

STRATEGY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

Preschool Teacher Training and Business Informatics College of Applied Studies-Sirmium supports and promotes the participation of staff and students in international cooperation projects by continuous search for participation opportunities and their dissemination among the academic community, providing support in the application processes as well as the effective participation. The objectives are focused on development and assurance of high quality research and teaching, internalization and promotion of international connections with academic institutions. Preschool Teacher Training and Business Informatics College of Applied Studies – Sirmium in Sremska Mitrovica has actively participated in preparation and implementation of projects contributing to international cooperation, especially at European level. The College was included in the preparation and implementation of the Tempus Programme Project Harmonization of Preschool Teacher Education Curricula in Serbia (TEACH, Project reference number – 544141 – Tempus-1-2013-1-RSTEMPUS-JPCR) in the period between December 2013 and November 2016. Specific project objectives were to: a) harmonize curricula through identifying the harmonization framework and developing individual harmonization plans in Preschool Teacher Education Curricula in Serbia; b) certify harmonized curricula at all participating VET colleges through re-accreditation and enrolment of the 1st generation of students; c) improve transversal skills of teachers through training of trainers (ToT sessions) and spill-over training sessions; d) improve teaching methodology and entrepreneurial competences of teachers through identifying learning outcomes and methods of achieving them. Teaching staff and students of our College actively participated in all project activities, which enabled them to gain experience and knowledge in the field of preschool teacher education in Serbia and abroad. Preschool Teacher Training and Business Informatics College of Applied Studies – Sirmium also participates in the implementation of Erasmus + programme Keep Educating Yourself (Key, Project reference number 598977-EPP-1-2018-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) focused on strengthening the roles of HEIs in ECEC CPD as well as on strengthening professional cooperation between HEIs in Serbia and abroad. In order to provide a framework for realization of mobility activities Preschool Teacher Training and Business Informatics College of Applied Studies-Sirmium is committed to prior signing of bilateral agreements. These agreements establish the roles and responsibilities of the different parties. They are based on good cooperation practices, compatibility of study programmes and they share quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception and integration of mobile participants. The Erasmus Coordinator sends agreements to the Director who is authorized to sign all agreements. The agreements are evaluated yearly to find out the number of mobilities. Having considered institutional capacities and following the institution's strategy of internationalization our Colleges permanently searches for compatible partners in European higher education institutions to collaborate in the field of mobility, as well as in the field of international EU projects. We have active institutional cooperation with Faculty of Pedagogy in Maribor (Pedagoska fakulteta, Univerza v Mariboru) and Faculty for Teacher Education in Rijeka, Uciteljski fakultet Rijeka, Sveuciliste u Rijeci/Hrvatska). Our strategy is based on strengthening institutional capacities for future involvement and implementation of the programme of Erasmus + (training and professional development of staff), as well as on involvement of teaching, administrative staff and students in activities within the framework of the Erasmus + programme based on broadening the network of active partners in the programme according to the principles of Erasmus Strategy. Our partners have been chosen in accordance with our educational objectives, which resulted in stronger internationalization and significant

exchange of knowledge and experiences in the field of early childhood education. As far as our geographical orientation of mobility of our students was considered, our attention was focused on countries in the region, but we are planning to direct future activities to the countries in other regions.