



**SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER
ENGINEERING OF APPLIED STUDIES
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, BELGRADE, 283 Vojvode Stepe Street
REG. NO. TAX NO. 100373303
07040512**

Telephone/Fax Webpage E-mail
011/2471-099 www.viser.edu.rs office@viser.edu.rs

Date: 21/03/2019

Number: 589/1

Based on Article 17 Paragraph 1 Item 22 of the Statute of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Applied Studies in Belgrade (reg. number 2546/1 of November 15, 2018) and the recommendation of the Teaching and Professional Council of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Belgrade of March 14, 2019, the Council of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Applied Studies in Belgrade, at a sitting held on March 14, 2019 adopted the following:

**STRATEGY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION
OF THE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
OF APPLIED STUDIES
IN BELGRADE 2019 - 2024**

1. INTRODUCTION

School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Applied Studies in Belgrade (hereinafter referred to as: VISER) has recognized the process of internationalization as one of the most promising ways to further development. This particularly refers to the activities of VISER related to education, research and development. Strategy of Internationalization of VISER for the time period 2019 – 2024 (hereinafter referred to as: Strategy) is an umbrella planning document which defines the main objectives of VISER in the domain of internationalization of its activities and international cooperation. Furthermore, the Strategy defines the basic directions to go in order for the School to obtain the objectives set in the domain of internationalization and international cooperation. This Strategy is to be followed up by the adoption of a corresponding Action Plan for the Realisation of the Strategy of Internationalization 2019 – 2024, which will further determine the steps for achieving the hereby given objectives.

1.1. VISION

VISER should become an institution of higher education, research and development which is, in the international domain, a bearer of activities for the introduction of new, additional, social activities, particularly in the field of quality education of competent and globally competitive experts. VISER should become internationally recognized and acknowledged as a reliable actor in the sphere of higher education, research and development, both at the European and global level. Through its successfully realized process of internationalization, VISER should become an important element in the regional, European and global education system, firmly incorporated in those systems and well connected with organisations working in education and research, as well as other related organisations. International two-way student mobility of students and staff, as well as mutual participation in research, development and other projects with partner organisations from abroad should become regular and routine processes at VISER.

1.2. MISSION

VISER shall attain its vision of international status, first and foremost, by making strong, productive ties with relevant partners at the international level, as well as its persistence in maintaining and improving the quality of educational activities it performs. The outcomes of making ties with international partners should, above all, include international recognizability, as well as acknowledgement of the quality of educational activities realized by VISER, that is, international recognizability and acknowledgement of student competencies obtained at VISER. Furthermore, VISER shall build its international status through consistent commitment to and investment in the development of quality human resource potential, providing material resources as well as overall investment in its educational, research, development and other activities. VISER must strive to adopt, adjust and additionally enhance examples of positive business practice in relevant activities from international partners, particularly with regard to education, research and development. VISER shall support appropriate initiatives and ideas of students and staff which contribute to the improvement of the developmental potential and the international status of VISER. VISER should, apart from its educational and other activities, aim at improving and developing research and development to its maximum, including other corresponding activities, which will extend the spectrum of potential international partnerships and increase its chances for personal growth and development at the national and international level.

1.3. OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE

VISER is an independent institution of higher education which, in its domain of educating future experts in the technical-technological field, has a 45-year-long tradition. VISER currently realizes several activities. The main educational activities of VISER are performed through the realisation of study programmes of undergraduate studies, specialization studies and master studies in the field of technical and technological sciences, with particular focus on Electrical and Computer Engineering and Environmental and Work Safety Engineering. Study programmes realized at VISER should equip the students with the skills to apply and develop professional expertise necessary for future employment. In its domain of activities, VISER also realizes short-term study programmes, organized for professional training of persons with a high-school or university diploma, as well as lifelong learning programmes, beyond the framework of study programmes it is licensed for. Apart from its main activities, the one that stands out as particularly relevant for international cooperation comes from a category of secondary activities of VISER – research and development in other natural and technical-technological sciences, as well as consulting activities in the domain of information technology.

In the domain of international activities realized thus far, as well as current activities, the key activity is the participation of VISER in the realisation of international projects for the improvement of higher education, supported by the European Union, first through Tempus programmes, and now through Erasmus+ programmes (projects for capacity development in higher education). VISER participated in two Tempus projects and one Erasmus+ project, both of whom were completed. At the moment, VISER is taking part in four projects of Erasmus+ programe, at different stages of realisation. Through the mentioned international projects, VISER has significantly improved its total potential and capacities– several new study programmes at all levels of study have been accredited, significant material resources have been provided for the purpose of improvement and quality enhancement of teaching, while precious experiences have been gained through cooperation with partner institutions on such projects, particularly with institutions from abroad.

International activities of the students of VISER in the recent period have mostly been visible in student participation in international competition, realised with the support of VISER.

