

## **European Policy Statement**

The Estonian Aviation Academy (hereinafter the Academy) is a state professional higher education institution preparing specialists for Estonian aviation enterprises. In addition to regular teaching staff, experienced specialists of the specific fields from aviation enterprises and from other higher education institutions conduct subject courses on a contractual basis. All this contributes to achieving stable quality and to achieving compliance with the requirements established by the ICAO (the International Civil Aviation Organisation) and EASA (the European Aviation Safety Agency), which in its turn ensures high competitiveness of the Academy graduates in the labour market.

Key-words of the Academy quality assurance are: courage, openness, devotedness and eagerness. The Academy ensures high quality of student and staff by accredited curricula approved by international aviation authorities, by meeting the requirements set by ICAO and EASA, and by consulting students and lecturers. Then feedback analysis is done.

The present Strategy for Internationalization 2013-2017 (approved by the Academy Council January 2013) is based on the Academy internal and external regulations. Strategic goals are set out in the Academy Strategic Plan for 2013–2017. Other courses of action in regard to internationalization are referred to in the Strategic Plan.

### **The key objectives are as follows:**

- 1) Enhancing the Academy's visibility and competitiveness by improving the quality of the study process and of the R&D activities;
- 2) Providing the Academy graduates with international experience, and;
- 3) Developing the coherence between the Academy, the aviation industry and the society as a whole.

### **The courses of action are as follows:**

- 1) Ensuring a more extensive internationalization of the study process;
- 2) Organization of international cooperation;
- 3) Creating an environment supportive to internationalization;
- 4) Funding of the activities of internationalization adequately.

Our aim is to increase the proportion of students having studied abroad so that the proportion of the students having studied abroad makes up at least 4% of the total of students, also that the proportion of incoming international students makes up at least 4% of the total of students.

The Academy finds that support for international exchange students is very important. This is the reason, why the Academy is developing the mentor system, where students who have participated in mobility programmes are obligated to participate in activities which aim to support international exchange students in their studies-related or any other problems. International exchange students' coordinator and the Academy Student Council ensure that the exchange students be engaged in social activities organized by the Academy.

The Academy has 18 partner HEI-s all over Europe in the framework of Erasmus. A network of education in aviation has developed fast and includes relations with partners outside the Erasmus programme. The Academy has signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and hopes to establish student mobility in the future with an aim to exchange the best practices and knowledge. All agreements are a result of comprehensive negotiations and they have been approved by the authorities of the Academy.

However the most important target groups of mobility activities will remain in Europe as our wish is to deepen the existing relations. Training departments should establish closer cooperation links with partner HEI-s to develop teaching and training. Every training department should have at least one active cooperation partner participating in teaching and/or in Research & Development activities.

Our aim is to create a computer based study module and to develop the e-courses system for guaranteeing the flexibility of the studies for both our own students and students of partner HEI-s.

The Academy promotes life-long learning and supports staff mobility financially. Our purpose is to increase the number of lectures delivered abroad by the Academy teaching staff, and to have a more extensive participation in in-service trainings/seminars/conferences abroad by the Academy administrative and teaching staff. Our aim is to develop knowledge and experience so that at least 10% of the Academy administrative and teaching staff has participated in the mobility programmes.

The priority goal is to create a support system for mobile staff and thus encourage the growth of academic mobility in the short-run period. The number of foreign lecturers should increase, and by 2017 the Academy should have recruited at least three foreign lecturers.

The Academy continues organizing annual aviation seminars thereby systematically inviting representatives from abroad. It continues carrying out and offering interested parties the ICAO English language proficiency testing based at the Academy Language Centre.