and to develop programmes that prepare students to succeed in the modern global economy
- To encourage exchange programmes for the students and academic staff
- To work on Joint and Double degree programmes of academic and professional studies (undergraduate, graduate, special and doctoral) with universities abroad
- To enable visiting opportunities for both foreign faculty and students
- To encourage faculty members from other countries to apply and accept teaching positions at University of Novi Pazar making all the information on vacancies at the University visible abroad
- University will take put efforts in helping teachers or students coming from abroad to deal with all legal issues concerning their stay in Serbia, as well to help in providing of adequate accommodation
- University will organize adequate courses and trainings for personnel to work with foreign students and teachers

Therefore the University of Novi Pazar fully supports the EU Modernisation and Internationalisation Agenda for Higher Education focusing on four priority areas: (1)

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Promoting excellence in skills development and tackling future skills mismatches; (2) Building inclusive and connected higher education systems; (3) Ensuring that higher education institutions contribute to innovation; and (4) Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems¹, and sees the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education as integral to the realisation of our institutional plans, strategies and aspirations.

Keeping in mind that our university is located in currently one of the poorest regions in Europe, we firmly believe that higher education is the key to initiate significant economic, intellectual and cultural changes. But these changes cannot be made without high-quality partners. Due to close historical, educational and other connection the University of Novi Pazar develops strong cooperation connections among regional HEIs in the Balkans and actually demonstrates minor staff mobility within the region by engaging professors from the HEIs from the Balkans. The University of Novi Pazar focuses its attention towards the academic personnel trying to bring together the most eminent professionals from the region to share their expertise with the students from all three study cycles.

Moreover, participation in the Erasmus Programme plays the central role in accomplishing its institutional objectives. Erasmus has helped to enhance the mobility of staff and students at UNP. In order to expand our collaboration, UNP, in the past two years, has signed over 30 valid Erasmus agreements with counterparts from Program and Partner countries, and continuously build new networks in order to exchange experience in teaching and research. We select our partners in order to maximise the benefit for all our stakeholders, especially our students. In line with this, we want to develop sustainable relationships especially in the field of exchange, joint and double degrees and research. Many students and teaching staff from UNP have benefited from Erasmus Programme which is especially important for our University. Opportunities provided to our own academics to visit universities around and outside Europe directly lead to the increase of their own professional, social and intercultural skills, learn from good practice overseas, internationalise the curriculum and strengthen international partnerships on several levels. On the other side, incoming researchers, teaching staff and students add to the international character of our education and are valued members of UNP academic community.

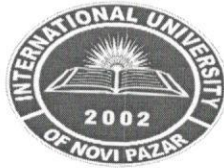
Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects

UNP believes that internationalization is a crucial part of contemporary HEI's which presents an added value to its development and thus had established an International Relations Office whose main aim is to take actions to encourage, support and contribute to the students, academic and administrative personnel to participate in international projects and to provide administrative support. All the activities related to the Erasmus Programme and other collaborative efforts are managed centrally by this office.

It is UNP's mission to thoroughly prepare its students for a successful and competitive career of their choice on the labour market and, therefore, the IRO gathers all the information about

¹ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on a renewed EU agenda for higher education

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possible agreements, exchange programmes, research projects, international scientific and cultural conferences etc., which can help enable them in this process. Also, it encourages individual student's queries and applications and after clear indication of the objectives and meeting the required internal criteria, participates in the project and acts not merely as a liaison party but as a reliable partner. UNP is deeply convinced that an international experience gives students indispensable skills and guides them but to add to their experience and expertise the skills from a shared educational background. Our past experience with international institutions has already achieved much in changing UNP mentality for the better, and we hope to continue benefiting from their institutional and national experience. Therefore, UNP aims to increase international engagement of students and personnel by using the Erasmus Programme opportunities in order to facilitate partnerships for curriculum development, institutional development, and implementation of innovative practices and growth of research potentials. UNP will actively encourage personnel and students to participate in the different key actions of the Programme. Through strategic international partnerships, capacity building with other countries, departments at the University will be encouraged to develop networks and strengthen existing partnerships. This will include ensuring academic quality and recognition of exchange schemes and enable students and staff to achieve their own ambitions.

Impact on Modernization

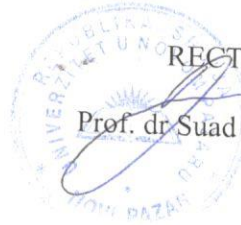
UNP is a young and modern HEI with a strong international commitment which believes that its participation in the programme will have a great impact on its modernization and internationalization. The UNP's International Strategy is closely linked to a renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area. Therefore, UNP offers courses that interact with the skills, the research and the knowledge necessary in the globalized world, corresponding to the labour market needs, the industry and the overall social development. It considers itself as a significant link between the higher education, the research and the business which undoubtedly leads to a regional development. We are trying to enable students to acquire transferable skills which can be applied to a great variety of career paths and new professional roles.

UNP considers higher education as a network of complex economic and social blends consisting of companies and organizations, research institutes and other HEIs. This is regarded as a contribution to the sustainable development of higher education by developing strategic partnerships between HEI and the business. Through participation in the programme, the UNP will be able to further offer and develop more effective learning and teaching experiences to its academic personnel, which will, apart from the professional development, inevitably reflect on the education quality. Thus, the students will be equipped with the crucial competences and skills they need to succeed on the labour market which means that UNP does not only focus on teaching knowledge, but also on lifelong learning and employability skills. These activities along the University's commitment and mission will further contribute to the development of the region and the Republic of Serbia which we hope will advance fruitful European integration.

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