**Erasmus Policy Statement**

*Transport and Telecommunication Institute has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ program 2014-2020. The Erasmus Policy Statement (below) sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.*

In the field of students’ mobility TTI’s international strategy supports strengthening of networking with different universities in all three cycles and in all its main directions of academic activities: Transport and Logistics, Information Technologies and Computer Science, Electronics and Telecommunications, Aviation Maintenance, Management and Business Administration, Economics. Other goals are – acquiring of knowledge about different countries and their education systems and enhancement of mutual understanding among the people.

Mobility of teaching and administrative staff is oriented towards the promotion of modernization of higher education system and enhancement of quality and capacity of the staff of the institute and its partners for Bachelor’s Degree Programs, Master’s Degree Programs and Doctoral Degree Programs. In order to increase the interest of teaching staff to participate in mobility exchange programs, such participation is included as one of the evaluation criteria at the annual assessment of TTI academic personnel.

In order to strengthen the quality of academic and research staff TTI has implemented the policy of targeted sending of third cycle Doctoral students to short term mobility trips to partner universities in order to allow them to obtain additional international experience and knowledge.

For the selection of new partners the main criteria in the institute is existence in the partner university study programs and research activities which are close or similar to the TTI’s academic activities. Second principle is geographical diversification, which means that usually number of cooperation partners do not exceed 2 or maximum 3 from one concrete country. This principle of course do not apply to the joint participation in common projects (for example Tempus), where number of representatives from one country (especially non-EU) could be much bigger.

For the improvement of teaching and training one of them main cooperation aims of TTI is a development of new versions of Bachelor and Master programs in Computer Science and Information Technologies and their implementation together with partner universities with an emphasis on Cloud Computing and Safe Mobile Application development. It will facilitate also the exchange of knowledge among different universities from the EU and partner countries in the field of new Software Engineering Technologies.

Another objective of TTI is a development and implementation of joint programs together with external partners in all three cycles of Transport and Logistics study program. Third objective is creation of the new first, second and third cycle study programmed in International Finance and new (possibly joint) third cycle program for Business Administration.

Further development of Distance Learning mode is one of the TTI’s strategic priorities in the modernization of its education system for coming years. This model is based on Moodle e-learning platform and includes textual and multi-media study materials, electronic libraries, video-lectures and seminars. During last years TTI has signed ERASMUS cooperation agreements with several partners, which are specifically targeted towards the joint activities in Distance Learning development.

TTI is regularly involved in participation in several EU programs: FP7, INTERREG IV A and others. Institute has also an extensive program of research institutes of the EU and non-EU countries. Research activities of the TTI are related to the optimization and modelling of transport systems, logistics, navigation satellite systems, air traffic control systems, telecommunication, transport telematics, applications of information technologies, business re-engineering. Several bilateral cooperation agreements are especially targeted towards further development of mutual research projects.

Few of TTI’s strategic goals in research area, which TTI wants to achieve through the enhancement of international cooperation, are:

1. To create stronger research base, with a larger community of researchers and research postgraduates drawn from a global recruitment market, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the context of an applied research ethos with strong practitioner focus.
2. To conduct broad-based research of global significance with a number of high profile, internationally-recognized “research clusters”.
3. To support an active, pervasive research culture fostering high achievement, encouraging innovation and enriching the students learning experience.
4. To become a research partner of choice for internationally recognized universities, national and multi-national businesses, Latvian and foreign governmental organizations, national and international NGOS’s.
5. To becomes an internationally recognized center of excellence for the education of research postgraduates.
6. To develop high quality research infrastructure and facilities enabling world class research teams to complete for funding and recognition, nationally and internationally, etc.

TTI intends to widely use different forms of international cooperation as well as grants and funds for the further improvement of its teaching and research infrastructure. At present TTI is implementing such projects as creation of “Aviation research center” and “Telecommunication, electronics and robotics center”, which during the period of 2014-2020 will be widely used for joint research activities together with partners from education, research and business circles.