

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Malnava College was founded in 1921 as Latgale Agricultural Secondary School. The name of the school has changed several times over time: Malnava Agricultural Technical School, Malnava State Technical School, Malnava Agricultural Technical School, State Malnava Agricultural Technical School, but as of September 1, 2003, the school is Malnava College. Malnava College consists of a structural unit of a vocational secondary school and a study and research department. At Malnava College, 625 students study the vocational education program. 106 students study higher education in the study department, in full-time studies and 200 students in part-time studies. Our school is one of the oldest educational institutions, it is located on the eastern border of the European Union, as we are located in a rural area, our school is one of the largest and most important cultural, educational and economic points in Latgale region. The aim of our school is to prepare skilled specialists who would be able to work in rural areas. As is known, the Latgale region has a problem with a relatively high unemployment rate and the fact that the population, especially young people, do not want to live in the countryside. Our educational institution teaches and prepares young people who can work skillfully in the countryside, as well as our school is able to offer the same, educational content, as well as quality in educational programs offered by similar colleges in major Latvian cities. Obtaining the Erasmus + Charter would give our school a greater opportunity to offer better quality teaching, so we would be able to attract more learners, study at our school, go to the city and thus prevent rural areas from dying out. One of the main tasks of the school is to prepare qualified specialists for the labor market, not only in the territory of Latvia, but also abroad. Despite the fact that one of the priorities of our educational institution is to attract young people to stay in the Latgale region, looking at Europe, the goal of our school is to attract young people not to leave the countryside, because it is not only a problem in Latvia, but also in Europe. Of course, as an educational institution, our main goal is to prepare skilled specialists in our field. And, of course, we want to prepare such specialists who, after graduating from our school, would be able to work in their field not only in the territory of Latvia, but in the whole wide world. After graduating, they will be able to work in agriculture, road transport and finance. Qualification practices play a very important role in the training process, especially those that are acquired outside the country. During the internship professional skills are acquired, new knowledge is acquired, existing ones are improved, as well as language skills are improved.

The second, of course, no less peculiar point is the latest technology, their acquisition, if we mention the same Germany, then, of course, this country is the head of the courts at a higher level, which was concerned with mechanical engineering and agricultural development. German car production is known all over the world and is associated with quality people. The same applies to agricultural development. Latvia has a lot to learn from this type of country, and one of the most effective ways to learn is to let our students do it.

- The main strategic goal is to become an internationally competitive Latgale higher education institution in the European Higher Education Area with motivated, creative and demanded students in the labor market. To offer quality study programs, an attractive study environment and to prepare professional specialists for the regional, national and international labor market.
- To develop the scientific research capacity of the academic staff, ensuring the transfer of knowledge for business development; - to create a modern and sustainable infrastructure territorial complex with modern equipment; - promotion of international recognition of study programs and creation of sustainable cooperation.

Tasks to be performed for the implementation of strategic goals:

- To develop the implementation of internships abroad for both full-time and part-time students,
- To attract lecturers from abroad in ensuring the study process.

- To develop the content of study programs demanded in the international labor market in cooperation with practice places, employers, public administration institutions, professional organizations and associations,
- To develop cooperation with foreign universities for the improvement of study programs.
- To participate creatively in European education and science programs by supporting the exchange of students, teachers and staff, to modernize scientific research and teaching laboratories, to increase the number of researches important for the region in the scientific activities of students and academic staff,
- To promote cooperation with entrepreneurs and local governments.

The process of achieving strategic goals is closely linked to developments in international cooperation. Malnava College would like to give its students the opportunity to go on an international internship in any of the member states of the European Union and the European Economic Area. Internship is a part of the study process, therefore credit points are credited for it. Students can choose to go for an international internship after the first or second year, during their studies (according to the rules and requirements of the faculty). Malnava College wants to be one of the Latvian colleges, which is unthinkable without international cooperation, thus offering its students high-quality, progressive, international training. Malnava College is proud of its historical roots in the field of agricultural education in the country. Internships are mainly organized in summer, but there are opportunities to do internships at other times as well. The student can choose the country and company in which to practice.

Experience shows that individual initiative in finding a company allows you to choose the most suitable internship place and it contributes more to personal growth during the internship. Malnava College tried to offer the existing company contacts with which we have cooperated before.

