

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 2021–2027

Institution	Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution
Country	Lithuania

1. Institutional Strategy and Objectives

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme 2021–2027 represents a key element of the internationalization strategy of Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution. Through Erasmus+, the institution aims to strengthen the quality and relevance of higher education, promote international cooperation, and provide students and staff with opportunities for academic, professional, and personal development in an international environment. Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution recognizes that international cooperation contributes to the development of the European Higher Education Area and enhances the competitiveness and attractiveness of higher education. Participation in Erasmus+ supports the modernization of study programmes, encourages innovative teaching methods, and promotes the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

The main objectives of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme include:

- Expanding opportunities for student and staff mobility for studies, traineeships, teaching, and training.
- Developing and strengthening international partnerships with higher education institutions, research organizations, and industry partners.
- Improving the quality of education through international collaboration and exchange of academic experience.
- Promoting intercultural understanding, multilingualism, and European values.
- Increasing the employability and global competence of graduates.
- Increasing the accessibility of mobility through mobility windows, short-term blended mobility, and participation in Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs).

Erasmus+ contributes to the institution's strategic objective of strengthening the internationalization of studies by expanding international partnerships, promoting student and staff mobility, strengthening readiness to deliver studies in English, and developing international academic cooperation. Mobility experience and cooperation results will be used to improve study programmes, teaching practices, and the international learning environment for both local and international students.

2. Participation in Erasmus+ Programme Actions

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution intends to actively participate in the main actions of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Key Action 1 – Learning Mobility of Individuals

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution will promote and support mobility for:

- Students, enabling them to undertake study periods or traineeships abroad that contribute to their academic progress and professional development.

- Teaching staff, providing opportunities to teach at partner institutions and exchange pedagogical experience.
- Administrative staff, allowing participation in training activities that improve professional competencies and institutional capacity.
- Student mobility will be integrated into study programmes through appropriate curriculum planning and the development of mobility windows. The institution will promote short-term blended mobility and participation in Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) to offer more flexible international learning opportunities. Agreed learning outcomes successfully achieved during mobility will be fully and automatically recognized.

Student participation will be encouraged through targeted communication, academic and administrative guidance, and the mobility incentive scholarships envisaged in the institutional strategy. Teaching staff will be encouraged to participate in teaching mobility, virtual cooperation, and blended learning initiatives and to apply the experience gained in their teaching.

Key Action 2 – Cooperation among Organizations and Institutions

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution will participate in international cooperation projects that promote:

- Development of innovative teaching and learning methods.
- Creation of joint educational initiatives and collaborative research activities.
- Exchange of best practices in higher education management and quality assurance.
- Stronger collaboration between higher education institutions, industry, and society.
- Developing partnerships that connect teaching, applied research, and cooperation with industry and society, and support the preparation of joint international project proposals.

Through these projects, Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution aims to contribute to the modernization and internationalization of higher education.

3. Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunities

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution is committed to ensuring equal access to Erasmus+ opportunities for all participants. Participation in the programme will be based on principles of transparency, fairness, and non-discrimination.

Special attention will be given to:

- Students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Participants with disabilities or special needs.
- Individuals facing social, cultural, or geographical barriers.

Support measures will include accessible information, individual academic and administrative guidance, and assistance in accessing the additional financial support available under Erasmus+ for participants with fewer opportunities. The institution will identify barriers to participation and seek to reduce them through appropriate support arrangements and flexible mobility opportunities.

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution also promotes gender equality, respect for cultural diversity, and an inclusive academic environment.

The institution will promote common European values and encourage students and staff to participate in community, volunteering, and other civic engagement activities before, during, and after mobility.

4. Quality Assurance and Recognition of Mobility

Ensuring the quality of mobility activities is a central priority. Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution will implement procedures to guarantee effective preparation, monitoring, and evaluation of Erasmus+ activities.

Key measures include:

- Use of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) for transparent recognition of learning outcomes.
- Preparation of Learning Agreements before the mobility period to define study programmes and responsibilities.
- Academic guidance and mentoring for outgoing and incoming participants.
- Full and automatic recognition of all agreed credits and learning outcomes successfully achieved abroad, including during blended mobility, without additional work or assessment. Recognized mobility achievements will be recorded in the student's academic records and Diploma Supplement.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of mobility activities through feedback from participants and partner institutions.
- Fair, transparent, consistent, and documented selection procedures.
- Linguistic and intercultural preparation for outgoing participants and appropriate language support for incoming participants.
- Recognition of staff teaching and training mobility in accordance with the institutional strategy.
- Guidance on insurance and visa requirements, where applicable, and measures supporting participant safety.

The institution will also provide support services to incoming students, including assistance with accommodation, orientation, and integration into academic and social life. Incoming students participating in Erasmus+ credit mobility will receive equal academic treatment and will not be charged fees for tuition, registration, examinations, or access to laboratory and library facilities.

5. Digitalization and Innovation

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution supports the digital transformation of higher education and mobility management.

In line with European initiatives, the institution will implement:

- Digital Learning Agreements.
- Participation in the European Student Card Initiative.
- Use of digital platforms for mobility administration and communication.
- Online information systems to support mobility participants.

These tools will improve transparency, efficiency, and accessibility of Erasmus+ activities. Beyond mobility administration, the institution will encourage virtual cooperation, blended learning, and the development of quality-assured online modules in English. These activities will support international learning opportunities and strengthen students' and staff members' digital competencies.

6. Environmental Sustainability

Panevėžio kolegija/State Higher Education Institution recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability and responsible international mobility.

Efforts will be made to encourage:

- Environmentally responsible travel options.
- Sustainable practices in international cooperation and project management.
- Awareness of environmental challenges within the academic community.

Participation in Erasmus+ will support the development of responsible global citizens who understand the importance of sustainability. Participants will be informed about green travel options and the relevant Erasmus+ support. The institution will encourage paperless administration, responsible resource use, and waste reduction in mobility and cooperation activities.

7. Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

The implementation of Erasmus+ activities will be continuously monitored to ensure their effectiveness and quality.

Evaluation methods include:

- Regular analysis of mobility statistics and participation levels.
- Feedback from students, staff, and partner institutions.
- Internal reporting and review processes.

Monitoring will cover participation by mobility type, involvement of participants with fewer opportunities, short-term blended mobility and BIPs, recognition of learning outcomes, participant satisfaction, active partnerships, digital mobility management, and green travel. Results will be reviewed against institutional objectives and used to identify barriers and improvement measures.

Through these mechanisms, the institution will ensure that Erasmus+ activities contribute to long-term institutional development and international engagement.

The institution will regularly review the EPS in relation to its current strategy and Erasmus+ priorities. The ECHE and EPS will be prominently available on the institutional website, and their commitments will be communicated to relevant staff. Mobility and cooperation results will be disseminated within and outside the institution, encouraging returning participants to act as Erasmus+ ambassadors.