In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the ECHE Guidelines for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff	☒

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices	☒
Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities	☐
Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees	☐
Partnerships for Innovation	☐

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:	☐

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the

goal of building a European Education Area[1] and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Slovak Medical University in Bratislava is the only university in Slovakia that provides monothematic education for healthcare professions in all three degrees of higher education, and at the same time, the only institution that guarantees complex education of healthcare specialists (postgraduate education) in Slovakia. Internationalisation is considered one of the key pillars of the development tools of the universities. The Erasmus Programme represents the major channel in terms of internationalisation and modernisation of cooperation with partners from abroad for Slovak Medical University in Bratislava. Our institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy is based on strengthening the relationships and cooperation with partners from the same field of expertise. In our institutional strategy we acknowledge the indispensable contribution of mobile students and staff, and of participation in European and international cooperation projects, to the quality of our higher education programmes and overall student and staff experience. Within our strategy, the main focus is given to our institutional effort to achieve the objectives via mobility of individual students and staff members and via cooperation with institutions and organizations targeted on the field of medicine and healthcare. International cooperation and mobility flows form the key element of our institutional policy towards the goal of modernisation of our university and sustainable and balanced outcomes for all partners and participants. It would bring us not only broader international acknowledgement, but also development in the fields of research and scientific projects. Thanks to this approach the Slovak Medical University in Bratislava contributes also to building European Education Area through promotion and support of following means and methods: mobility experience of individuals (physical as well as blended and virtual), development of linguistic competences (we run full degree in General Medicine in Slovak and English language respectively, which bring to our institution high degree of internationalisation at home and helps us to create really multicultural learning environment and respect cultural diversity), encouragement towards inclusive education and common European values having in mind fair and equal opportunities for all potential participants including those with special needs and from lower socio-economic background and advocacy for digital skills and green solutions. By implementing the European Education Area priorities we will facilitate the modernisation of our institution thanks to digital mobility management in frames of European Student Card Initiative, promotion of environmentally friendly practices (strongly linked with all the digital and paperless infrastructure), support for participants with fewer opportunities as well as the overall civic engagement raising the multicultural awareness and active citizenship (we would like to include example of good practice for future reference; during coronavirus crisis in 2020 our students helped in hospitals, medical centres, social care facilities,...).

Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita v Bratislave je jedinou univerzitou na Slovensku, ktorá poskytuje monotematické vzdelávanie v zdravotníckych a lekárskych povolaniach vo všetkých troch stupňoch vysokoškolského vzdelávania a zároveň je jedinou inštitúciou, ktorá zaručuje komplexné vzdelávanie zdravotníckych odborníkov (postgraduálne štúdium)na Slovensku. Internacionalizácia je považovaná za jeden z kľúčových pilierov a nástrojov rozvoja univerzít. Program Erasmus pre Slovenskú zdravotnícku univerzitu v Bratislave predstavuje hlavný kanál z pohľadu internacionalizácie a modernizácie spolupráce so zahraničnými partnermi. Naša stratégia internacionalizácie a modernizácie je založená na posilňovaní vzťahov a spolupráce s partnermi z rovnakej oblasti odbornosti. V našej inštitucionálnej stratégii uznávame nevyhnutný prínos mobilít študentov a zamestnancov a účasť na projektoch európskej a medzinárodnej spolupráce na kvalitu našich programov vysokoškolského vzdelávania a na celkovú skúsenosť a spokojnosť študentov a zamestnancov na SZU. V rámci našej stratégie sa hlavný dôraz kladie na naše inštitucionálne úsilie o dosiahnutie cieľov prostredníctvom mobilít jednotlivých študentov a zamestnancov a prostredníctvom spolupráce s inštitúciami a organizáciami zameranými na oblasť medicíny a zdravotnej starostlivosti. Toky medzinárodnej spolupráce a mobility sú kľúčovým prvkom našej inštitucionálnej politiky smerom k cieľu modernizácie našej univerzity a udržateľných a vyvážených výsledkov pre všetkých partnerov a účastníkov. Predpokladaným prínosom je nielen širšie medzinárodné uznanie, ale aj rozvoj v oblasti výskumu a vedeckých projektov. Vďaka tomuto prístupu Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita v Bratislave prispieva aj k budovaniu európskeho vzdelávacieho priestoru prostredníctvom propagácie a podpory nasledujúcich prostriedkov a metód: účasť na individuálnych mobilitách (fyzických aj zmiešaných a virtuálnych), rozvoj jazykových kompetencií (ponúkame kompletný pregraduálny študijný program v odbore všeobecné lekárstvo v slovenskom a anglickom jazyku, ktorý prináša našej inštitúcii vysoký stupeň internacionalizácie na domácej pôde, pomáha nám vytvárať skutočne multikultúrne vzdelávacie prostredie a rešpektovať kultúrnu rozmanitosť), povzbudzovanie k inkluzívnemu vzdelávaniu a spoločným európskym hodnotám so zreteľom na spravodlivosť a rovnosť príležitosti pre všetkých potenciálnych účastníkov vrátane účastníkov so špecifickými potrebami a so slabším sociálno-ekonomickým zázemím a podpora digitálnych zručností a ekologických riešeni. Realizáciou priorít európskeho vzdelávacieho priestoru uľahčíme modernizáciu našej inštitúcie vďaka manažmentu a administrácii mobilít v digitálnej podobe v rámci portfólia nástrojov European Student Card Initiative, podporíme postupy a prístupy šetrné k životnému prostrediu (úzko prepojenie s digitálnou a bezpapierovou infraštruktúrou), podporíme účastníkov s obmedzeným počtom príležitosti, ako aj občiansku angažovanosť za účelom zvýšenia multikultúrneho povedomia a aktívneho občianstva (radi by sme uviedli príklad

