

Document title:

Academic Mobility

**ACTION PLAN AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2018**

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INTRODUCTION

In its activities, the University of Niš (hereinafter: the University) is primarily responsible for the faculties in its composition as well as for its environment, in terms of understanding general interests of the society in which it operates and participating in its overall development. In the realization of its activities, including academic mobility, the University is, unfortunately, faced with numerous limitations and dangers, such as:

- limited material resources received from the state due to the complex and highly variable socio-economic environment (low level of allocations for the processes of higher education and scientific and artistic work);
- lack of optimum conditions for the modernization of higher education through the development and implementation of new study programs, the improvement of management practices through the integration of the functions of the University, and the initiation of various forms of cooperation between higher education institutions and the society as a whole;
- inability to create an optimal environment for scientific and artistic work;
- insufficient cooperation with top foreign higher education institutions.

The lack of significant material resources of the state in support of increasingly extensive activities requires the University to rely more heavily on the possibility of providing stable and regular sources of financing and their use for sustainable development, as well as intensifying activities related to the participation in new international projects.

Starting from the objectives of national policy on academic mobility and national programs of academic mobility in higher education, the University has adopted the Academic Mobility Strategy ("Official Gazette of the University of Niš" No 5/2015). For the establishment and implementation of the Academic Mobility Strategy, the University defines the following Action Plan for the period 2015-2018:

PROMOTION OF THE ACADEMIC MOBILITY STRATEGY

- Promoting the Academic Mobility Strategy, primarily to the academic public of the University, but also to the scientific and wider community.

- Organizing activities for further affirmation of the University and its Academic Mobility Strategy in the global higher education area, and especially in Europe.
- Promoting opportunities for strengthening the competencies, knowledge and skills through academic mobility programs for the teaching staff.
- Proposing measures to increase the motivation of academic staff for the use of some form of academic mobility.
- Promoting examples of good practice from already realized mobilities within completed or current international projects.
- Promoting the importance of the academic mobility network.

Responsible: Vice-Rector for International Relations, International Relations Office, institutional coordinator for academic mobilities (at the University level), academic mobility coordinators (at the faculties).

Time limit: end of 2015

PROGRAMMING ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACADEMIC MOBILITY STRATEGY

- Establishing principles and a comprehensive organizational structure responsible for the academic mobility implementation.
- Adopting the principle that academic mobility will be, as a rule, embedded in research programs, strategic programs, individual programs and specified mobility programs.
- Establishing general principles that encourage the academic staff incoming and outgoing mobility.
- Establishing general principles to encourage specific types of incoming teacher mobility (e.g. mobility of foreign-language instructors). Financing of such forms of mobility should, as a rule, be ensured from the funds of international cooperation programs.
- Establishing general principles that stimulate outgoing mobility aimed at studying the language and culture of the host country, especially when there are financial prerequisites for the realization of such mobility.
- Adopting appropriate acts and constituting relevant organs and bodies.

Responsible: Vice-Rector for International Relations, Center for International Relations and International Relations Office, Interface Center.

Time limit: first half of 2016

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACADEMIC MOBILITY STRATEGY

- Amendments to the relevant general documents of the University, or the faculties in its composition, with the purpose of efficient planning and realization of academic mobility.
- Defining the competencies of the existing bodies of the University whose scope of work includes academic mobility.
- Establishing, if necessary, new organs and bodies for the monitoring and development of academic mobility with a clear definition of their scope of work, their competencies, powers and working methods.
- Creation and implementation (at the university and faculty levels) of a system of institutional support to academic staff intending to use some form of academic mobility.
- Carrying out the process of evaluation of the mobilities realized so far.
- Removing obstacles at different levels, which will lead to a significant expansion of academic mobility at the University.
- Creation and implementation of a system for systematic monitoring of mobility. The University will form at least two databases for systematic mobility monitoring:
 - (a) on scholarships and financial forms of mobility support,
 - (b) on the realized mobility of academic staff.
- Continuous and systematic securing of balanced academic mobility at the University.
- Continuous and systematic improvement of conditions and mechanisms for the realization of all types of academic mobility.
- Providing an improved system of information on academic mobility (in the form of appropriate publications in printed or electronic form, or on the University website).

Responsible: Vice-Rector for International Relations, International Relations Office at the University, international relations offices within faculties, contact persons for mobility programs within faculties.

Time limit: second half of 2016

IMPROVEMENT OF THE ACADEMIC MOBILITY STRATEGY

- Harmonization of the basic principles of academic mobility with the strategic orientation of our country and the European goals related to the exchange of higher-education and scientific potentials.

- Innovation of action plans for the implementation of the Academic Mobility Strategy.
- Continuous planning, formation and expansion of the academic mobility network.
- Insisting that academic mobility be planned and embedded in the Program of Scientific, Research and Artistic Work at the University.
- Introduction of different types of transfers of scientific-research results, new technologies and innovation of teaching staff through the realization of some form of academic mobility within the Center for Technology Transfer.
- Based on the annual report on the realization of academic mobility, reviewing and improvement of the conditions and mechanisms for better implementation of all forms of academic mobility.
- Increasing the efficiency of collecting and disseminating data on activities related to academic mobility.
- Conducting periodic analyses of the results of realized (incoming and outgoing) academic mobilities in order to propose corrective activities in the action plans.
- Undertaking activities to raise the operation level of scientific research laboratories through maximum use of available resources of national funds, European and international projects and foundations, in order to increase the affirmation of the University and its faculties for forthcoming academic mobilities.
- Strengthening institutional contacts with foreign universities to create new opportunities for different forms of academic mobility.
- Encouraging and promoting the scientific, research, artistic and professional activities of Alumni members through the realization of certain forms of academic mobility.
- Permanently improving the transparency of all relevant information and data related to academic mobility activities.

Responsible: Senate, Rector's office, Deans' offices, Center for International Relations.

Time limit: permanent activity