

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (2021 – 2027)**

The Istrian University of Applied Sciences has been awarded with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the 2021-2027 period by the European Commission. Our Erasmus ID code is HR PULA02.

After 19 successful years as a college, in 2019 progress was made towards the establishment of the Istrian University of Applied Sciences. An attractive location in the very south of Istria, in the city of Pula, known as the tourist, industrial, as well as a historical center of our county, offers a wealth of opportunities for the development and advancement of emerging professionals.

Education as the key to sustainable economic and social development is a priority for a stable and secure future. Higher education institutions are one of the fundamental factors for economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness. Therefore, our mission as a higher education institution is to educate experts who will contribute to the development and prosperity of our region and state through their knowledge and skills. Our motto "Knowledge for our development" will guide us in our mission through the years to come. In order to succeed in this, we want to continue and strengthen the international cooperation that has begun in the previous period.

Since 2014, we have been actively involved in the program and have developed cooperation signing bilateral agreements with 20 partners in nine different European countries. Numerous mobilities of students, teaching and non-teaching staff were carried out, which we are all very proud of and satisfied with. We have seen multiple benefits, and we will continue to develop international cooperation.

Therefore, when choosing partners, the Istrian University of Applied Sciences focuses on HE institutions with similar curricula, that are concentrated on applied sciences, but also with emphasis on activities which allow students to learn contemporary roles of the experts that envelop the ability to think and to lead projects, as well as understand the economy and management.

The main objectives of mobility for the next period are the increase in number of partner HE institutions and enhancement of incoming and outgoing mobility.

International cooperation provides many benefits, such as knowledge and skills exchange, introduction to foreign markets, cultures, traditions, etc. Furthermore, international cooperation supports personal development on both business and private levels. This brings possibilities for departing students to study abroad, and in doing so, strengthen their labor market competitiveness. As providers of professional study programs, we place special emphasis on professional practice and internship, so we encourage students to do internships abroad.



Incoming mobility has a significant impact on raising the quality of our studies, as domestic students are directly confronted with international students and their experiences. Also, the teachers who come to our institution are expected to bring new qualities into our teaching process as we expose our students to a foreign language, different practices and examples.

In staff mobility, the Istrian University of Applied Sciences aims particularly at teachers who will gain new experiences in different teaching environments as well as new contacts with colleagues from other higher education institutions and networking. For the mobility of non-teaching staff, we expect new work experiences that will result in process optimization at Istrian University.

The quality policy of the Istrian University of Applied Sciences requires that we adjust the number of participants to our capacities, so that we can offer quality support to all participants on mobility.

We intend to implement the following types of cooperation relevant projects for innovation and good practices:

- Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:
  - The mobility of higher education students and staff

The aspiration of the Istrian University of Applied Sciences in the field of mobility activities is to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge in order to improve the quality of teaching, increase student employability, strengthen language proficiency and intercultural competence among students and staff members and increase competence of its teaching and non-teaching staff members to improve administrative policies and harmonization of curricula. All these measures are needed to enhance the University's recognizability and competitiveness at the domestic and international levels. Furthermore, the University considers student and staff mobility a necessary step to initiate joint double, multiple and joint degree programs and networking.

The renewed Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) and the Erasmus Policy statement will be available in English on the University's web site. A reference to ECHE will be made in public relations materials. A summary of EPS will be handed out to prospective students/staff at workshops and seminars. Having the honor of receiving ECHE for the new period will significantly develop intercultural relationships, mutual understanding, culture of team work and better exchange of knowledge among students, teaching or non-teaching staff from various countries.