

# Internationalization strategy

*Green Academy Aarhus / Jordbrugets UddannelsesCenter Århus*

## Internationalization strategy 2022-2025

### Introduction

The Green Academy's internationalization strategy for the period 2022 - 2025 is based on:

- The VET Act's objective that students should be imparted *"knowledge of international conditions and knowledge as a basis for work and education abroad"*,
- The Executive Order no. 367, in which it is specified as a requirement that we must *"promote students' international competencies with a view to employment and further education"*,
- National and EU-based demands for cross-border transparency and mutual recognition in the field of education, e.g. through systematic use of the European Qualification Framework (EQF), the European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), etc.
- The school's overall vision, which states that: *"the Green Academy participates in international activities within teaching, exchange, development and networking"*, and
- The school's pedagogical goal, according to which the student *"further develops his or hers identity as a democratic citizen with respect for other human beings and with international understanding and vision"*

This internationalization strategy is an immediate extension of the overall strategy and action plan for the Green Academy, which has been approved by the Board. The overall strategy for the Green Academy focuses e.g. on:

- Provision of pedagogically updated and renewed educational programs that match both the companies' and the students'/course participants' current and future needs
- Maintaining a high level of service, quality and working environment
- Appliance of a modern and updated pedagogy
- Participation in development projects and activities aiming at an international labor market

The international work at the Green Academy must contribute to the realization of the school's overall strategy and support the Green Academy in fulfilling its core task; namely, to educate and train the students for the national and international community and labor market, which awaits the students when they leave the Green Academy as skilled workers.

Finally, the internationalization strategy is based on the positive experiences gained in the school's previous commitment to international activities and on the international aspect of the school's current activities.

## Strategy 2022-2025

Within the mentioned framework, the Green Academy will work with the following long-term goals and focus areas for the school's international activities:

|   | Goals   | Focus areas  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | To create a real and attractive offer for those students who want a mobility stay as an integral part of their education, and to motivate more students to demand this              | Maintain and further develop the work with student mobilities through efficient use of EU-funded support programs, the Danish <i>Placement Abroad</i> scheme (OPU), and other programs |
| 2 | To further develop and market the Green Academy's international study environment   | Develop existing and new educational programs and course offerings in English  |
| 3 | To maintain/create the necessary professional contacts in Denmark and abroad that are necessary to implement this strategy  | Maintain and develop the school's international network<br>Continue to participate in international projects   |
| 4 | To ensure that the Green Academy, both locally, nationally and internationally, contributes in making IVET and CVET a more attractive choice for young people                       | Conduct excursions abroad and conduct and participate in professional competitions.<br>Offer to students a basic international network   |
| 5 | To promote the Green Academy in national and international development and innovation projects, especially with a view to practice-based / practice-oriented education and learning | Develop projects that are in demand in the industries, nationally and internationally<br>Marketing of the Green Academy's practice-based didactics, pedagogy and facilities            |

The strategic objectives for the international work are reviewed and approved by the school management every third year.

## Activity plan 2023/2024

The implementation of the overall strategy for the Green Academy takes place through concrete actions outlined in the activity plan below. It should be noted that the following is based on the internationalization strategy as currently known. However, it is important that the strategy itself as well as the associated activity plan can be continuously adjusted if or when new initiatives, focus areas and collaborative relationships provide opportunities for activities that can make a positive contribution to the Green Academy.

The activity plan is revised and approved by the school management every year. The following activity plan was adopted at the management meeting Thursday 25 January 2024.