In the last few months, VISER has intensively realised activities pertaining to the improvement of the atmosphere for internationalization, as well as the development of the scope and form of international cooperation. At the moment, these activities primarily focus on meeting the conditions for the attainment of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. However, in the wider context, these activities should contribute to the general progress of VISER in the domain of cooperation. Key activities realised with such an aim, and activities being realised at VISER, are as follows:

- A staff team has been formed with a task to create the conditions and set the stage for preparing the documentation for the attainment of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. This team is currently the backbone of the Department of International Cooperation of VISER;
- The rules contained in the existing general acts of VISER have been redefined with the aim of enabling realisation of international mobility. A general act of such sort has been adopted – Rulebook on International Mobility;
- The above-mentioned Rulebook on International Mobility and the adjacent acts define the formal conditions and procedures for the realisation of international mobility of students and staff. These acts set the ground rules for the application process as well as the selection of candidates for international mobility, international mobility documentation, recognition of ECTS, grades obtained during the mobility period, etc.;
- The Language Policy of VISER has been defined, enabling the possibility of having a portion of studies at VISER realised in the English language;
- The webpage of VISER has been significantly redesigned and adjusted, in order for its content to be in alignment with the requirements and standards necessary for the attainment of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, so that working in the domain of international cooperation could be promoted in a better way.

2. OBJECTIVES

Strategy objectives and actions will be described in the Action Plan for the Realisation of the Strategy of Internationalization 2019 – 2024 in further detail. In this document, for each of the individual goals and its activities, there is information on the set of steps, anticipated outcomes, progress indicators, duration of activity, as well as information on the bearers of each of the listed activities.

2.1. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

- 2.1.1. Improvement of course content of study programmes in alignment with the global trends and development**
- 2.1.2. Improvement of language skills of students, teaching and non-teaching staff**
- 2.1.3. Increasing the number of courses realised in the English language**
- 2.1.4. Introduction of a study programme in the English language**
- 2.1.5. Introduction of a joint master programme in cooperation with a foreign partner (*Joint and/or double master degree*)**
- 2.1.6. Introduction of foreign mentorship in master studies**

2.1.7. Improvement of international cooperation in research, development, publishing and expert/consulting activities (secondary activities)

2.2. INCREASE IN THE RATE OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING MOBILITY

2.2.1. Legal and administrative preparation of mobility projects

2.2.2. Strengthening the Organisational Unit for International Cooperation

2.2.3. Improvement of services for foreign and local students who participate in mobility

2.2.4. Greater ties with foreign institutions of higher education in the field of international mobility

2.2.5. Participation in international mobility projects

2.2.6. Promotion of the School as a candidate for international mobility

2.2.7. Design of databases of international mobility

2.3. IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE ECONOMY AND OTHER PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

2.3.1. Connecting with relevant European and global programmes and relevant associations for the realisation of international projects

2.3.2. Extension of the base of potential partners for international projects among foreign institutions of higher education, the economy and other partner institutions

2.3.3. Increase in the number of international projects

2.3.4. Legal and administrative improvement of project realisation

2.3.5. Platform for monitoring realization of international projects

2.3.6. Increase in participation visibility of the School in international projects

2.4. COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2.4.1. Functional, organisational and structural improvement of the School

2.4.2. Establishing a corresponding normative framework in the sphere of international cooperation

2.4.3. Continuous improvement of linguistic competencies of students and staff

2.4.4. Providing reliable and sufficient financial means

2.4.5. Establishing a mechanism for monitoring the process of internationalization and the development of international cooperation

3. CHALLENGES

In the domain of international cooperation, key limitations and challenges of VISER may currently be divided into three categories of factors:

1. Functional, structural and organizational limitations:

- The Department of Marketing and International Cooperation, as an organizational unit of VISER, which should be the bearer of the majority of activities in the domain of internationalization and international cooperation, does not have the necessary capacity to undertake such activities, particularly with regard to human resources;
- Pertaining to the above, due to the ongoing ban on employment in the public sector of the Republic of Serbia, it has been difficult to ensure the employment of human resources and form a corresponding organizational unit, which would have sufficient capacity to realise intensive activities of international cooperation;
- An extremely relevant and major limiting factor for VISER may also be the forthcoming change in the status of the schools of applied studies, which would mean a total shit, that is, a total nullification of the existing status, structure and the manner of operation of VISER.

2. Limitations in primary activities:

- There are no study programmes, nor segments of such programmes, realised in any of the world languages;
- Student and staff mobility was virtually not realised in the past, or was realised sporadically;
- There is no prominent institutional cooperation with institutions of higher education or other related organization abroad established with the aim of the internationalization of educational activities (realising student and staff mobility, mutually realising study programmes or creating complementary study programmes, etc.);
- Although a significant number of the graduates of VISER pursue further professional career abroad, VISER does not have a mechanism to stay in touch with such students and maintain relations with them.

3. Limitations in secondary activities:

- VISER is not an accredited organization of research and development- it neither has the structure nor an organizational unit committed to science, research, development, innovation and similar activities;
- Although activities of research and development in natural and technical-technological sciences, as well as consulting activities in the domain of information technology, are both registered activities of VISER, activities of this sort are at a very low level of realization at VISER at the moment.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Phd Svetlana Strbac Savic, prof.