

## Erasmus Policy Statement

### DOBA EPIS d.o.o., Vocational College Maribor

DOBA EPIS d.o.o., Vocational College Maribor is a private vocational college, part of DOBA Business Group. It contributes to the development of a knowledge society through the encouragement of lifelong learning. It yearly has approximately 330 students, most of them study blended.

We are well aware that the volume of interchange, cooperation and mobility needs to be fostered in the field of education. With the development of qualitative new study programmes for a wider target group and shorter training programmes, adjusted to the needs of specific target groups (adult learners, SMS, deprived groups) we contribute to the quality of lifelong learning and to personal fulfilment and social cohesion. By implementing new learning approaches and teaching methods with the help of IT in the form of blended learning we improve the accessibility and attractiveness of our learning programmes. Our special pedagogical approaches facilitate an environment that encourages participation and integration of older students and students with special needs into the study programmes. Our study programmes are very practice oriented and designed for ambitious and innovative people who possess a strong awareness of knowledge importance and appreciate opportunities offered by lifelong learning. Students involved in our programmes increase their competitiveness in labour market and employability. In all our programmes students develop foreign languages competences, while our interdisciplinary subject raises their cross-cultural awareness.

Education quality assurance and close cooperation with economy and employers is one of the main priorities of our college. We constantly monitor and evaluate the execution of our study process and work placements. We enhance the quality of educational process and work placement conditions by consistently implementing a series of different measures, e.g. interviews with employers, surveys and questionnaires. The process of quality assurance is supported by constant and systematic self-evaluation. All quality measures are also implemented to ensure high quality in academic and student mobility.

We provide all the necessary support and counselling of outgoing and incoming students. We will continue with tutoring and integration of incoming students by providing accommodation services and language courses. Our vocational college will also provide special services for students with special needs, including counselling, information and personal tutoring.

The strategy of cooperation with educational institutions as well as companies in other EU countries, mobility of students through work placement, exchanging good practices and e-learning is an important part of our future plans. With the development of qualitative new study programmes for a wider target group and shorter training programmes, adjusted to the needs of specific target groups (adult learners, deprived groups) we contribute to the quality of lifelong learning and to personal fulfilment and social cohesion.

Our strategy defines methods of ensuring high quality education by:

- Implementing new learning approaches and teaching methods with the help of IT in the form of online/blended learning
- Improving the accessibility and attractiveness of our programmes.

- Developing special pedagogical approaches facilitate an environment that encourages participation and integration of older students and students with special needs into the study programmes. Our study programmes are very practise oriented and designed for ambitious and innovative people who possess a strong awareness of knowledge importance and appreciate opportunities offered by life long learning. Students involved in our programmes increase their competitiveness in labour market and employability.
- Creating environment in which students can develop foreign languages competences, digital skills, while our interdisciplinary subject raise their cross-cultural awareness and sense of European citizenship.
- Encouraging students to participate in the international projects, such as “Virtual mobility” and mobility through placements by providing all the necessary information and help. We encourage our students to join virtual projects which is organized by DOBA Business School and free of charge for students of the Vocational college.

The Vocational College implements distance study and thus enables the inclusion of a broader spectrum of people and of sensitive groups (women, young mothers, persons with disabilities, people living in rural areas etc.). The DOBA EPIS d.o.o. Vocational College employs modern teaching approaches and simultaneously sees to information technology strongly supporting the teaching process, which also enhances access to education, especially for employed students, both in Slovenia and abroad, and for special needs students. As implementers of the teaching process, college lecturers are responsible for the quality implementation of the process in accordance with the standards and norms of the Vocational College. The excellence of the teaching process is further increased by instructors and tutors in distance/e-study and visiting practising experts.

From the start of its operation, the DOBA EPIS d.o.o. Vocational College has been supporting the cooperation with the economy through student projects and by hosting practicing experts in the implementation of the study process. We cooperate with the Maribor Regional Chamber of Commerce with the aim of contributing to a faster development of the environment and the operation of companies in the Podravje Region and beyond, offering companies free development solutions for their operation and to facilitate the transfer of practical experiences of companies to the study process.

With KA 1 we are focusing mainly on student exchange for traineeship in order to develop students’ competencies and prepare them for the work at the globalised market. Alongside mentioned, we are also focusing of staff exchange with the aim to transfer best practices and broaden our international network (strengthening and facilitating partnerships and exchanges with international institutions that offer international programmes so as to facilitate the development of DOBA EPIS d.o.o. Vocational College).

International physical mobility of students, teachers, and staff is one of the most widely used and important means of internationalisation. It brings numerous benefits to institutions and individuals alike. DOBA EPIS d.o.o. Vocational College recognises mobility as one of the main elements for strengthening the school’s internationalisation and international openness. The college will predominantly develop physical mobility in the context of funds granted through Erasmus+.

Objectives:

- To maintain outgoing physical mobility students (for studies and traineeship) in order to develop their knowledge, competencies and contribute to their EU identity and to fully and automatically recognize their reached mobility goals (courses or traineeship).

- To maintain outgoing physical mobility of teachers and staff so as to transfer best practices from international institutions and establish international connections and continue to formally and non-formally recognize their mobility.
- To encourage students and staff/teachers from the environments with less opportunities to engage in mobility (economic status, geographical location, disabilities, ...) and ensuring additional funds to make the mobility possible (based on the DOBA EPIS d.o.o. Erasmus+ Inclusion strategy for students with fewer opportunities).
- To prepare an internationalised curriculum that responds to the diverse needs of students and encourages active cooperation with a globally connected society.
- To increase incoming teacher mobility.
- To recognize the digital, social, linguistic, etc. competencies of the participants not only in a diploma supplement but also through a badging systems, innovative certifications based on a blockchain technology ...)
- To develop the digital, linguistic and cross-cultural competency of students, academic and expert staff in the form of workshops, courses abroad, study visits to partner institutions, and mobility programmes in the context of Erasmus+.
- To digitalize the Erasmus process through European Student Card initiative (Erasmus without paper, Erasmus mobile app, ...)

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