



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT: ALMA MATER EUROPAEA – EUROPEAN CENTRE, MARIBOR

Alma Mater Europaea ECM (AMEU ECM) is an independent and internationally recognised higher education institution accredited by Slovene national Agency for quality assurance NAKVIS. AMEU ECM develops education and research in the field of socially relevant and career-focused study programs, educating graduates and scientists for deficient and socially relevant professions and research in the region and EU-wide. Our study programs are relevant, up-to-date, interdisciplinary, interactive and shaped for internationalisation. AMEU ECM is committed to train graduates whose qualifications are nationally and internationally recognized, accepted and needed. AMEU ECM vision and mission are to become the leading education and research institution in Central Europe (including Danube region) and Western Balkans through the principles of internationality, interdisciplinarity and building bridges.

The main objective of AMEU ECM is to develop and implement high quality, complementary socially responsible, up-to-date and deficient, European oriented and competitive study programs, based on the needs of the economy in Slovenia, Nord-Central Europe with Danube region and Western Balkans. The aim is to serve the community as the university centre that promotes development, dissemination and usage of knowledge and research in the various fields of science. Within the framework of Erasmus+, AMEU ECM develops cooperation with European universities to acquire and implement new knowledge in the region through joint research, transfer of good practices and planning of international joint study programs. Engagement of AMEU ECM in research and higher education study programs is oriented primarily in the field of health, social gerontology, management, ecology, archives and documentation and web sciences & technologies which are important fields of research and education in the Nord-Central Europe, Danube region and the Balkans, and the main target areas of AMEU ECM's teaching, research and project activities.

Further objective of AMEU ECM is ensuring the interdisciplinarity of education and enabling of equal opportunities for all social and cultural groups regardless the socio-economic, cultural, health and habitual background and status. Therefore, the participation in Erasmus+ program is crucial for completing the objective due to system of recognition of acquired knowledge via ECTS system, automatic recognition and given financial and other support for participants involved in mobilities and other projects.

One of the most important strategic orientation is to share good practices with the rest of EU countries in order to develop high quality and up-to date courses in Slovene

and English language, to be offered also on-line, to jointly run modules and programs with partner universities and assist the non-EU Balkan countries in their endeavours with our European experience and practice through joint research, project and education. With well-established Erasmus+ network with HEI from above mentioned regions and other EU countries from South and Western Europe, AMEU ECM aims to build social bridges through international projects, research, and joint study programs, through staff and student mobility and international relationships. Our strategy also includes strengthening our links with the European Academy of Sciences and Arts from Salzburg, of which the main focus is scientific and academic development of Danube region.

Modernisation of HEI in terms of new, relevant study programs in foreign language that can be offered on-line and development of international and interdisciplinary research is of uttermost importance for AMEU ECM, starting with development and implementation of relevant study programs in English, Italian and German language, which not only broadens the horizon of participants, but also provides the AMEU ECM with international reputation and enables the international cooperation in research, education and mobility. As per now, international students from the field of Health science, Social gerontology, Archives and documentation, Management and Web sciences are offered subjects in English language, Nursing is (partly) offered in German and Physiotherapy in Italian language as well.

AMEU ECM believes modernisation of curricula and application of modern technology go hand in hand thus all lectures are recorded and placed online, with participating professors from abroad. Such system allows students to re-watch the lectures and enables distance learning. Implementation of digital technology also enable foreign researchers to more actively cooperate with the research teams formed through mobility of staff, which allows sustainability of research projects.

For fulfilment of the objectives and to follow the mission of AMEU ECM - internationalisation, interdisciplinarity and building bridges - participation in Erasmus+ program is of crucial importance, as quality can only be maintained and improved by opening up and sharing of the ideas and good practices, which can only be assured by close cooperation with partner HEI from abroad in the field of mobility, development of new joint study programs, and joint research & project activities.

Mobility and application to other Erasmus+ calls have and will continue to promote development through transfer of good practice and knowledge in both directions; our academic staff shall go abroad in order to receive international perspective and share up-to-date domestic and foreign knowledge, and foreign teachers and researchers shall be invited to share their professional findings with students and staff of AMEU ECM. By participating in the mobility, students are acquaintance with different learning approaches, enhance career possibilities, learn foreign languages, gain social and cultural capital. Welcoming incoming students from various European institutions gives AMEU ECM international experience and motivate the teachers to lecture in foreign language. As such AMEU ECM retains international recognition and adopts new modes of learning and teaching.

With inclusion in Erasmus+ programs, AMEU ECM contributes to economic and cultural development and value creation, through joint research and international projects, fulfilling the local, national and regional mission in the field of education, research, projects and cultural exchange, which corresponds its mission of interdisciplinarity, transnationality and building bridges.