During the internship, the student gains new experience both in the professional field, fulfilling responsibilities related to studies, and experience in terms of cultural differences and personal development. Staying in a foreign country for about 3 months with people who may have a radically different perception of life and cultural differences.

Malnava colleges want to offer and have already started to offer their students the opportunity to study abroad. This means that students have the opportunity to go on exchange studies for one semester or the entire academic year abroad, receiving an Erasmus + scholarship.

Exchange studies are an invaluable opportunity to expand your intercultural experience, gain new knowledge in your specialty at a European college, strengthen your foreign language skills, and travel and enjoy adventures. Practical training course.

Every year, Malnava College presents opportunities for its students to participate in Erasmus + project mobilities, students and also employees are told about a unique adventure and the opportunity to gain new experience and new knowledge through the ERASMUS + project. Malnava College wants to participate in the following Erasmus + mobility programs:

- Student study mobility;
- Student internship mobility;
- Mobility of lecturers and staff

These projects will be implemented as follows, first of all students who want to apply will have some rules they will have to meet the following criteria:

- must have academic achievement;
- motivation;
- involvement in various professional activities and projects;
- ability to adapt to a new environment;
- language knowledge;

- interest in popularizing Malnava College, the region and Latvia.

Also, before going to any of the projects or internships or studies at any of the European colleges, the student will have to evaluate:

- First of all, you will have to think about your wishes and possibilities to go on exchange trips. The more accurately the student will assess themselves, the better the experience will be
- Attention must be paid to knowledge of the language of the country concerned
- The offer of the desired college courses (language) should be evaluated
- You should consult with the head of your field of study
- Ability to integrate into a foreign culture
- Long absence from home, relatives
- Foreign culinary / entertainment traditions Large / small town / countryside
- Climate, lifestyle

All these issues will be discussed and consulted with the student. The student will also be offered a list of schools and possible internships, where the student will be able to choose one of the most appropriate educational institutions. Of course, the choice of internship is mostly the student's free choice, but the school will take an active part, help the student to choose a suitable company for the internship, as well as help to establish contacts with the company and contact this company.

Once the student has chosen an appropriate college or internship place, a Training Agreement will be concluded with the student - a tripartite agreement between the intern, the university and the internship place or study place; Financing agreement for a scholarship between a student and a university; the student will be covered by Insurance - civil law and accident insurance is provided by the higher education institution; and an EHIC card will be issued - mandatory In terms of teacher and staff mobility, the scenario will be similar, initially an employee who wants to go on mobility will be evaluated according to the similar points in the student evaluation criteria, then there will be discussions with the employee about mobility.

The goals of study mobility of our school are:

1. To provide an opportunity for students to spend a certain period of study while studying at a higher education institution of another Member State;
2. To provide students with the opportunity to gain valuable academic, linguistic and cultural experience while studying in other European countries;
3. To promote co-operation between higher education institutions and to improve the study environment of host universities;
4. Encourage the development of well-qualified and internationally experienced emerging professionals

The objectives of traineeship mobility are:

1. To provide students and recent university graduates with the opportunity to gain practical experience in a company or organization in another European country.
2. To help students adapt to the requirements of the EU labor market;
3. Provide opportunities for students and recent graduates to develop their own skills, including language skills, and to improve their understanding of economic and social culture;
4. To promote cooperation between universities and companies;
5. To promote the development of well-qualified, open and internationally experienced young people - future professionals.

By obtaining the ERASMUS + Charter and participating in ERASMUS + mobility projects, the students of Malnava College will grow their professional growth and personal growth. The projects will help to understand the requirements of the European labor market. In Latgale, the road transport sector and the agricultural sector are the most economically represented sectors. The boom in the field of automotive engineering, as well as the boom in the agricultural sector, was observed after 2004, when EU funds began to flow into Latgale. With finance, new technologies, the latest innovations and technologies flowed into the countryside, all of which created a demand for new and skilled workers.

The automotive industry, like the agricultural industry, is developing now, because both car production and the demand and production of agricultural machinery and products in the world are developing very fast, it creates a demand for new specialists who are able to work with the latest machinery, use it skillfully, be able to apply the latest technologies in life.

