

COLLEGE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Zagreb

INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

2014 - 2020

Zagreb, 17 February 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

VSITE's internationalization strategy defines the main directions and strategic goals for strengthening VSITE's international position in the period 2014 - 2020, which are directed towards being distinguishable in terms of educational, scientific, innovative professional development, and socially sustainable achievements that enable VSITE to take part in various forms of international cooperation in the field of higher education, scientific research, and international exchange and mobility of students, teaching and non-teaching staff.

VSITE has created the fundamental organizational assumptions and has met the fundamental criteria for strengthening student and teacher mobility as well as international cooperation within the framework of the Erasmus+ program. VSITE's internationalization strategy is therefore directed towards achieving VSITE's international openness towards foreign students and teachers and ensuring the prerequisites for outgoing mobility of VSITE's students, teachers and non-teaching staff.

The internationalization strategy is an integral part of VSITE's development strategy.

2. THE STARTING POINTS OF THE STRATEGY

2.1 VSITE's vision

In 2020, College for Information Technologies (VSITE) will be internationally recognized as a university of applied sciences for information technologies which encourages the adoption and application of cutting-edge information technologies, techniques and knowledge, through professional undergraduate and graduate studies, lifelong learning, scientific research and an innovation development center.

By networking with similar educational institutions and businesses, VSITE provides its teachers, associates, and students, through international cooperation and joint projects, with continuous professional and scientific development, and thus creatively contributes to the sustainable development of the economy, the digital economy and the digitization of society, and the quality of life.

2.2 VSITE's mission

Through professional and specialized study programs, lifelong learning and scientific research as well as professional activities, VSITE enables its students to adopt the latest information and communication technologies and business knowledge in order to be able to find their place in the labor market and to contribute to the development of the economy and society as a whole.

In addition to classes, VSITE ensures the necessary up-to-date equipment for its students, support for scientific and professional projects, developing innovative IT solutions and underlying assumptions for cooperation with industry, mobility and international cooperation. Internationalization is directed towards the transfer of knowledge, higher education, scientific research and professional activities.

3. AREAS AND MAIN DIRECTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

3.1 Academic mobility

The increase in the outgoing and incoming mobility of VSITE's students, teachers, associates and non-teaching staff is directed towards preparing them for a global work environment, and it is realized through greater involvement in international networks and associations, international projects and other forms of international cooperation.

Customization and constant improvement of the quality of the study programs according to trends in development and application of information technology are the basis for promoting growth of academic mobility and international exchange of teachers and research.

3.2 Courses in English

Teaching and publishing textbooks and other course material in English is the first step in internationalization which promotes academic mobility and VSITE being internationally distinguished. The dynamics of introducing classes in English for professional courses in the fields of programming, databases, computer systems and networks, and eventually other courses, will be determined by the amount of interest foreign students show for studying at VSITE and the plans to improve the quality of study programs at VSITE.

3.3 Partnerships with foreign HEIs

Developing cooperation with HEIs in the EU and the region is the basis for strengthening the educational, scientific, and professional potential of VSITE, which qualifies VSITE for becoming their equal partner based on results achieved in joint scientific research and professional projects, the development of innovation in IT, and also on involving VSITE's teachers and researchers in specialist, doctoral and post-doctoral studies at partner HEIs.

VSITE is going to develop cooperation with foreign higher education institutions on exchanging experiences and developing e-administration and integrating higher education quality management systems.

3.4 An active role in international associations

VSITE will be actively involved in international associations through which it will establish new contacts and be involved in forms of international cooperation and the activities of those associations. VSITE will encourage the admission of students, teachers and non-teaching staff into international associations whose activities enable reinforcing VSITE's international recognition.

3.5 The transfer of knowledge within and outside of the EU

VSITE will encourage its teachers to participate in regional conferences and professional gatherings so that the dissemination of the results of various studies and research papers do not remain solely within the borders of the Republic of Croatia.

3.6 International projects

Through the Innovation and Development Center and the International Relations and Mobility Office, VSITE will strive to participate in EU funded projects which are not within the Erasmus+ program in order to reinforce partnerships with regional HEIs and other organizations outside the Republic of Croatia.

3.7 Other strategic directions

In order to fulfill the fundamental strategic aims it is necessary to reach additional strategic goals which are:

- a) Strengthening the capacities of staff within VSITE's Innovation and Development Center (IRC) and its International Relations and Mobility Office (UMMS).
- b) Effective collaboration between the IRC and the UMMS.
- c) A budget that complies with the expansion of international activities.

4. THE STRATEGIC GOALS OF VSITE'S INTERNATIONALIZATION

4.1 ACADEMIC MOBILITY

Goal 1: To increase the number of outgoing student and teaching staff mobility.

Goal 2: To increase the number of incoming student and teaching staff mobilities from the program and partner countries within the Erasmus+ program.

Goal 3: To invite at least one guest lecturer from renowned IT organizations/companies each academic year.

4.2 COURSES IN ENGLISH

Goal 4: To organize classes of an entire area of specialization in English at undergraduate and graduate levels.

4.3 PARTNERSHIPS WITH FOREIGN HEIs

Goal 5: To increase the number of signed Erasmus inter-institutional agreements with HEIs from program and partner countries.

Goal 6: To increase the number of signed bilateral agreements with HEIs around the world.

Goal 7: To implement cooperation defined through bilateral and inter-institutional agreements.

4.4 AN ACTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Goal 8: To be involved in projects initiated through membership in organizations such as EURASHE, SEFI and MIPRO.

4.5 THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE EU

Goal 9: To increase participation and the number of papers at regional conferences and professional gatherings.

4.5.1 INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Goal 10: To participate in EU projects outside the Erasmus+ program either as a partner or an applicant.

5. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

The tasks in realizing the strategies and goals of VSITE's internationalization are defined in the Plan of activities and measures for promoting international cooperation and mobility (OB-45) for the period of two academic years. The execution of the tasks set out in the plan is monitored continuously, and at the end of each academic year, the execution is evaluated and measures are taken for its realization.

6. REVISING THE STRATEGY

The internationalization strategy is revised every two years based on an analysis of achieving the strategic goals and planned activities in the field of international cooperation and mobility.

The internationalization strategy is revised whenever VSITE's development strategy is being revised.