Ekonomska in trgovska šola Brežice

**Višja strokovna šola**

Bizeljska cesta 45

8250 Brežice

**ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

Higher Vocational College of Economics Brežice has been awarded the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the Erasmus+ programme 2014-2020.

The Erasmus Policy Statement sets out our institutional strategy in relation to the Charter.

Mission of Higher Vocational College is to carry out a good quality program of economics, which will provide professionally well-qualified graduates able to find work either in business or in non-commercial fields.  Furthermore, establishing good interpersonal relations through open communication among all participants is of key importance.

Good cooperation with companies at students’ work experience and other forms of pedagogical work enables us to meet the labour market demands as well as improving and adjusting to new trends.

Therefore, we will try hard to achieve this goal with high quality professional knowledge of our lecturers, individual approach, respectful and responsible attitude.

By signing this Charter, Higher Vocational College of Economics Brežice undertakes to contribute to the European Unions modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education.

We strongly believe in the international mobility of students and staff as a way of improving our educational programme ang making it more attractive.

Our students get the chance of international mobility because their level of education is acknowledged and in line with European standards.

We believe that our students will be more successful in Slovenia and outside our borders if they have a chance of gaining international work experience across the national borders.

Our priorities:

The mission of the Vocational College is the quality implementation of the higher education programme Economist, which will provide properly qualified and employable graduates in the economic as well as in other fields of work and build good interpersonal relations through open communication between all stakeholders.

Working closely with employers through hands-on education and other pedagogical work makes it possible to keep up with the needs of the labour market in such a way that professional and other staff are kept up to date by constantly updating their work.

Increasing and consolidating the reputation and recognisability of our higher education institution in our local and wider environment becomes an important factor of development in our region and beyond which is only possible by raising the quality of professional and development work an and expanding the programme offer.

**According to the values of our institution** we have created strategy in the year plan of the school and it involves the following goals:

1. Knowledge and expertise

* motivate students to experience a work placement abroad (Erasmus+ internships);
* motivate teaching stuff to teach at a partner higher education institution abroad (mobility of teaching staff), or facilitate the professional development in the form of training (other than participation in conferences), educational visits and on-the-job observation periods at a partner higher education institution or other relevant institution abroad (mobility of training staff).

2. Responsibility, flexibility, respect and self respect

* by increasing the number of students who apply for this activity and experience;
* by motivating the teachers to experience a placement abroad.

3. Cooperation, quality, efficency

* by increasing the number of students as well as teachers from other countries organising activities under the European Community projects Erasmus+ as a partner;
* maintain a steady cooperation with some specific partners;
* increase the number of new partners (schools and universities, enterprises and research institutions to develop educational and research – oriented projects);
* by updating the web – page for our students and partners…

We will try to achieve these objectives through mobility of students for study and practice, teachers and staff, by inviting company experts, as well as through participation in international projects.

We will look for new partners at international events, through personal contacts, by active participation at international conferences and gathering contact information from our students, professors, partners and the national agency.

We will extend our international cooperation to the non-EU countries in order to enhance the recognition of the school internationally, to increase the attainment levels to provide the graduates Europe needs, to improve the quality of practical training and thus to link higher education and business for excellence and regional development.

The main expectations of the VSŠ Brežice in the new period of Erasmus+ are to increase the number of students and to reduce the drop-out rates.

Through mobility and international projects, our students will acquire new skills and innovative knowledge needed for their employment in the international labour market.

They will be able to exchange their examples of good practice and improve their communication skills with business partners. Through cooperation with enterprises, we will offer innovative learning opportunities in order to develop new ways of vocational teaching and training, which will be more relevant to the needs of the labour market. This will increase our students’ professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. Through participation in Erasmus+ the Vocational College VSŠ Brežice will extend its cooperation with institutions.