



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.

We wish to extend the ownership of the ECHE Charter for the period 2021-2027. We are committed to respect full the principles of non – discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Programme.

We will ensure equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participant from all backgrounds. We are committed to automatic credit recognition (ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily during a period of study/training abroad, included blended mobility.

Students who come to us to study will not be charged for registration, fees for access to library and laboratory facilities and exams.

We will strive to implement the priority tasks of the Program by promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme; by including individuals with fewer opportunities in the program; by promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff before, during and after mobility or project.

We are committed to making an effort by undertaking the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.

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 and 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 and expanding the programme offer.

Some data sources will be created by ourselves (participant lists, evaluation questionnaires, recording of visits, list of media publications, interviews), while others already exist (available statistics, analyzes, studies).

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 staff 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, efficiency

- 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.

During the extension of the ECHE Charter, we want to achieve an increase in the number of mobility among our students and staff by 20 %, which would mean that we plan at least 30 mobility between students and 30 mobility between staff in the period from 2021 to 2027.

The effects will be measured with indicators (qualitative and quantitative) by:

- facts and figures related to the website of the project organizers (updates, visits, consultations, references),
- a set of follow-up measures (ex. a survey six months after the end of the project),
- data on created materials (manuals, tools, films) and their circulation,
- media reporting (articles, press releases, interviews),
- information received through surveys, interviews or focus groups,
- feedback from end users (students, school staff),
- number of certificates of recognition of education issued,
- information on connections with existing networks and international partners,
- information on competencies acquired by individuals,
- data on the transfer of information and knowledge to other organizations...

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.