



Academy of Technical and Art
Applied Studies Belgrade

РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
АКАДЕМИЈА ТЕХНИЧКО-УМЕТНИЧКИХ
СТРУКОВНИХ СТУДИЈА БЕОГРАД

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Erasmus Policy Statement

International Strategy

Academy of Technical and Art Applied Studies (ATUSS) has recognized internationalization of its activities as one of the most promising ways to further development. Strategy of Internationalization of ATUSS 2021-2026 and its adjacent document, Action Plan for the Realization of the Strategy of Internationalization 2021-2026 are both umbrella documents defining the main objectives of ATUSS in the domain of internationalization: <http://atuss.viser.edu.rs/en/page/internationalisation>, along with the given Erasmus Policy Statement, an embodiment of the European vision of ATUSS for the future. These documents have been supported by the Teaching and Professional Council of ATUSS and recognized by all teaching and non-teaching staff as a platform for progress.

ATUSS is striving to become an institution of higher education, research and development, which, in international terms, is a bearer of activities pertaining to the design of new, added social values, particularly with regard to quality education of competent and globally competitive experts. International two-way mobility of students and staff, as well as mutual participation in research, development and other projects with foreign partner organizations, should become regular and routine processes at ATUSS, aligned with the highlighted principles of digitalization, environmentalism and inclusion.

ATUSS aspires to achieve its vision of international status first and foremost by creating strong and productive ties with relevant partners at the international level, as well as insisting on the quality of educational activities it performs. ATUSS has mostly cooperated with European programme countries, but is also hoping to develop better partner relations with Erasmus+ partner countries from eastern Europe and Russia, southern Mediterranean and other Erasmus+ regions. It chooses its partners based on mutual interest, project objectives and the quality of work. The outcome of connecting with international partners should, above all, be international visibility, as well as recognition of the quality of educational activities at ATUSS, that is, international visibility and recognition of the competencies students acquire at ATUSS. In addition, ATUSS wishes to develop positive international status through its continuous advocating for and investment in the development of qualified human resources, with the aim of ensuring material resources and overall development of its educational, research, development and other activities.

The Strategy of Internationalization of ATUSS 2021-2026 defines four main goals of internationalization: local improvement of internationalization, increase in the rate of international mobility, improvement in cooperation with foreign HEIs, the economy and other partner institutions, as well as commitment to internationalization and international cooperation.

Local improvement of internationalization is planned through the enhancement of course content of study programmes, improvement of language skills of students/staff, increase in the number of courses offered in English, introduction of a joint-degree/double-degree master programme in cooperation with a foreign partner, introduction of foreign mentorship in master studies, improvement of international cooperation in research, development, publishing and expert/consulting activities.



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The goal of the Strategy of Internationalization 2021-2026 related to the increase in the rate of international mobility, is planned to be realised through the following activities: legal and administrative preparation for mobility projects, capacity building of the team for international mobility, improvement of services for both foreign and local mobility students, increase in positive relations with foreign HEIs in the domain of international mobility, participation in international mobility projects, promotion of ATUSS as a candidate for international mobility as well as creating databases of international mobility.

The Strategy of Internationalization of ATUSS sets the plan for the improvement of cooperation with foreign HEIs, the economy and other partner institutions through the realization of activities of joining relevant European and world programmes of international projects and relevant associations, extension of the base of potential partners for international projects, increase in the number of international projects, legal and administrative improvement of project realization, development of the platform for monitoring the realization of international projects, as well as increase in the visibility of ATUSS and its participation in international projects.

Commitment to internationalization and international cooperation will be realised through the following actions: functional, organisational and structural improvement of ATUSS, establishing a corresponding normative framework in the domain of international cooperation, permanent improvement of linguistic competencies of students and staff, providing reliable and sufficient financial means and establishing a mechanism for monitoring the processes of internationalization and development.

Strategy for the Organisation and Implementation of International (EU and non-EU) Cooperation Projects within the Framework of the Erasmus+ Programme

When it comes to the previous and ongoing international activities of ATUSS, its participation in projects has mostly been based on Tempus and Erasmus+ calls for the development of HEIs, supported by the European Commission (<http://atuss.edu.rs/en/page/internationalisation>). ATUSS is a merger of five HEIs, and, thus far, individual HEIs have had different levels of participation and experience in international projects. Department School of Electrical and Computer Engineering has taken part in three completed projects: one Tempus project (Tempus Joint Project - Curricular Reform) as a coordinator, one Tempus project (Tempus Joint Project - Higher Education and Society) as a partner and one Erasmus+ project (Action Type: Capacity Building in Higher Education) also as a partner. Department School of Electrical and Computer Engineering is currently a partner in four international Erasmus+ projects, all of which belong to the categories of Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices, and Capacity Building in Higher Education. With regard to mobility projects, the Department School of Electrical and Computer Engineering is in the process of realizing its first KA103 mobility project, with 10 outgoing students for traineeships and 5 outgoing staff for teaching and training. Department Textile School of Design, Technology and Management participated in one Erasmus+ project as a partner institution in its domain of activities and is a participant in a cluster working on the introduction of a dual-education programme. Department School Railroad Transport was a participant in one Tempus project, with a focus on capacity building in vocational studies in higher education, in 2011. In May 2021, a new submission was made by ATUSS for KA131 mobility projects, for both students and staff.



