

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Tehničko veleučilište u Zagrebu (Zagreb University of Applied Sciences) has been awarded with Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the period 2021-2027 by European Commission. Our Erasmus ID code is HR ZAGREB05 and our Erasmus Policy Statement is following:

Zagreb University of Applied Sciences expects that its participation in the Programme will have the following impact on the modernization of its education and organization: Student and teacher mobility brings benefit to all participants who gain from different perspectives gathered during their mobility stay or brought to them by incoming teachers or incoming students integrated into Zagreb UAS's life. With increasing mobility, we aim at increasing the interest in its study programmes thus increasing both quantity and quality of its graduates, which is in compliance with our internationalisation strategy. Wisely chosen partners from other EU and non-EU countries with similar competences also bring the new developments in the common fields of expertise. Student stay or training will help students gain additional professional and personal skills which could not be obtained by studying solely at their home institution. Additionally acquired professional skills make a difference when entering a labour market while among most important additional personal skills we count higher level of independence a young person gets and ability to sovereign solution of problems. Participation in the Programme will additionally motivate Zagreb UAS to renew its relations with domestic enterprises and to continuously seek for new partner enterprises both abroad and at home, thus enlarging the internship possibilities and future employability of its own and partner HEI students. In this way, the strengthening of ties and enhancement of cooperation between education and business will be achieved. The improvement of governance and funding mechanisms is planned to be accomplished through constant dialog within TVZ and with partner institutions followed by adjustment and implementation of good practice examples. Furthermore, we are planning on encouraging outgoing student mobility by using own financial means, in order for mobility to be accessible to all the students regardless of their background and for the mobility to become the norm, thus increasing the language and the overall soft skill competence of the students.

By encouraging our students to participate in mobility Zagreb UAS is also creating favourable climate for building the European Education Area in terms of encouraging mobility, recognizing qualifications /grades obtained at a foreign institution, encouraging students to improve foreign language skills and using own financial means in ordered to encourage students to participate in the mobility regardless of their socio-economic background.

Zagreb University of Applied Science is planning to continue its activities within KA1 (the mobility of higher education students and staff with both program and partner countries) and KA2 activities and would like to become involved in KA3 activities. Implementation and organization of mobilities will be done by IRO and Erasmus committee consisting of 5 ECTS departmental coordinators, vice-dean for education, vice-dean for foreign affairs, Erasmus coordinator, jurist from human resources and Erasmus administrator. Erasmus committee makes decisions, organization and development of mobility programs. Erasmus coordinator responsibilities are applications, reports, bilateral agreements, communication with NA, plans for development and promotion of international

mobility and projects, preparation and leading Erasmus committee meetings. ECTS coordinators are responsible for professional issues in individual LA and TA, communication with TVZ teachers concerning teaching subjects with foreign students enrolled. Erasmus administrator - all Erasmus administrative issues and communication (incoming/outgoing), help with accommodation/visa/health insurance issues and promotion of Erasmus at Zagreb UAS. Zagreb UAS is of the opinion that mobility is important to the development of the institution as a whole as well as for the individual participants. Therefore, we will continue to make mobility and international cooperation a central element in our institutional policies. In terms of KA1 activities, cooperation with partner and programme countries Zagreb UAS will strive to increase the numbers of both outgoing and incoming mobilities as well as to increase the level of integration of international students with domestic students. As the ultimate goal of participation in programme is internationalization of the institution, Zagreb UAS has a vision of such scenario. Due to the fact that the essential part of a global education is the inclusion of international students in communities and classes, integration of all students is an elemental factor in the expanding concept of internationalisation. In order to increase the level of integration of international students with domestic students Zagreb UAS organizes workshops called: Intercultural communication skills, and has developed an application that provide international students with information about the activities they can participate in along with domestic students (from study halls to sports activities). Furthermore, Zagreb UAS will strive to encourage incoming student mobility, which will be ensured by increasing the number of courses conducted in English each academic year. Additionally, Zagreb UAS will aim to increase the number of incoming students through the internationalization of study programs. In this regard, it is important to point out that in the academic year 2021/2022 Zagreb UAS will begin conducting a specialist graduate study "Information Security and Digital Forensics" in English. In terms of partner institutions, we aim to increase the number of partner institutions regarding Mediterranean countries, Slavic language speaking countries and German language speaking countries. First three groups are the choice of many beneficiaries - people who want to meet another but not too different culture and surroundings. As English or German language is obligatory subject in all our undergraduate curricula, German language speaking countries are the choice of some percentage of students (some of them have family or private connections there or even have lived there in the childhood). The management will further support and stimulate concrete international initiatives within the framework of mobility, development of double/multiple/joint degrees, interregional programmes, development of EU cooperation and other non-European. It is our believe that increase in the number of mobile students and staff benefits our institution in terms of increasing knowledge and skills that can be applied to increase the quality of education while increasing the awareness of the differences between the cultures as well the tolerance needed because of those differences. Additionally it is also our belief that the increase in the number of outgoing students and teachers would be highly beneficial for the internationalization and integration strategy, while the students who have spent time abroad themselves should be more prone to socialize with international students thus encouraging internationalization at home.

The envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on our institution should be visible through several aspects. Firstly, it is important to say that the internationalization is a process that involves ongoing and continuous effort by all parties involved, universities and students. Zagreb UAS is planning on working toward that goal by integrating international students, and positioning curriculum content in an international context. Zagreb UAS will aim to increase the awareness of the opportunities for both students and staff and extend the impact of the Erasmus + Programme. Zagreb UAS will be monitoring the number of both students and staff, incoming and outgoing

mobilities with the aim to increase the numbers. Secondly, in order to ensure the quality of the outgoing mobilities each student will write a report about their mobility experience that will further be used as a promo material. Through offering students Intercultural communication workshop, domestic students should be better prepared for the life in a different culture, while international students should better adapt to host culture. Apart from the support through the workshop, all students will be offered support from the International relations office regarding any mobility related issues. Staff mobility will be monitored through the presentation that each staff member has to submit after the mobility. In terms of student mobilities, our short-term objective, within the first call in the new Programme is to increase the number of outgoing students (currently approximately 30 per year) to reach 1% of the student population. Long-term goal is to increase the percentage of mobile students by 2% by the end of the next seven-year programme. In terms of staff mobilities the aim is to increase the number of mobilities to over 50 outgoing per academic year (currently approximately 40). In terms of KA2 cooperation projects staff members will be encouraged to participate and will receive support in doing so in terms of administrative assistance from the International relations office. At the moment Zagreb UAS is participating in one KA2 project, the goal is to increase the number of KA2 projects to two per call in the next programme. As mentioned in the answer to the previous questions, envisioned impact can be seen in our belief that increase in the number of mobile students and staff benefits our institution in terms of increasing knowledge and skills that can be applied to increase the quality of education while increasing the awareness of the differences between the cultures as well as the tolerance needed because of those differences.