



POLYTECHNIC OF ŠIBENIK

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Polytechnic of Šibenik is currently undergoing a process of organizational changes and modernization due to the implementation of the Work and Development Program (Strategy) of the Polytechnic of Šibenik for the period 2017 - 2025. Based on the above, the Polytechnic focuses on improving efficiency to address the challenges involved in strengthening entrepreneurship and attracting students. Particular emphasis is placed on creating a stimulating environment for scientific interests, launching new projects, developing international collaboration, and building partnerships with non-academic and business organizations. Due to poor demographic trends in the Republic of Croatia, the number of people enrolling in higher education decreases. The Polytechnic aims to stop such a trend by developing innovative education programs that will include non-traditional higher education students and underrepresented groups.

Participation in the Erasmus Program will enable building a framework for achieving this goal. Youth unemployment is one of the burning problems on the EU and individual Member State levels. This problem can be solved by developing new skills and competencies while offering new learning opportunities. Participation in the Erasmus Program will facilitate for the Polytechnic of Šibenik to develop new learning resources, develop business and apply new business concepts. Teaching methodologies will also be improved, resulting in the acquisition of new skills and competencies and better employability of students. Studying and training abroad realized within the Erasmus program encourages collaboration and exchange of experiences between students, contributing to knowledge building. Cross-border cooperation in higher education leads to an intensive exchange of experiences, the adoption of innovative practices, and strengthening research within the European educational environment.

The Polytechnic cooperates extensively with companies (economic councils, contracted research, lifelong learning programs). Participation in the Erasmus program helps develop a new lifelong learning program, adapts study programs to the needs of the labor market, and facilitates the transfer of knowledge, which enhances research potential and innovation. It contributes to the Polytechnic's specific strategic goal: Connection with the community and the economy and alignment with the community's needs. Participation in the Program provides an opportunity to establish measures that would improve the institution's management and enhance its autonomy and accountability.



By expanding the areas of activity and setting up new partnerships, the institution wishes to develop measures to obtain funding from various sources and increase administrative units' potential to manage these resources.

The Polytechnic has signed more than 20 Inter-Institutional Agreements based on areas of mutual interest, taking particular account of the compatibility of study programs. Proposed mobilities of students and staff are relevant to internalization strategies as they will foster the development of Polytechnic's regional activities and visibility. Through staff mobility, it will be possible to introduce new modernized curricula at the partner institutions. Student mobilities will provide for better awareness of multicultural, indigenous and ethnic values and contribute to promoting racial and ethnic tolerance, social justice, and appreciation of cultural diversity. Collaboration with the partner institutions in terms of staff exchange would be a valuable aid in curriculum development and modern e-learning methodology. The possibility of cooperating within the Erasmus+ program and ensuring financial support for the joint activities in realization of teaching will be a valuable framework to share experience with distinguished scholars from partner HEIs that are specialized in the targeted subject areas of social and humanities and technical sciences. Their contribution will be of enormous benefit for the Polytechnic's teaching staff and for improving quality of existing study programs and establishing new study programs.

All students selected to take part in exchange programs will be chosen based on merit and their potential to benefit from the experience; the Polytechnic selects students without regard to sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, or social background; applications from students with disabilities are viewed on precisely the same academic grounds as those of other candidates. The Polytechnic is also committed to making arrangements to enable students with disabilities to participate as fully as possible in student life.

The Polytechnic is committed to ensuring the quality of programs offered to students in Šibenik and during study periods abroad. It is working towards identifying its courses according to the proposed national credit framework for Croatia and the ECTS. Periods of study undertaken by its students under the Erasmus framework receive full academic recognition and do not increase the overall length of a study. Polytechnic departments will continue to work with partner institutions to ensure that incoming students receive reports, which enable them to receive appropriate credit from their home university.



All students work under the supervision of a tutor or supervisor and must keep in contact with them while on exchange. All academic co-ordinators arrange pre-departure meetings for the outgoing students, who are encouraged to seek advice from the previous year's outgoing students. The reports of outgoing students on their time abroad are monitored to enable any problems to be identified and discussed with partner institutions. Each incoming student is allocated a tutor or supervisor who is responsible for overseeing their studies in Šibenik. The majority of incoming exchange students will be housed at the Polytechnic's campus; however, incoming students will be assisted in finding accommodation where this is not possible. All incoming students have access to the Polytechnic's laboratory, library, restaurant, and other facilities offered to local students. The Polytechnic will not charge any fees to incoming mobility students for the tuition, registration, or examination.

The Polytechnic has published an online Course Catalogue that contains detailed curricula with learning outcomes for English courses as well as other information on the educational offer and the learning environment in a way to enable students to make the right decisions and use their time most efficiently before and during their study period. The Polytechnic provides incoming participants information about visa requirements and the time necessary for a visa application.

The Polytechnic provides language support to its selected students through the implementation of the Erasmus+ Online Linguistic Support (OLS) system so that they can have the recommended language skills at the start of the mobility period. The Polytechnic covers insurance to all outgoing students and includes this information in the Learning Agreement.

Participation in the Erasmus + program (within the KA1 action) influences the internationalization of the Polytechnic of Šibenik by achieving specific goals of increasing the number of incoming and outgoing students and teacher mobility. Concerning indicators from the academic year 2019/2020, an increase is planned in the next five-year period:

- the annual number of incoming students by 300% - from the existing 10 to 30
- the annual number of incoming teachers and scientists by 300% - from the existing 10 to 30
- the annual number of outgoing students by 400% - from the existing 5 to 20 per year
- the annual number of outgoing teachers and scientists by 300% - from the existing 10 to 30



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Also, it is planned to increase involvement in Erasmus cooperation projects through contracting projects in strategic partnerships (as part of KA2 action). Concerning the indicators from the academic year 2019/2020, five more KA2 projects are planned to be contracted in the next five-year period in which the Polytechnic would be a partner or a project (applicant) coordinator.

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