[1] For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

osvedčených postupov pre budúce využitie; počas koronavírusovej krízy v roku 2020 naši študenti pomáhali v nemocniciach, zdravotníckych zariadeniach, zariadeniach sociálnych služieb, ...).

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Slovak Medical University in Bratislava would like to take a part in the Erasmus Key Action 1, learning mobility of higher education students and staff and Erasmus Key Action 2, cooperation among organisations and institutions namely Partnership for Cooperation and exchange of practices. When implementing the abovementioned actions in practice of our university, we will undertake the following steps. Our university will respect the principles of inclusion, transparency, non-discrimination, while ensuring equal and equitable access and opportunities to all prospective and current participants. We will select participants, administer the mobility activities and award financial support in a fair, transparent and documented way. We will follow not only the European and national regulation, but also our internal university guidelines and regulation already in effect related to the Erasmus Programme. We will pay particular attention to the participants with fewer opportunities, providing assistance, support and guidance via university coordinator for students and staff with fewer opportunities. This coordinator deals with all matters related to individuals with special needs as an inclusion counsellor, responsible for development of learning and teaching techniques adapted to students with special needs. Having in mind various socio-economic background of our students our university awards each year motivational scholarships. Every year we try to amplify and improve our set of online learning tools and materials. We adhere to the rules set out by European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System and we recognise all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during mobility period abroad towards the degree. We pay special attention on preparing the Learning Agreements of our students, because after confirming the credits by Transcript of Records/Certificate from Traineeship the process of credit transfer is smooth and there are no delays. Our university Erasmus Programme Guidelines describe the path for Erasmus Programme administrators, students and staff how to manage the recognition of credits. At the faculty level, the Erasmus Faculty Coordinator is responsible for signing the Learning Agreement and later on for the management of the credit recognition and transfer. Course Catalogue of the Slovak Medical University is published on the official website (https://mstudent.szu.sk/maisportal/studijneProgramy.mais?lang=en) and is updated regularly. We provide study programmes in Slovak and English. Our course catalogue shows courses taught in Slovak and courses taught in English. Incoming mobile students only choose the study programme in Slovak or English language, later on all the courses within the respective study programme are open for the mobile students. This way we achieve high degree of integration of incoming students into academic community, university life and events and strengthen the internationalisation at home. Erasmus participants act as ambassadors of mobility and share their experience with wide university community. Our Course Catalogue consists also of the archive section, which enables easy tracking of changes in study programmes. On the university webpage we published the information regarding the grading system, in order to ensure transparency on recognition and grade conversion and provide information regarding the statistical distribution of grades. We will implement the new digital infrastructure build by European Student Card Initiative. We very much look forward to the new online version of the Learning Agreements, Inter-Institutional Agreements, nomination and acceptance letters and Transcripts of Records. We believe it will bring into our everyday practice easy administration of the mobility of individuals as well as it will help to set up new environmentally friendly practices and lessen the amount of hard paperwork. We may declare, that the students practically live online on the Internet, it will be mutually beneficial for all parties related within the administration of Erasmus Programme to promote Erasmus mobile App in order facilitate the overall Erasmus experience for our students. To work within the healthcare sector might be considered more as a life mission that an average job. Civic engagement is directly intertwined within the medical professions, we lead our students to active citizenship. Students from the Slovak Medical University already demonstrate their qualities through their volunteering activities (help in the hospitals, in the National Blood Centre, retirement homes, etc.). The management and administration of the Erasmus Programme, its mobility activities and projects, is carried out by cooperation of different levels of the university structure. The overall coordination is given by the Erasmus University Coordinator and the International Relations Office, then on the faculty level we appoint Erasmus Faculty Coordinator for each faculty, who works in close cooperation with the respective Study Department. In order to achieve smooth administration, all the Erasmus units cooperate with Financial Department, Human Resources, Public Relation and IT Support. Our goal is to implement on-going dissemination of results, sustainability and recognition of the outcomes. International mobility of university staff is integral part of professional development of our employees. University actively supports the mobile staff, for example via temporary replacement or online teaching tools. Mobility activities are recognised by Human Resources during annual assessment of the university staff. Participation in European and international cooperation projects is integral part of our modernisation and internationalisation strategy. We recognize this project cooperation benefits our institution, our partners and also wider academia, having in mind the sustainability of the project outcomes and transferable and reusable results. Visibility and dissemination are provided by the university webpage. Project ideas in line with our subject area priorities (medical and healthcare sector) and institutional capacities presented by our staff are supported by administrative back up by Financial Department and Project Support Department, because the participation in project is considered one of the best way to boost university modernisation.

Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita v Bratislave má záujem realizovať Erasmus kľúčovú akciu 1, vzdelávacie mobility študentov a zamestnancov vysokých škôl a Erasmus kľúčovú akciu 2, spolupráca medzi organizáciami a inštitúciami,

konkrétne Partnerstvá za účelom spolupráce a výmeny osvedčených postupov. Pri realizácii vyššie uvedených akcií v praxi našej univerzity podnikneme nasledujúce kroky. Naša univerzita bude rešpektovať zásady inklúzie, transparentnosti, nediskriminácie a zároveň zabezpečí rovnaký a spravodlivý prístup a príležitosti pre všetkých budúcich a súčasných účastníkov. Výber účastníkov, manažment mobilít a poskytovanie finančnú podpory bude prebiehať spravodlivým, transparentným a zdokumentovaným spôsobom. Budeme sa riadiť nielen európskou a vnútroštátnou reguláciou, ale aj našimi vnútornými univerzitnými smernicami a predpismi, ktoré sme už prijali pre program Erasmus. Osobitnú pozornosť budeme venovať účastníkom s obmedzenými príležitosťami, poskytovaním pomoci, podpory a poradenstva prostredníctvom univerzitného koordinátora pre študentov a zamestnancov s obmedzenými príležitosťami. Tento koordinátor sa zaoberá všetkými záležitosťami týkajúcimi sa jednotlivcov so špecifickými potrebami ako inkluzívny poradca zodpovedný za rozvoj učebných a vyučovacích techník prispôsobených študentom so špecifickými potrebami. S ohľadom na rôzne sociálno-ekonomické zázemie našich študentov udeľuje naša univerzita každý rok motivačné štipendiá. Pravidelne sa snažíme rozširovať a zlepšovať náš súbor online učebných nástrojov a materiálov. Dodržiavame pravidlá stanovené v rámci Európskeho systému prenosu a zhromažďovania kreditov a uznávame všetky kredity získané za výsledky vzdelávania dosiahnuté počas obdobia mobility v zahraničí. Osobitnú pozornosť venujeme príprave dohôd o vzdelávaní našich študentov, pretože po potvrdení kreditov prostredníctvom výpisu výsledkov štúdia / certifikátu zo stáže je proces prenosu kreditov plynulý a nedochádza k žiadnym oneskoreniam. Naša univerzitná smernica pre program Erasmus popisuje postup pre administrátorov programu Erasmus, študentov a zamestnancov, ako zabezpečiť správne uznávanie kreditov. Na fakultnej úrovni je Erasmus fakultný koordinátor zodpovedný za prípravu a podpísanie dohody o štúdiu/stáži a následne za správne uznanie a prenos kreditov. Katalóg kurzov Slovenskej lekárskej univerzity je uverejnený na oficiálnej webovej stránke (https://mstudent.szu.sk/maisportal/studijneProgramy.mais?lang=sk) a je pravidelne aktualizovaný. Poskytujeme študijné programy v slovenskom a anglickom jazyku. V našom katalógu kurzov sú obsiahnuté predmety vyučované v slovenskom jazyku a predmety vyučované v anglickom jazyku. Prichádzajúci mobilitní študenti si vyberajú iba študijný program v slovenskom alebo anglickom jazyku, neskôr sú pre všetkých mobilitných študentov otvorené všetky predmety v príslušnom študijnom programe. Týmto spôsobom dosahujeme vysoký stupeň integrácie prichádzajúcich študentov do akademickej obce, univerzitného života, prebiehajúcich podujatí a posilňujeme internacionalizáciu na domácej pôde. Účastníci programu Erasmus pôsobia ako ambasádori a propagátori mobility a zdieľajú svoje skúsenosti so širokou univerzitnou komunitou. Náš katalóg kurzov obsahuje aj archív, ktorý umožňuje jednoduché sledovanie zmien v študijných programoch. Na webovej stránke univerzity máme zverejnené