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ATUSS is working on the formation of a new team of staff working on international cooperation from each of its Departments. Since the establishment of ATUSS, the team for international cooperation has consisted of international cooperation staff from the Department School of Electrical and Computer Engineering - Coordinator for International Cooperation, Coordinator for Mobility, Academic ECTS Coordinator, staff from the legal and accounting departments, as well as two student representatives, both serving to facilitate communication between ATUSS, Student Parliament and students themselves. The above-mentioned team had the task to prepare the regulatory framework for future mobility projects, design all mobility documents and process their adoption by the Teaching and Professional Council of ATUSS. ATUSS adopted a general act, Rulebook on International Mobility, defining the conditions and procedures for the realization of international mobility of students and staff. What is more, with the aim of creating a quality legal framework for the realization of future projects, ATUSS also adopted the document titled Language Policy of ATUSS, enabling the possibility of having one portion of studies at ATUSS realized in the English language, as well as the document titled Rules and Conditions for Selection of Students and Employees for International Mobility, enabling transparency and clear rules for ranking international mobility candidates.

Along with the Strategy of Internationalization 2021-2026, ATUSS also adopted the Action Plan for the Realization of the Strategy of Internationalization 2021-2026, further planning legal and administrative support for the realization of international projects, as well as the development of a platform for project monitoring and the enhancement of project visibility and outcomes.

ATUSS is actively working on its participation in Erasmus+ projects Key Action 2. As mentioned before, a submission for participation in KA131 mobility projects has already been sent. Given the decline of Covid 19 in Europe and the new Erasmus+ call being open, ATUSS is in constant communication and correspondence with its future project partners. There has been significant interest in Key Action 2: Centres of Vocational Excellence, Key Action 2: Knowledge Alliances, but also Jean Monnet projects from the partners in Russia. Our project focus remains on transversal skills, developed in cooperation with businesses and the economy, which is of particular importance to ATUSS, bearing in mind the applied nature of its study programmes. Special emphasis is also laid on projects improving teaching methodology, exchange of good practices at the European level and strategic partnerships, both large and small, in applied studies. Developments in these areas of international cooperation at ATUSS have been specifically set out in the previously mentioned Strategy of Internationalization 2021-2026 and the adjacent Action Plan for the Realization of the Strategy of Internationalization.

Modernization Agenda

Through its participation in international projects thus far, ATUSS has invested efforts to ensure quality and productive cooperation with partners from local and foreign institutions of higher education, but also with economic and other organizations. Through the experience gained thus far, ATUSS has significantly improved its total capacity and potential - it has had, and is still having, new study programmes accredited at all levels of studies, provided significant resources for the enhancement of the teaching process and developed invaluable relations with partner institutions while working on projects, particularly when it comes to foreign partners.

Owing to its participation in Tempus and Erasmus+ projects, ATUSS has greatly improved its laboratory equipment, modernized the process of teaching and learning, managed to bring together




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theory and practice, develop professional competencies of its staff and intensified the feeling of European identity. Both teaching and non-teaching staff have learned about the advantages and benefits of participating in EU programmes and are motivated to contribute to new initiatives. As a result of project realization, ATUSS initiated several new study programmes in undergraduate, specialization and master applied studies. Due to its extensive participation in higher-education projects, ATUSS has become actively involved in the general improvement of higher education in Serbia and become one of the first institutions of higher education to have pilot short-cycle study programmes and extended study programmes. What is more, due to the vocational nature of its educational activities, ATUSS has taken part in national development of teaching methodology in higher education, as well as better cooperation between HEIs and the economy.

In the upcoming future, ATUSS is planning to stay on its project course and keep developing partnerships for Erasmus+ KA2 projects and KA1 mobility projects with both programme and partner countries. One of our most important goals is not only to encourage and realize two-way mobility and bring foreign students to ATUSS, but also to host foreign lecturers and give our staff a chance to develop themselves professionally abroad and hold lectures at European HEIs. Finally, in light of overall modernization, ATUSS is joining the initiative "Erasmus Without Paper - EWP", which involves full digitalization of mobility processes and transition to online platforms and documents, thus contributing to environmental efforts highlighted in all actions of the Erasmus+ programme. While pursuing engagement in the Erasmus+ programme and its actions, ATUSS will continue enhancing the skills of all students and staff and strengthening ties with other national, regional and international partners, with the view of contributing to further development of education at ATUSS, and, at the same time, of an efficient and effective higher education system in the Republic of Serbia.

President of the Academy of Technical and Art Applied Studies


Dr Vera Petrovic, prof. of applied studies