

**Strategy for the Internationalisation of Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre
for 2017-2022**

APPROVED

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As of 1 September 2016, one state vocational education institution – Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre – operates in Ida-Virumaa County. The centre has campuses in Jõhvi, Sillamäe and Narva (the basis for the merger of the three schools: directive no. 1.1-2/16/30 of the Minister of Education and Research dated 10 February 2016 and called “Reorganisation of Narva Vocational Centre, Sillamäe Vocational School and Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre”).

Around 2,600 students of various ages, both after basic and secondary school, study at Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre in 22 curriculum groups. All the curricula are offered both at school and on work-based learning scheme. Instruction languages are Estonian and Russian. The Unemployment Insurance Fund of Estonia acknowledged Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre as the best cooperation partner in Ida-Virumaa County in 2016.

The merger of the three schools has created more flexible conditions for the students to study and receive further training, to participate in projects in Estonia and abroad, and to ensure broader work and development opportunities for the employees. The school's numerous cooperation partners and employers have a reliable partner.

International cooperation plays an important role in the daily activities at Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre and the internationalisation strategy forms the basis for the management of the school's international cooperation and implementation of targeted activities. The school's internationalisation strategy determines the principles related to international cooperation taking into account the new challenges and opportunities provided by European vocational education.

The school's development department is responsible for the organisation of international relations, as well as the development and coordination of projects. The long-standing cooperation experience of the three schools has served a solid ground for preparing the internationalisation strategy taking into account the school's needs and future prospects. The school management and council members participated in the preparation of the internationalisation strategy.

Since 2005 dozens of projects have been organised and implemented under the following programmes: Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, European Youth, Nordplus, ESF, VANKeR,

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Grundtvig, Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2. The project names and numbers are available on the website www.ivkhk.ee (until January 2018 also at www.nvtc.ee and www.svtc.ee). All the activities within the framework of the projects have been conducted at a high level and the project reports have been accepted by the national agencies.

Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre has a functioning cooperation network with partner schools in Estonia and abroad. The school has highly-productive cooperation ties with educational institutions and businesses in Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Russia, Latvia and Lithuania. There are plans to sign cooperation agreements with our partners in 2017 to establish the basis for our further activities. Memorandum of understanding (MoU) or letters of confirmation serve as a solid framework for project activities under EU programmes.

Every year Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre sends an average of 70 learners and 15 teachers for traineeships or internships to foreign states. It also hosts an average of 40 foreign learners and 10 teachers in Estonia and organises them trainings and internships at companies and the centre.

The draft of the Development Plan for Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre for 2017-2022 is being drawn up and will be presented to the Ministry of Education and Research in June 2017. International cooperation is one of the school's development priorities.

The objectives of international cooperation:

1. To maintain and develop international partnerships, thereby broadening the cooperation network.
2. To organise practical training abroad for students and employees, providing them with the following opportunities: to advance professionally and personally; to improve their foreign language skills; to learn about other cultures; and to become more competitive in the labour market; and at the same time to organise practical training and internships in Estonia for our foreign partners.
3. To carry out cooperation projects in order to contribute to the school's development, find innovative approaches for the school's development, while also sharing the school's best experience and best practice with foreign partners.
4. To have the school's employees participate in further training in EU and third countries.
5. To involve foreign specialists and faculty members in the development of foreign-language instruction at the school.
6. To organise study trips and visits taking into account the developmental needs of the curriculum groups (specialised exhibitions, fairs, vocational competitions, school and company visits).
7. To be a reliable partner school and raise the school's reputation at the international level.

The following activities are planned for the internationalisation of the school:

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- Application for VET Mobility Charter in 2017
- Implementation of ECVET starting from the 2017/2018 academic year
- 5% of the learners on mobilities abroad by 2022 (2.5% in 2017)
- 10% of the employees on mobilities abroad by 2022 (7% in 2017)
- One cooperation project every three years
- Admission procedure for foreigners in 2017
- Organising internships and traineeships in Estonia for learners (40+) and employees (10+) from partner schools
- Preparing and instituting one English-language curriculum by 2022
- Up to 10 foreign study trips a year to educational fairs and vocational competitions in Europe (with the school bus, up to 50 participants on each study trip)
- 20% of the employees with foreign language skills at the conversational level by 2022
- School marketing outside Estonia through social media.

The performance metrics for international cooperation:

- the strategy and activities based thereon ensure the high-quality implementation of the project activities; the school has a VET Mobility Charter
- satisfaction of the cooperation partners
- development of the cooperation network and the school's high reputation at the international level.

The action plan includes conducting periodic satisfaction surveys.

The ten principles of the European Quality Charter for Mobility are followed and implemented at Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre (information and guidance, learning plan, personalisation, general preparation, linguistic aspects, logistical support, mentoring, recognition, reintegration and evaluation, and commitments and responsibilities).

Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre has long-standing experience in international cooperation and it is a natural part of the school's culture. Every year the best students undergo traineeships abroad and share their experience with their fellow students at the end of the academic year. The school is a respected and recognised cooperation partner for organising learning mobilities for learners and staff both as a sending and a hosting party.

The school's long-standing international experience shows that well-thought-out projects, which are also agreed-upon by all the parties, support the development of the school as a whole. Annual conferences introduce the international cooperation, activities and results.

The performance of the action plan for the implementation of Ida-Virumaa Vocational Education Centre's internationalisation strategy is analysed twice a year by the school council.