informácie týkajúce sa systému klasifikácie, aby sme zabezpečili transparentnosť pri uznávaní a konverzii hodnotenia a aby sme poskytovali informácie týkajúce sa štatistického rozdelenia známok. S príchodom nového cyklu programu Erasmus budeme implementovať novú digitálnu infraštruktúru vybudovanú European Student Card Initiative. Veľmi sa tešíme na novú online verziu dohôd o vzdelávaní, medziinštitucionálnych dohôd, nominačných a akceptačných listov a výpisov výsledkov vzdelávania. Veríme, že digitalizácia prinesie do našej každodennej praxe jednoduchšiu správu mobilít, pomôže nám pri zavádzaní nových postupov šetrných k životnému prostrediu a zníži množstvo dokumentácie v papierovej podobe. Dovolíme si tvrdiť, že študenti prakticky žijú v online priestore na internete. Propagácia mobilnej aplikáciu Erasmus bude prospešné pre všetky strany zúčastnené na realizácii mobilít v rámci programu Erasmus. Našim študentom tak uľahčíme povinnosti spojené s účasťou na mobilite a zvýšime celkové pozitívne skúsenosti s programom Erasmus. Práca v sektore zdravotníctva by sa dala považovať skôr za životné poslanie ako za bežnú prácu. Občianska angažovanosť je priamo prepojená s lekárskym a zdravotníckym povolaním. Našich študentov vedieme k aktívnemu občianstvu. Študenti Slovenskej zdravotníckej univerzity sa pravidelne zapájajú a organizujú dobrovoľnícke aktivity (pomoc v nemocniciach, v Národnej transfúznej službe, domovoch seniorov, atď.) Riadenie a správa programu Erasmus, jeho mobilít a projektov sa uskutočňuje prostredníctvom spolupráce na rôznych úrovniach univerzitnej štruktúry. Celkovú koordináciu zabezpečuje Erasmus univerzitný koordinátor a referát medzinárodných vzťahov, na úrovni fakulty program zastrešuje Erasmus fakultný koordinátor, ktorý úzko spolupracuje s príslušným študijným oddelením. Za účelom dosiahnutia efektívnej administratívy, všetky Erasmus oddelenia na univerzite spolupracujú s finančným oddelením, ľudskými zdrojmi, mediálnym odborom a IT podporou. Naším cieľom je zabezpečiť kvalitnú propagáciu, udržateľnosť a uznávanie výsledkov dosiahnutých v rámci Erasmus. Medzinárodná mobilita zamestnancov univerzity je neoddeliteľnou súčasťou profesijného rozvoja našich zamestnancov. Univerzita aktívne podporuje pracovníkov k účasti na mobilitách, napríklad prostredníctvom kolegiálneho dočasného zastupovania alebo využitím online učebných nástrojov. Oddelenie ľudských zdrojov prihliada na účasť na mobilite pri každoročnom hodnotení zamestnancov univerzity. Účasť na projektoch európskej a medzinárodnej spolupráce je neoddeliteľnou súčasťou našej stratégie modernizácie a internacionalizácie. Uvedomujeme si, že spolupráca na projektoch je prínosom nielen pre našu inštitúciu, našich partnerov ale tiež pre širšiu akademickú obec (majúc na pamäti udržateľnosť výsledkov projektu a prenosné a opakovane použiteľné výsledky). Zviditeľnenie a šírenie informácií sú zabezpečované prostredníctvom univerzitnej webovej stránky. Projektové zámery predložené našimi zamestnancami v súlade s našimi prioritami v oblasti lekárskych a zdravotníckych vied a inštitucionálnymi kapacitami sú podporované administratívne zo strany finančného oddelenia a oddelenia podpory projektov, pretože účasť na projektoch považujeme za jeden z najlepších spôsobov ako podporiť modernizáciu našej univerzity.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these

languages)

