



## Erasmus Policy Statement

**SASS** is committed to the principles of the Programme, intending to achieve the objectives of the EU modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education by participating in the following activities:

1. **Student and staff mobility** (within Europe and / or to / from Third Countries), which may also include the development of joint master's degrees.
2. **Strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances and capacity building** with neighbouring countries, capacity building with Third Countries.
3. **Networks and policy support measures.**

The modernisation and internationalisation strategy of SASS is linked to the objectives of the European Union's modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education and the overall Strategic Plan of SASS 2015-2020. The SASS Strategic Plan includes the following key strategic goals, which are all closely linked to the policies of internationalisation, with the particular emphasis on students and staff mobility.

1. **Scientific, R&D excellence:** academic staff mobility in particular in terms of teaching and research, building partnership and networks with EU and non-EU institutions of higher education is a necessary condition for high quality R&D; consequently, academic staff mobility is also a part of the criteria to be elected to the positions of assistant, associate and full professors.
2. **Study excellence:** the option of short term mobility is offered to all students at all levels of study at SASS as a clear precondition of a high quality educational process.
3. **Business excellence:** providing mobility to the SASS support staff significantly contributes to their experience being able to learn from good practices of other EU and non-EU institutions of higher education. Moreover, the practices of students and staff mobility should be implemented in line with the principles of organisational excellence and with the corresponding transparency.
4. **Students' satisfaction:** students' mobility is seen as significantly contributing to the satisfaction of the students with their study while providing them with important additional skills, cultural and social capital.
5. **Satisfaction of the clients to whom SASS R&D projects are provided:** high quality R&D projects are much more likely when provided by the highly internationalised and mobile academic staff being able to benefit from exchanging good practices among the EU and non-EU institutions of higher education.
6. **Employees' satisfaction:** the options of staff mobility significantly contribute not only to their competences, social and cultural capital but also to their work satisfaction – both for academic and support staff.
7. **Cooperation with the societal environment and social responsibility:** European and international partnerships of SASS are complemented by strong partnerships with the national and local environments, including the local community, business sector and NGOs.

Based on these strategic orientations, SASS strategic priorities are the following:

- a) Choosing partners is based on the following main criteria:
- (1) quality of the institution of higher education, particularly in terms of the established rankings of the academic institutions;
  - (2) thematic focuses of the institution of higher education in terms of compatibility of the study programmes and research interests with the ones at SASS; particular emphasis is given to the institutions with strong emphasis on social sciences and interdisciplinary orientations;
  - (3) mutual interest of institutions of higher education to provide high quality mobility programmes to both students and staff in both directions.
- b) Geographical areas: no geographical areas are excluded from potential cooperation. Most of the partners have been chosen from:
- (1) East-Central Europe
  - (2) EU countries in general
  - (3) Other, non-EU countries, particularly USA.
- c) the most important objectives and target groups of the mobility activities: are based on the SASS Strategic Plan 2015-2020 as described above. The key priorities based on that include:
- (1) Staff mobility is the necessity for all the academic staff and a highly recommended option for the support staff. Only internationally mobile academic staff will be able to be elected to the positions of assistant, associate and full professors based on the new criteria of SASS. Student mobility is an option that should be provided.
  - (2) Student mobility should be provided at all cycles. The priority is given to the second cycle – but without excluding these options for the first and third cycles as well.
  - (3) Because of the nature of most of the study programmes at SASS the key priority has been given to study related mobility and less so to the training related mobility.

Due to the development of new – more practically and training related study programmes at SASS – the need for training related mobility is expected to increase at SASS. The development of double/multiple/joint degrees is an option that may be considered.

Nova Gorica, 22.6.2015