Upon returning from the internship, students will be able to use the acquired knowledge to provide quality and modern services both in the regions of Latvia and when choosing a job abroad. By implementing this activity, and the end result of successfully graduating from school, our students will be competitive in the labor market, acquired knowledge in the professional field, language skills, communication skills, teamwork, will make a positive contribution at both local and regional level. Also, in cooperation with partners, we improve the acquisition of professional skills and expand our cooperation with foreign organizations, companies and social partners, so that each year only this cooperation remains stronger. By also developing basic and cross-sectoral skills, such as digital skills, entrepreneurship, language skills, innovative learning opportunities, applying appropriate assessment and certification methods based on learning outcomes, we will have achieved the intended result and will contribute not only to local but also wider regional and national level.

Impact of Erasmus + projects on Malnava College and its students:

- Increased training of students and teachers by acquiring knowledge from other program countries, as well as improving skills for international cooperation
- Improving the employment rate of program participants.
- Increasing the potential of research projects through college collaboration by creating synergies between different colleges to promote more ambitious projects than if they were implemented individually.
- Promoting the internationalization of the College, both by linking the students and lecturers of the offered training, as well as research within the College.
- As a result of the mobility of the College staff, regional cooperation is promoted. In this regard, we emphasize the special importance of the Erasmus program in Latgale, as it positively influences important aspects of regional development, such as innovation and internationalization. After the exchange of evaluation of the practical implementation of the Erasmus program, teacher teachers also benefit, such as those listed below: share new ideas
- Inspired by new colleagues and different perspectives
- Discovering new teaching methods
- Developing new skills
- Developing an international network
- Improving language skills
- Improving a personal CV

Malnava College benefits from Erasmus + projects

- Staff receive financial support for professional development and training through Erasmus funding
- Staff return motivated and engaged
- Staff can replace the institution's work in partner institutions abroad
- Staff can learn about the latest developments across Europe

- This will improve the institution's international position

Erasmus exchanges help to increase employment and can become a competitive advantage in the labor market, as an element that most employers see as positive. In this regard, Malnava College conducted a survey of local students on the impact of the Erasmus + project on students, some of whom had already participated in similar mobility in previous educational institutions. Most of the students surveyed believe that the Erasmus program has and will have a positive impact on their careers. , and many believe that exchanges have a significant impact on their personal lives. The main factors identified as very important are: curiosity about research and actual work in another country (76.4%), curiosity about living in another country (65%) and the need to meet other cultures (61, 8%). A brief analysis of the skills that would have a strong impact on students after Erasmus mobility: language skills, communication skills, professional knowledge and skills, scientific / academic knowledge and skills. As far as personal development is concerned, we believe that such skills would affect our students the most - self-confidence, personal independence, attitude towards the profession.

Another benefit of the Erasmus exchange program is the improvement of interpersonal relations between foreigners, which is confirmed by the positive evaluations of students. Students confirm that their relations with foreigners have improved, and the improvement could develop with each new mobility. A comparative analysis of the Erasmus program in terms of the personal and professional needs of students shows that their expectations are usually met during their experience abroad. Students will be pre-trained before driving. Students will also be provided with language skills, as well as pedagogical, cultural and economic training, in which we will inform and provide information about the country, its traditions, peculiarities of life, culture and economy, so that they can successfully integrate into the new environment. when they leave. Must be able to understand the people of the country.

Before the implementation of the practice / studies, students are introduced to the practice / education program, its requirements and the defined living conditions.

Students will also be offered additional language skills in both conversational and professional language learning.

Inspiring sustainability in education is the key to achieving long-lasting (sustainable, environmentally friendly) practices in different sectors. The road to a more sustainable society begins with education at all levels to raise awareness, understanding and knowledge of the practical challenges of sustainability. Several calls for action have emphasized the importance of higher education in this context. Education is our way of increasing knowledge and thus assessing sustainable development. That is why our school also works on its sustainable development. Education that promotes

1) awareness of sustainable development and

2) development of sustainable ways of thinking is considered important. We want the focus on sustainable development to be integrated into traditional programs in both road transport and the agricultural sector. Our goal is to make Malnava College one of the schools, one of the goals of which is sustainable development, and we believe that it has an area of application and development among the colleges. The perspective is also emphasized in the development of sustainable training programs we want and strive to involve citizens in sustainable development through a variety of services. Development in Malnava College figures, so initially in the first year, we would like to send in mobility 10 students - 5 staff representatives, in the second year 15 students - 7 staff representatives, in the third year 23 students, 10 staff representatives; in the fourth year 26 students; 13 staff representatives; in the fifth year 30 students; 16 staff representatives