Erasmus Programme represents the cornerstone for modernisation and internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions in Slovakia. Learning mobility activities and project cooperation help to amplify professional, intercultural and social skills of the participants as well as their employability qualities. Our participation in the Erasmus Programme will improve the overall student academic experience during studies, their career options and employability status during professional life. By taking part in the Erasmus Programme, the universities strengthen the overall European identity not only for the active mobile participants, but also for the participants benefiting from internationalisation at home via visits of teaching and training staff from abroad. The mobility activities and project collaboration refine the language competence of the participants, moreover even language learning material might be the products of such cooperation (for example our own Erasmus Strategic Partnership Projects HELP and HELP2 providing learning material of English and German for medical/healthcare purposes). Through staff mobility activities, our teachers will get to know new teaching methods and techniques, which can be implemented later on in our university curricula and learning process. The overall quality of the education is closely linked with internationalisation at home and ability to join new network and increase the openness towards new collaborations. All abovementioned is possible thanks to opportunities given by the Erasmus Programme and all the goal of being mobile. Our university support all our students and staff towards being active within the framework of the Erasmus Programme. We promote the Erasmus Programme actions on our webpage as well as during academic events. Erasmus managements units, Project Support Department, Human Resources, Financial Department and IT Support of our university are strongly focused on quality of the implementation of the Erasmus Programme. We believe that with the launch of new Erasmus digital infrastructure, we will provide our students not only with better and more user friendly services via Erasmus mobile App and Erasmus Dashboard, but we will also implement new environmentally friendly approach in management and administration of the Erasmus Programme. Online and green approach will impact the management of project cooperation due to regular online meetings and conferences. The quality and overall satisfaction with the Erasmus Programme activities will be monitored through surveys. Replies will be analysed yearly and will serve as a basis for the review of further progress. We hope that in frames of our international strategy and Erasmus Programme Actions we will be able to increase our involvement in the cooperation project and amplify the number of Inter-Institutional Agreements with future partners from the field of medicine and healthcare. Currently we find our closest relationships with institutions from Czech Republic, Poland, Italy and Germany. In the upcoming Erasmus Programme cycle, we would like to increase the mobility flows for individual mobility activities, as well as to develop new cooperation for project purposes and help this way to boost the modernisation and internationalisation of the Slovak Medical University. We acknowledge that in order to bring new ideas to our academic environment we have to facilitate the exchange of staff and students and to encourage collaboration on projects. Our goal is to support these target activities not only with help of International Relations Office but with contribution from all section of the university management and services (Financial Department, IT, HR, PR). We trust that our support methods, targeted counselling via university coordinator for students and staff with fewer opportunities and scholarships will help us to carry out more mobility activities of participants with fewer opportunities. Sustainability and long-term impact of the project is the crucial element of the project. Our strategy in order to achieve it, is to prepare needs analysis before applying for the project. This way will have the general idea how the outcomes of the future project might be used and how we can implement these future outcomes to the university curricula, good practices, learning techniques or area of science and research.

