

POLYTECHNIC OF RIJEKA – ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT – ERASMUS +2014/2021

D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

The Polytechnic of Rijeka was founded in 1998 and is presently one of the respected Croatian higher education institutions. It comprises four departments, nine professional undergraduate studies and 5 specialist graduate studies. The international cooperation has been recognized from the beginning as one of the most important elements of the Polytechnic's dynamic adjustment to the accelerated development of higher education by emphasizing a need for the professional development of cadres essential to sustainability of Croatian economy. The Polytechnic of Rijeka is striving to further enrich its international cooperation so it has underlined this goal within its Strategic Plan 2013-2020 where it defines its strategic goals: "The Polytechnic of Rijeka actively participates within the European Higher Education Area and European Research Area by systematically and organized motivating the internal and external mobility of its teachers and students".

To facilitate the mobility of the students and staff, the Polytechnic of Rijeka established in 2008 a special committee for international cooperation with independent units on each Department of the Polytechnic, coordinated by Vice Dean for International Relations. Up until now, the Polytechnic of Rijeka has signed 15 Erasmus bilateral agreements thus trying to provide a sufficiently wide range of higher education institutions within the EU area that might be interesting to our students. The experiences of students who already used the opportunity of studying abroad or performing their internships convinced us of their multiple positive and valuable experiences helping them to improve their knowledge of foreign languages, social and communication skills. Our teachers and scientist are also given a valuable opportunity to experience by themselves the academic life and practices abroad, enabling them to benchmark foreign practices with our own and possibly implement best examples in their own curricula.

Scanning the neighbouring environment with the purpose of recognizing the possible new partners means finding those higher education institutions performing the similar study programmes as those organised at the Polytechnic of Rijeka, while this facilitates the mobility of both staff and students. Currently the Polytechnic of Rijeka has developed the strongest connections with institutions in Italy, Slovenia and Hungary, with the equally important partners located in Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland and Germany.

The Polytechnic of Rijeka has participated in Erasmus since 2009 and over the last 5 years the number of students and professors has slowly, but steadily growing and it is our aim to achieve at least 5% of Polytechnic's staff and students in the first and second cycles to actively participate in the Erasmus + exchange programme. The Students Assembly is particularly active as it helps the committee for international cooperation to welcome foreign students and help them in adjustments to the new academic and social environment by inviting them to the professional excursions and visits, the sports events, the students' parties and alike. They also try to help them finding the most suitable and accessible accommodation.

The Polytechnic of Rijeka is putting high efforts to promote equal opportunities to all its students and staff, thus implying the extinction of any kind of discrimination.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Main goal of the Polytechnic's Strategy 2013-2020 adopted in 2013 is to become a centre of excellence in dealing with a highly professional and scientific work providing a high quality and efficient education based on learning outcomes and the concept of a lifelong learning. All professional study programmes and specialist study programmes are aligned with the Bologna process. As a new EU member state, Croatia has dedicated its efforts to educate and train young professionals capable of conducting those work assignments and services required by the large EU labour market. The Polytechnic of Rijeka has already participated in EU programme for internal and external students and teacher exchange, various EU and non-EU cooperation professional and scientific projects and is focused on improving the participation in international cooperation projects and programme in teaching and training.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda) in terms of the policy objectives you intend in the period 2014-2020.

The Polytechnic of Rijeka strives to become active, mobile, modern, a highly professional and equal participant of the EU activities and programmes.

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

The Polytechnic of Rijeka developed and implemented professional study programmes and activities not only in Rijeka, but also implemented redeployed professional and specialist studies to reach those students who aren't able to enrol its studies in Rijeka. Regardless to different locations of performing study programmes, Polytechnic's aim is to provide equal study conditions and level of quality to all its students.

2. – In order to improve the quality and relevance of HE, the Polytechnic of Rijeka adopts a series of documents and implements Quality Assurance System for assuring and maintaining the quality in all spheres of activity.

3. - Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

To improve the quality of studies and to give equal opportunities for learning, personal development, competitiveness and employability, the Polytechnic of Rijeka supports internationalisation and encourages students and staff in mobility in learning and training.

4. - Linking HE, research and business for excellence and regional development

An improvement and development of different activities in a close cooperation with the business sector, other HE institutions and research projects will provide the Polytechnic of Rijeka with excellence in transfer of knowledge and practical skills to students and all participants in social surrounding contributing the regional development.

5. – Improving governance and funding

The excellence in knowledge and skills, transfer of knowledge and interactive relations to the economic subjects in line with the systematic, sustainable development through implementation of modern technology in higher education require development and strengthen of the financial resources provided by the government funds, projects realized through the cooperation with business sector and the European programmes for mobility and a lifetime education of students and employees, but also scientific and professional European projects realized through the cooperation with the present and future European and non-European Polytechnic's bilateral partners.

The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) and the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) will be available in English via link from the Polytechnic's website. A reference to ECHE will be provided in public relations materials. An equal attention will be given to EPS by promoting its strategic goals among students and staff. Due to ECHE the Polytechnic of Rijeka has been given an inappreciable opportunity to further develop a quality and standard of its studies by giving its students and employees an opportunity to enrich their knowledge and experiences abroad, as well as in Croatia.

The Polytechnic of Rijeka
D E A N


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