|   | Focus area   | Activity plan   | Measurable result(s)  |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Student mobility                                     | Continue current efforts, but with increased volume (OPU, ERASMUS+, Interreg, and Nordplus )<br>Involve multiple student types (IVET, CVET) and students with special needs   | <u>Outbound mobility</u><br>20 OPU placements in 2023/24 tutored by the Green Academy<br>5 OPU placements in 2023/24 tutored by the student's Danish internship company.<br>50 ERASMUS+ 3 weeks stay in 2023/24<br>8 Nordplus 3 weeks stay in 2023/24<br>2 students with special needs in 2023/24<br><br><u>Inbound mobility</u><br>10 international students placed and provided for in Danish companies in 2023/2024  |
|   |  | Involve more teachers and alumni as ambassadors in the information work   | Systematic organization of information meetings at all basic courses and main courses during the school year 2023/24 and onwards<br>Prioritization of "the good stay abroad"-stories at the Green Academy itself as well as in professional journals, during open days, in social media, etc.   |
|   |  | Establish an appropriate and efficient administration of student mobilities according to all ECET procedures  | Clear division of tasks and responsibilities between involved employees (description). Systematic registration of all student and teacher mobilities.<br>Placement of incoming international students takes place without problems and in close collaboration with the teaching department and school dormitory.<br>Implement Learning Units as developed in the LOASA project  |
| 2 | Educational programs and course offerings in English | To maintain and further develop the current 10-week course in Denmark for i.e. Hungarian horticultural students, Hungarian and Czech agricultural students, Romanian agricultural students, and teachers, Spanish equine students | <u>Inbound mobility</u><br>Realization of educational offers for agricultural students and teachers, including:<br>- 40 students from Hungary (10 weeks)<br>- 20 students from Hungary (5 weeks)<br>- 20 students from Spain (2 weeks)<br>- 20 students from Netherlands (2 weeks)<br>- 30 students from Latvia and Poland (2 weeks)<br>- 40 students from Czech Republic (2 weeks)<br>- 40 students from Romania (3 weeks)<br>- 40 international students (1 week) |
|   |  | The Green Academy is continuously aware of needs and training offers in English   | Develop additional English-language teaching offers at several of the Green Academy's teaching departments  |

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 3 | International network                                  | Continued collaboration with other Danish agricultural schools on major mobility applications through EUROPEA Denmark   | <u>Outbound mobility</u><br>6 teacher facilities through the JOERU project (coordinated by EUROPEA-Denmark)  |
|   |  | Continued active teacher participation in international projects, study trips, exchange stays, etc., i.a. with a view to the employees' individual competence development, eventually through application for ERASMUS+ KA 1, KA2 and KA3 (CoVE) | The school is a partner in at least 3 partnership project each year (in addition to the mobility projects according to point 1 above)<br><br><u>Outbound mobility</u><br>At least 8 teachers per year participate in job shadowing / job exchange abroad using "Staff mobilities"<br><br><u>Inbound mobility</u><br>30 "job shadowing" teachers in 2023/24 |
|   |  | Continued active participation in EUROPEA, EfVET, ETF and similar networks with a focus on internationalization   | The school's international coordinator participates in EUROPEA, EfVET, ETF meetings as needed and regularly informs about the benefits thereof<br><br>The school's international coordinator participates in National Agency meetings and seminars as needed and continuously informs about the benefits thereof   |
|   |  | Expand our networks in the USA for student and teacher mobilities, study trips, etc. in benefit of all Green Academy departments  | <u>Outbound mobility</u><br>3-5 students (6-9 months) in 2023/2024<br>5 teachers (2 weeks) in 2023/2024  |
|   |  | Continued co-operation with agricultural schools in other Nordic and Baltic countries, on exchange of teachers and pupils through Nordplus  | <u>Outbound mobility</u><br>6 students in 2023/2024<br>2 teachers in 2023/2024   |
| 4 | IVET and CVET as an attractive choice for young people | Establish an overview of existing excursion offers at the school  | Comprehensive plan for excursions abroad in 2023/2024.<br>Clarify the common Green Academy position on professional excursions   |
|   |  | Examine which subjects can be competed in and who organizes it  | Brief written overview of existing competition subjects and organizers   |
| 5 | Promotion  | Updating of <a href="http://www.ju.dk">www.ju.dk</a> ("light version") in English   | International partners and students must be able to easily find relevant and updated information on Green Academy offers on our website<br><br>Fulfillment of the school's dissemination obligation in relation to EU programs, Nordplus, DK-USA, etc.   |
|   |  | Prioritization of dissemination of international cooperation and mobilities via social media  | International partners and students must be able to easily find relevant and updated information on Green Academy on selected social platforms   |