Program Erasmus predstavuje základný stavebný prvok modernizácie a internacionalizácie vysokých škôl na Slovensku. Vzdelávacie mobility a projektová spolupráca pomáhajú rozširovať odborné, medzikultúrne a sociálne zručnosti účastníkov, ako aj ich schopnosti a možnosti zamestnať sa. Naša účasť v programe Erasmus zlepší celkové akademické skúsenosti študentov počas štúdia, ich možnosti kariérneho rastu a status počas profesionálneho života. Účasťou na programe Erasmus univerzity posilňujú celkovú európsku identitu nielen pre aktívnych účastníkov mobilít, ale aj pre účastníkov, ktorí profitujú prostredníctvom internacionalizácie na pôde domácej univerzity vďaka návštevám učiteľov a expertov zo zahraničia. Mobilita a spolupráca na projektoch zvyšujú jazykové kompetencie účastníkov. Produktom samotnej Erasmus projektovej spolupráce môžu byť aj materiály na štúdium jazykov (napríklad naše vlastné projekty strategického partnerstva v rámci programu Erasmus HELP a HELP2, ktoré vytvorili vzdelávacie materiály v angličtine a nemčine na lekárske/zdravotnícke účely). Prostredníctvom mobilít zamestnancov sa naši učitelia zoznámia s novými vyučbovými metódami a technikami, ktoré môžu byť následne implementované do našich univerzitných učebných osnov a do samotného výučbového procesu. Celková kvalita vzdelávania úzko súvisí s internacionalizáciou doma, so schopnosťou sieťovania, nadväzovaním nových kontaktov a otvoreným prístupom k novým spoluprácam. Všetko vyššie uvedené je možné vďaka príležitostiam, ktoré poskytuje program Erasmus. Našim všeobecným cieľom je podpora mobilitných tokov. Naša univerzita podporuje všetkých študentov a zamestnancov v tom, aby boli aktívni v rámci programu Erasmus. Akcie programu Erasmus propagujeme na našej webovej stránke, ako aj počas akademických podujatí. Administrátori programu Erasmus, oddelenie podpory projektov, oddelenie ľudských zdrojov, finančné oddelenie a IT podpora našej univerzity sa zameriavajú na kvalitnú realizáciu aktivít v rámci programu Erasmus. Veríme, že so zavedením novej digitálnej infraštruktúry Erasmus poskytneme našim študentom nielen lepšie a užívateľsky príjemnejšie služby prostredníctvom mobilnej aplikácie Erasmus a Erasmus Dashboard, ale implementujeme aj nový prístup šetrný k životnému prostrediu v rámci manažmentu programu Erasmus. Online manažment a ekologický prístup ovplyvní chod projektovej spolupráce v dôsledku pravidelných online stretnutí a konferencií. Kvalita a celková spokojnosť s aktivitami v rámci programu Erasmus sa budú monitorovať prostredníctvom prieskumov. Odpovede sa budú analyzovať každý rok a budú slúžiť ako základ pre ďalšie zlepšovanie. Dúfame, že v rámci našej stratégie internacionalizácie a akcií programu Erasmus sa nám podarí zvýšiť účasť na projektovej spolupráci a navýšiť počet medziinštitucionálnych dohôd s budúcimi partnermi z oblasti zdravotníctva a medicíny. V súčasnosti nachádzame naše najbližších partnerov v Českej republike, Poľsku, Taliansku a Nemecku. V nadchádzajúcom cykle programu Erasmus by sme chceli zvýšiť mobilitné toky pre všetky typy mobilít, rozvíjať novú spoluprácu za účelom projektov a pomáhať týmto spôsobom podporovať modernizáciu a internacionalizáciu Slovenskej zdravotníckej univerzity. Sme si vedomí, že na to, aby sme do akademického prostredia mohli priniesť nové nápady, musíme uľahčiť výmenu zamestnancov a študentov a povzbudiť spoluprácu na projektoch. Naším cieľom je podporovať tieto cieľové aktivity nielen s pomocou referátu medzinárodných vzťahov, ale aj s prispením všetkých častí riadenia a služieb univerzity (finančné oddelenie, IT, HR, PR). Veríme, že naše podporné metódy, cielené poradenstvo

prostredníctvom univerzitného koordinátora pre študentov a zamestnancov s obmedzenými príležitosťami a štipendiami nám pomôžu uskutočniť viac mobilít účastníkov s obmedzenými príležitosťami. Udržateľnosť a dlhodobý vplyv projektu je kľúčovým prvkom projektu. Našou stratégiou na dosiahnutie tohto cieľa je pripraviť analýzu potrieb pred podaním žiadosti o projekt. Takto budeme disponovať všeobecnou predstavou o tom, ako by sa mohli použiť výsledky budúceho projektu a ako by sme tieto budúce výsledky mohli implementovať do univerzitných študijných programov, osvedčených postupov, učebných techník alebo do oblasti vedy a výskumu.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 Implementation of the new principles

Please explain the measures taken in your institution to respect the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion of students and staff. Describe how your institution ensures full and equitable access to participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.

Our university will respect the principles of inclusion, transparency, non-discrimination, while ensuring equal and equitable access and opportunities to all prospective and current participants. We will select participants, administer the mobility activities and award financial support in a fair, transparent and documented way. We will follow not only the European and national regulation, but also our internal university guidelines and regulation already in effect related to the Erasmus Programme. We will pay particular attention to the participants with fewer opportunities, providing assistance, support and guidance via university coordinator for students and staff with fewer opportunities. Privacy is guaranteed also in our national legislation, because the participant has to apply for the status of a person with fewer opportunities, after meeting the criteria, the participant will be treated us one with high confidentiality. This coordinator deals with all matters related to individuals with special needs as an inclusion counsellor, responsible for development of learning and teaching techniques adapted to students with special needs. Having in mind various socio-economic background of our students our university awards each year motivational scholarships. To facilitate the participation of staff we try help them via temporary replacement, online teaching tools or rescheduling of tasks.

