

Erasmus Policy Statement

The strategy of the College for Information Technologies for the 2012-2016 period is divided into 4 segments:

1. education process
2. professional - scientific works and projects
3. quality assurance system
4. resource development

Strategic goals are defined for all the mentioned segments. Within these goals, tasks and activities for the realization of the cooperation with international HEIs, student and staff mobility, joint projects with Croatian and international HEIs pertaining to EU projects are also defined. Within the tasks related to strategic goals, a significant place is taken up by projects with commercial and non-commercial companies and organizations from Croatia as well as from neighbouring countries and countries from the EU. The choice of partners is two-sided. In situations when we initiate projects, we choose HEIs and organizations based on the required knowledge, equipment and experience for the realization of the project itself. When we are chosen as project partners by others, we are selected on the basis of the knowledge that we have in the four following areas: Information Systems Design, Software Development, Database and Web Design or Computer Systems and Networks. At the moment we have directed our cooperation towards EU countries of central Europe (Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary) with which Croatia has a stronger collaboration. Our cooperation is also strongly directed towards neighbouring countries which are not EU members (countries of the Western Balkans). Considering the cooperation with HEIs, in the segment which does not pertain to projects, we are aimed at HEIs in the area of IT and Computer Science.

In the strategy of the College for Information Technologies the emphasis considering cooperation projects in teaching and training is put on the following:

1. e-learning in the sense of producing joint laboratory exercises, textbooks and video lectures
2. student mobility through student training
3. student mobility in the sense of attending one semester on foreign HEIs
4. teacher mobility in the case of a study semester or year on foreign HEIs

Forms of Life Long Learning are also of great importance. From the strategic point of view, in this educational segment, two organizational forms are offered, part time studying and workshops. Part time students enrol 40 ECTS per academic years, which make them able to fulfil all course requirements in the same way as full time students. After finishing the study, part time students have the same competencies and learning outcomes, get the same diploma certificate as full time students. Workshops are being conducted in the fields which are not part of the study programme or they serve as an additional means for expanding the knowledge of certain course subjects. All workshop participants who have successfully completed this kind of training receive certificates of attendance. For the time being, these workshops are organized for VSITE students, but also for other HEI students. This kind of training will be organized as LLP training for all interested parties, not only from HEIs but also from the economy. As a precondition to this, it is necessary to determine equivalent ECTS points for each workshop and include them into the certificate of attendance.

We expect that the impact of our participation in the Programme on the modernization of our institution will be as explained, according to the 5 priorities of the Modernization Agenda:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

With establishing clear learning outcomes for all courses, according to our national qualifications framework (based on the EQF), our goal is to attract a higher number of student candidates by providing transparent information on the educational opportunities and outcomes which our study programme offers. Through the activities of our Research and Innovation Centre (IRC) and the Programme we hope to achieve research cooperation with international organizations, thus contributing to the number of researchers Europe needs.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

By participating in the Programme and expanding our learning and teaching experience through adoption of international methods and study modes, we intend to improve the competence of our teachers and researchers, thus improving the overall quality. In addition, we hope to improve the professional development of our staff via the support of Programme funding.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation

Participation in mobility programmes will have a direct impact on the modernisation of our academic credit system, considering the transparency of the methodology by which we allocate credits to different course units.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work

By establishing partnerships with domestic and international businesses we intend to create a connection between the three sides of the knowledge triangle – education, research and business. With direct involvement in business projects we will also be able to financially contribute to the modernisation of our educational resources and technical equipment, as we are an institution which is only funded from student tuition.

5. Improving governance and funding

Being a private HEI in Croatia, we do not receive state funding; neither do our students have the opportunity to apply for state grants. Hopefully, by receiving Programme funding, our students will have the opportunity for education or traineeship in the Member States, especially exceptional students and from poorer backgrounds. In the area of improving governance, our goal is also to modernise the HR management in the field of establishing the right criteria for choosing staff which will contribute to the improvement of our overall quality.

Legal Representative

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Dean

