

International strategy for vocational education at AARHUS TECH 2021-2024

The UN's sustainable development goals are a natural part of the international strategy.

Denmark, like the other 192 countries that are members of the UN, has committed itself to including the 17 sustainable development goals in such a way that we as a nation contribute to them being met in 2030. The sustainable development goals are considered an overarching umbrella for the collaborations and projects in which AARHUS TECH participates. We and our European partners use every opportunity to include the world goals in our work.

In relation to the international work at AARHUS TECH, we have chosen to focus on six global goals:

Affordable and clean energy, Sustainable cities & communities, Quality education, Industry, innovation & infrastructure, Gender equality, Decent work & economic growth.

The first four world goals seem very natural in relation to international work. Denmark has come a relatively long way in relation to Gender equality, Decent jobs & economic growth. This is not the case in all European countries, but as we find the goals both important and current, we have chosen to include them in our international strategy.

Affordable and clean energy; sustainable cities & communities.

The Earth's climate is changing rapidly. Therefore, AARHUS TECH wants to contribute to Denmark achieving the climate goals adopted by the Danish parliament. That contribution will be most effective if it is done in cooperation across Europe's borders. Sustainability is therefore part of the international strategy at AARHUS TECH.

It means:

- That AARHUS TECH, in relation to each individual mobility, considers which kind of transport will be most optimal from an environmental point of view.
- That AARHUS TECH develops cooperation in the local areas whenever possible - Northern Europe and Scandinavia - in order to reduce the environmental impact in form of shorter transport.
- That AARHUS TECH participates in projects that promote sustainability and wants to play a central role in creating a sustainable society.

Quality education; industry, innovation & infrastructure.

In order to be an attractive partner for educational institutions in Europe, and at the same time be able to contribute to the achievement of Denmark's climate goals, AARHUS TECH needs to offer educations that are both of high quality and show innovative thinking.

It means:

- That AARHUS TECH works with virtual possibilities. Within the EMEU collaboration, efforts are being made to expand the virtual possibilities in all modules.
- That AARHUS TECH is constantly working to take advantage of the opportunities in a strong digital infrastructure. The school does this, among other things by using virtual teaching where possible, have effective and secure learning platforms and ensure that teachers have the necessary competencies.



- That AARHUS TECH contributes to giving students - Danish as well as international - competencies that enable them to think innovatively.

Gender equality; decent work & economic growth.

Not only the work with the four above world goals, but all teaching at AARHUS TECH takes place without regard to gender as well as race, religion and sexual orientation. In addition, AARHUS TECH wants to contribute to a labour market that, in addition to ensuring economic growth, also offers decent jobs.

It means:

- That AARHUS TECH does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or bullying arising from gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. This is a central part of the school's policies and guidelines.
- That AARHUS TECH offers high-quality education that contributes to the graduate students being able to get a job with decent pay and working conditions.
- That AARHUS TECH collaborates with local companies to train a workforce that can contribute to economic growth. This is done by the school imparting to the students the qualifications that are in demand in the labour market and motivating the students to be mobile and ready for change.

Student and staff participation are core areas.

The international projects in which AARHUS TECH participates must benefit the school's students and staff. This means that the projects must contain elements of student and teacher activity.

For students, this means:

- The opportunity to have an international experience in the form of a mobility (travel abroad)
- Participation in a virtual teaching course together with students from our foreign partner schools
- Participate in teaching courses where international students participate.

For teachers, this means:

- The opportunity for a professional visit to colleagues at our partner schools and to receive colleagues from our partners.
- Participation in the development work with international projects
- Reception of international students who are to participate in the teaching

Partners abroad.

Cooperation with educational institutions abroad

The education systems of the EU countries are different. In order to ensure the quality of the academic content, it is necessary to have an in-depth knowledge of both the country's educational system and the specific school.

Therefore, AARHUS TECH has some basic principles for partnerships with schools abroad:

- We want long-term collaborations between AARHUS TECH and business schools abroad. The goal is cooperation agreements of a minimum duration of 3-5 years.
- A partner schools abroad should preferably have a majority of educations that matches the educations at AARHUS TECH.



- The collaboration must be based on reciprocity, which means that both parties receive and send students and teachers.
- We seek to be part of networks that work with quality assurance of international mobilities using ECVET. EMEU is the model for this.
- International collaborations must be anchored in the educations through the involvement of several employees (managers, teachers, company consultants, etc.)
- There must be mutual visits between the partners every two years.

Collaboration with companies abroad

Cooperation with companies abroad can take place in 4 ways:

- The contact can be established and maintained through our partner schools - primarily through EU mobilities, VFU¹ for school trainees or PIU² posting.
- The contact can take place through local companies to their subsidiaries or partners - primarily in connection with PIU posting.
- The contact can be made by the students who are looking for a specific internship abroad - primarily in connection with PIU school sending.
- The contact can be established and handled by employees at AARHUS TECH - primarily in connection with PIU school deployment.

¹ VFU means that parts of the teaching that should have taken place at AARHUS TECH instead is completed in a company.

² PIU is a possibility for a Danish apprentice to carry through parts or the entire apprenticeship abroad.

The 4 primary activity areas at AARHUS TECH.

Internationalization at home

- International examples and tasks in everyday teaching
- Virtual and/or project collaboration with partners abroad on tasks in the daily teaching
- Integration of international students in teaching
- Involvement of local companies e.g. by receiving international students in internships
- International elective at GF2
- Cultural intelligence

Development projects and networks

- Projects that develop innovative teaching approaches⁴
- Projects that develop contacts and methods for increased mobility
- Projects and networks that support and improve access to further education abroad
- Projects that work with the UN's sustainable development goals
- Projects that work with sustainability

International mobilities

- School stays abroad, which contribute to achieving specific competence objectives. EMEU is a model for this
- Students can see the international opportunities on the platform "New student" and on the school's website
- Students automatically receive information about their international opportunities via "itslearning"
- Internship abroad (PIU or ERASMUS+)³
- Foreign students doing internships in local companies

Competence development of employees

- Cooperation with foreign partners on achieving competence objectives (ECVET)
- Development and conduct of teaching activities that involve international perspectives
- Participation in development projects and networks
- Job shadowing abroad (schools and/or companies)
- Accompanying teacher
- Guidance in PIU

³ This mobility must be equated with internship periods with a Danish employer or school internship and contributes to achieving specific internship goals.

⁴ E.g. by setting tasks that promote students' ability to combine task, experience and creativity into an innovative solution.



Objectives towards 2024.

- The goal is for 10% of all VET students at AARHUS TECH to take part of an international mobility or participate in another kind of international activity by 2024.
- 15% of AARHUS TECH's VET teachers participates in an international mobility
- 10% of the school's other staff involved in VET also participates in an international mobility.
- AARHUS TECH participates in a minimum of 1 European strategic partnership, which either develops mobility opportunities for our students or develops innovative teaching initiatives. AARHUS TECH participates in a minimum of 2 international development projects

Qualitative goals for internationalization are:

- 75% of all ERASMUS+ mobilities use ECVET
- International mobility must be integrated at fixed times in the educations, so that it can be disseminated as a continuous offer and used in marketing
- Internationalization is communicated internally and externally and used in marketing
- Foreign students and partners are received professionally all the way around

Organizational goals for internationalization are:

- PIU guidance is organizational anchoring in schools through PIU contact persons
- A minimum of 2 teachers at each department can assist colleagues in using ECVET (from description of Learning Outcome to merit procedure)