



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Applied Sciences Baltazar in Zaprešić is the biggest private business school in Croatia. The University has introduced innovation to Croatian higher education and adapted the curriculum to meet the requirements of labour market and employers by offering scientifically-based and practice-oriented studies. Our vision is to keep growing as a recognizable quality institution with a clear educational and research profile directed towards sustainable business and management.

The main goal of our internationalization and modernization strategy is to contribute to the development of quality education in Croatia and Europe by constant improvement of our study programmes in accordance with European standards and with the achievements of our partners. The key instruments to reach this goal are the students and staff mobility, close collaboration with similar institutions abroad and participation in international projects. The University has established the International Cooperation Team that is implementing the internationalization strategy by making agreements with quality institutions of higher education and taking actions to stimulate the increase of individual mobilities and cooperation projects. When choosing partners, The University is taking in account the need of students and staff, similarities of the study programmes, the study programmes balance and the geographical balance. The important criteria are the quality of teaching in potential partner institution and languages in which the courses are performed. The University has established international cooperation with several European and international HE institutions. Among our partners are the neighbouring countries, both EU (Austria, Slovenia) and non-EU (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), other West, Central and North European countries (France, Belgium, Spain, Czech Republic, Lithuania) and recently we have started to develop cooperation with the United States.

Collaboration with European and international higher education institutions on mutual projects and through the exchange of students and teachers is part of our basic priorities and organizational values. Our international strategy aims at providing all students with international competences, improving staff members' international qualifications, supporting and incorporating high quality and international skills in all curricula, participating in international projects in cooperation with key partners and becoming the recognizable quality college in Croatia and abroad.

Key priorities and objectives of our international cooperation strategy are:

- Further development of flexible and modern curriculum in accordance with European standards
- Further establishment of cooperation networks and transfer of good practice through bilateral agreements with similar HE institutions and participation in international cooperation projects
- Increasing the students and staff mobility (both in and outgoing) to provide wide international experience and professional inspiration and increase foreign language proficiency

Within the framework of the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, the University will focus especially on student credit mobility for studies and work placements, staff mobility for teaching and training, strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and knowledge alliances with companies.

The University will continue to promote and support student and staff mobility, especially taking care of including participants from under-represented and disadvantaged groups, according to our non-discrimination policy. The University will provide additional grants for students and staff with disabilities who wish to participate

in the European and international mobility. For the incoming students with disabilities, The University will provide special counselling and blended mobility possibilities within our distance learning courses. The University will enhance the quality of incoming and outgoing mobilities by providing constant support to all students and staff member involved, increasing the number of courses offered in English and ensuring recognition of the students mobility period abroad. It will recognise the importance of the international experience of staff as part of the human resources development, providing visibility and valuating the results achieved in individual mobility as well as in international cooperation projects.

The University will continue to develop partnerships and cooperation with partners in other EU and non-EU countries. We will engage in establishing joint transnational courses within our planned project of distance learning virtual courses.

The University will regularly assess the mobility performance and outcomes and use these results for improvements and further development of the international cooperation activities.

The vision of The University is continuing to develop into a high-quality institution of HE with a clearly defined education and research profile directed towards business and management in the context of sustainable development, and based on clear learning outcomes and lifelong learning, attractive to students and characterized by active cooperation with economic and other subjects. In line with the defined developmental strategy, consistent efforts are put into development and enhancement of international collaboration. To make the best of possibilities offered within EU funds and programmes in education and training, The University began to develop a framework for administrative, professional and technical help to its teachers by recruiting a person with a long-time experience in preparing and implementing EU projects. The next phase is to institutionalize the activities carried out in the sphere of international cooperation and to merge all the complementary activities by setting up a special department for scientific research and life-long learning. By proactive operations conforming to the strategic plans of the College, and by ensuring funds through various projects, the department will contribute to further improvement of the study programmes, ensure the quality of education and enhance the recognisability of The University as an important factor of the socio-economic development of the community. Through the Career center, The University is developing alliances with companies and, in compliance to our mission of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, The University has recently developed a project Education and Development Center Baltazar - Strengthening entrepreneurship capacity in local community through investments in higher education and business development infrastructure. Our goal is to enhance the international dimension of this kind of projects through establishing cooperation programmes in the framework of strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances.

Within the framework of the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, The University will pursue its internationalization objectives through the actions of students and staff individual mobility and international cooperation projects for innovation and good practices. The University is committed to contribute to the EU modernisation and internationalization agenda in higher education in all of its five priorities: increasing attainment level, improving the quality and relevance of higher education, strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation, linking higher education, research and business, improving governance and funding.

We expect to increase significantly the incoming and outgoing students' mobility for studying and placements as well as transnational mobility of our staff both to participating and third countries. We will foster international strategic partnerships with educational and business organizations in order to develop joint initiatives and collaborative projects, exchange experiences and best practices. These actions are expected to enforce our efforts to implement the highest standards of quality and best practices in institutional governance and our study programmes and curricula and will enable us to offer more attractive courses, responsive to social and business needs.

The results of those actions are expected to have impacts in following:

- assure the quality of programmes of study and associated qualifications of students by implementing adequate teaching and learning methods and developing curricula and lifelong learning programmes to meet the needs of local business community and the society in whole
- improving the level of key competences and skills regarding in particular their relevance for the labour market and society
- improve the employability of our students through the international experience
- increase language skills of our students and teachers
- create and preserve quality human capital as a vital element for local and regional competitiveness economy
- promote education and culture of knowledge
- increase number of high quality trained professionals as a key factor for sustainable local development