Please explain what measures your institution will put in place to implement the European Student Card Initiative, and promote the use of the programme's Erasmus+ mobile App to students. Please refer to the timeline indicated on the European Student Card Initiative website[2].

Currently we are using Erasmus Dashboard and we also participated on the testing phase of Inter-Institutional Agreement Manager. We very much look forward to using all the tools developed within European Student Card Initiative. We will implement them as soon as they will be launched into practice. We will follow the planned schedule, since 2020 we will start managing inter-institutional agreements online via European Student Card Initiative digital infrastructure. From 2021 we will start using online learning agreements. Since 2022 we plan to send and receive student nominations and acceptance letters through this digital tools. We hope that since 2023 it will be possible to exchange transcripts of records related to student mobility activities with partner institutions. Through our webpage we will start the promotion of the use of Erasmus mobile App for students to facilitate the administrative burden related to preparation of learning agreements, from 2020. We plan to organize targeted meeting for all the staff in contact with Erasmus Programme (mainly Erasmus Faculty Coordinators and representatives from Study Departments of the faculties) in order to clarify their roles, accesses and permissions within the Erasmus Dashboard and explain the procedures and functions of Erasmus Dashboard, in line with Guidelines for Erasmus Programme at our University. The International Relations Office will serve as a digital counsellor concerning the European Student Card Initiative infrastructure and will have the full list of permissions at disposal, on the other hand the Erasmus Faculty Coordinators will be able to manage and upload students, learning agreements, nominations, acceptances and transcripts of records.

Please explain how your institutions will implement and promote environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ programme.

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en

The Slovak Medical University will implement and promote environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ programme mainly through the online tools related to European Student Card Initiative, on our institutional webpage. We expect that Erasmus Dashboard and Erasmus mobile App will help us to administer Erasmus activities without paper and more effectively. We hope it will help us to reduce administrative burden, exchange of student data and provide students with access to online course materials, registration and recognition of outcomes. In order to carry out a mobility within Erasmus Programme it will be obligatory for students to manage their mobility through Erasmus mobile App. The university staff (Erasmus University Coordinator, International Relations Office and Erasmus Faculty Coordinators) will use the Erasmus Dashboard as a single-entry point for management of the Erasmus Programme mobility activities for students. The national railway transportation service in Slovakia offers free-of-charge railway tickets for students (max. 26 years of age), we promote this environmentally friendly solution to all incoming students. The Slovak Medical University will continue to promote a sustainable mindset and behaviour, not just in words but also in deeds. We encourage our students to use sustainable solutions throughout the university and everyday life and to choose eco-friendly transportation.

Please explain how you will promote civic engagement and active citizenship amongst your outgoing and incoming students before, after and during mobility.

To work within the healthcare sector might be considered more as a life mission that an average job. Civic engagement is directly intertwined within the medical and healthcare professions, we lead our students to active citizenship. Students from the Slovak Medical University already demonstrate their qualities through their volunteering activities (help in the hospitals, in the National Blood Centre, retirement homes, etc.). We believe that in order to achieve fruitful academic environment it is necessary to combine university learning with community needs. By promoting this approach among our students and staff we increase their emotional inteligence, multicultural awarness and sense of European identity. It creates added value of the university and develop skills beyond the formal education. This way we aim to foster internationalisation at home, acceptance of cultural diversity and inclusion strategy of our incoming and outgoing students. With our partners, in frames of Erasmus Strategic Partnership project HELP we developed specific learning material focusing on intercultural competences. Nowadays we promote this tool among our students and staff as a channel how to get acquainted with and develop intercultural competences. University also supports its own student organisation who organises project and activities for all our students.

2.2 When participating in Mobility Activities - After mobility

Please demonstrate your commitment to implement full automatic recognition in your Higher Education Institution.

Please describe the concrete steps you will take to ensure the full automatic recognition of all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during a mobility period abroad/ a blended mobility, according to the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition[3].

We adhere to the rules set out by European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System and we recognise all credits gained for learning outcomes achieved during mobility period abroad towards the degree, as agreed in the Learning Agreement and confirmed by the Transcript of Records. This process will apply for blended mobility (currently all our outgoing students study via blended mobility due to coronavirus crisis). We pay special attention on preparing the Learning Agreements of our students, because after confirming the credits by Transcript of Records/Certificate from Traineeship the process of credit transfer is smooth and there are no delays. Our university Erasmus Programme Guidelines describe the path for Erasmus Programme administrators, students and staff how to manage the recognition of credits. At the faculty level, the Erasmus Faculty Coordinator is responsible for signing the Learning Agreement and later on for the management of the credit recognition and transfer. Course Catalogue of the Slovak Medical University is published on the official website and is updated regularly. Implementation of ECTS helped us to achieve higher quality of mobility experience for students, transparent transfer of credits and more flexible routes to gaining degree. We pay special attention on preparation of Learning Agreements in advance before the mobility period starts, to be sure that all originally agreed credits will be recognised by our university via the Erasmus Faculty Coordinators. Our Erasmus Faculty Coordinator provide the counselling for students in choosing the best compatible courses and activities on partner institutions. The very same person, Erasmus Faculty Coordinator, has the authority to sign the Learning Agreement and manage the recognition of credits upon arrival after mobility. Our goal is to minimise changes and modifications to learning agreements. Traineeships create integral part of study programmes in the field of medicine and healthcare sciences. We recognise the credits from practical training abroad in the same way as we recognise the credits gained during mobility for study purposes. We look forward to European Student Card Initiative digital infrastructure tools related to recognition of credits, namely digital exchange of transcripts of records from 2023.

[3] The text of the Council Recommendation on Automatic Mutual Recognition may be found at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568891859235&uri=CELEX:32018H1210(01)

Please describe your institution's measures to support, promote and recognise staff mobility:

International mobility of university staff is integral part of professional development of our employees. University actively supports the mobile staff, for example via temporary replacement, online teaching tools rescheduling of tasks. Mobility activities are recognised by Human Resources during annual assessment of the university staff. Participation in European and international cooperation projects is integral part of our modernisation and internationalisation strategy. We understand, by supporting and promoting staff mobility we motivate other students and staff to become mobile, staff with experience from mobility period abroad is willing to assist to arrange future mobility activities for students and colleagues. Via incoming staff mobility we get to strengthen our internationalisation at home as well as enrich the content of our courses. This way we generate new links between institutions and possible deeper cooperation on publications and science and research collaborations. We recognize that project cooperation benefits our institution, our partners and wider academia, having in mind the sustainability of the project outcomes and transferable and reusable results.

2.3 For the Purposes of Visibility

Please provide the web link where you will host the Erasmus Policy statement in the future. Please reflect on how you plan to regularly promote the activities supported by the Programme.

The official web seat of the Slovak Medical University is www.szu.sk . Nowadays the information on our webpage in English as well as in Slovak language concerning Erasmus Programme might be find via following link: http://www.szu.sk/index.php?id=400&menu= .

We plan to regularly promote the activities supported by the Erasmus Programme on our university webpage, during academic events held at the university premises (for example: Day of Open Doors, University Blood Donation Event, official opening of the academic year), during the promotion activities of the Slovak Medical University abroad and at home, during formal and informal meeting with colleagues from partner universities in order to boost closer cooperation and during the mobility of our staff and students in partner institutions.

Please describe how you will ensure that the principles of this Charter will be well communicated and applied by staff at all levels of the institution.

Erasmus Charter will be published on our webpage, the same way as we published Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020. To support the students, each student obtains full briefing from International Relations Office concerning the rules and regulations within the Erasmus Student Charter, this way we ensure that our students know what they can expect related to the Erasmus mobility. Key responsible persons at the university are the Erasmus Faculty Coordinators. They are responsible for preparing and signing the Learning Agreements and the Mobility Agreements. After mobility, they are responsible for recognition of credits and for issuing Transcript of Records. This process is described in the Guidelines for Erasmus Programme at our University. All management and administration of Erasmus Programme at the Slovak Medical University is overseen by the Erasmus University Coordinator and International Relations Office at the level of Rector, these units provide methodological guidelines and assistance to other units of the University in case of need. After being granted with the new Erasmus Charter and to ensure that the principles of the Erasmus Charter will be well communicated and applied by the staff at all the levels of the University we plan to organize targeted meeting for all the staff in contact with Erasmus Programme in order to clarify the rules and regulations within. During the everyday management of the Erasmus Programme, it is a responsibility of the Erasmus Faculty Coordinators and International Relations Office to ensure the quality of administration and implementation of the Erasmus Programme as stated in the Guidelines for Erasmus Programme at our University.