

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT, VOCATIONAL COLLEGE BIC LJUBLJANA

Biotechnical Education Center Ljubljana is a public institution providing education and research in secondary, tertiary and adult education. The Vocational college within the institute implements and develops short tertiary education, namely a two-year program in food and nutrition, hospitality and tourism. The program is designed to take into account and facilitate appropriate professional education and student development.

- A) Our main goal is to provide students with quality education through the establishment of a solid partnership with companies that participate in practical education and thus participate in the theory-to-practice upgrade. Such partnerships are comparable to European standards of good practice and are particularly welcome in the field of post-secondary vocational education, which has the primary purpose of training students with practical skills for the needs of the labor market. Abroad, we have a network of partner organizations in which students can undertake quality practical training in accordance with the study programs. Experience has shown that personal contact is essential for long lasting and high-quality cooperation, such as good communication, providing the right conditions for students to work, mentoring, helping with contacts with other partners. The contacts in companies and other institutions abroad were thus obtained through Slovenian companies with which the school cooperates and through our lecturers who attended international conferences, fairs and other meetings. The student can also choose a company abroad, in which case the school contacts a mentor to coordinate the requirements for practical education and the possibilities and wishes of the company.
- B) The choice of a country of mobility depends on many factors, such as the preferences of the mobility participants, their personal circumstances, language skills, partnerships and the distance of the partner institution from home. In the beginning of the implementation of student mobility for practice, we focused primarily on partner institutions in countries that are closer to us geographically and culturally - especially Austria, as it is more geographically and financially accessible and also offers good opportunities for later job search. In addition, some employers also speak Slovenian, which helps facilitate a student's decision to leave. In recent years, Erasmus + students have opted for all EU countries. In addition, beyond Erasmus +, we have succeeded in extending our cooperation to non-contact countries as well as to countries outside the EU (Canada). In 2013, we signed an agreement on cooperation with the College of Croatia, a private culinary college in Italy, with the aim of implementing a joint international program of Italian cuisine and with the College of Canada, with the aim of providing students with practical education, educational and research activities and study visits. We will strive to strengthen cooperation with other countries as well, as we want to be as open as possible outward or do not want to restrict ourselves when choosing partners.
- C) Participation in Erasmus + activities enables us to gain international experience, enables us to form constructive partnerships with educational and research institutions and companies. One of our most important goals is to increase the number of students, teachers and other staff in the

EU and beyond, as well as to increase the number of partner institutions, to ensure the quality of mobility implementation and to link the content of mobility with study programs and school development. We will continue to provide adequate administrative support to mobility participants, availability of information on mobility opportunities, pre-signed and validated mobility agreements, appropriate and fair selection procedures for candidates, assistance in the preparation, admission and involvement of students and staff in mobility (visa, insurance, assistance in finding accommodation) and on-going monitoring, evaluation and recognition of mobility. In the future, we will continue to focus on student mobility for the purpose of practice and staff mobility for the purpose of teaching and training. In this way, students and employees gain experience abroad, learn about the foreign work and social environment, and improve their foreign language skills. Mobility projects are of great importance for the development and visibility of the school in the home and abroad, as well as for the exchange of experience, learning about good practices and expertise.

BIC Ljubljana is a professional educational institution in the fields of food, nutrition, catering, tourism, nature conservation, biotechnology and veterinary medicine. We take care of the professional competence of our students, students as well as other professional public from all over Slovenia and abroad. We participate in international activities within individual units (secondary school, vocational college and inter-company educational center-adult education). In the forthcoming period, we will intensify cooperation in the field of international activities within the Institute, with the aim of expanding the network of partner institutions and finding opportunities for joint projects abroad. The new knowledge and experience gained in this way will be implemented in the work of the entire institution. The vision of the institute emphasizes the cooperation of the units, the visibility of the institute in Slovenia and abroad, and the international cooperation of the school (practical education, competitions, projects abroad ...) in order to provide the best school and study conditions. As a vocational school, we are in constant contact with the professionals from Slovenia and abroad, as it is developing extremely fast. To this end, we organize an international professional conference every 2 years, where we connect our participants in education (students, students, participants in adult education) and professional public from Slovenia and abroad. In the past, we have already linked the organization of the conference with the Erasmus + program, thus also enabling our participants in education and the professional public to acquire new knowledge from abroad. In the future, we will continue to participate in the Community of Vocational Colleges, which, by providing additional places for the practical training of our students, contributes to our international activity.

The effects of participation in international activities for our educational institution are recognized in higher quality studies, development of practical skills, updating of educational modules or programs, the development of teaching methodology and the development of teaching aids, the professional development of lecturers, the development of a network of experts in the fields for which we are educated, the promotion of synergies between research, education and the labor market, the development of possible specialist studies, and the good competence of our participants in work and life education.

Higher education Food and Nutrition and Catering and Tourism programs are designed in accordance with the Bologna and Copenhagen Declaration. Both are practically oriented and allow students, in



addition to theoretical knowledge, to gain practical experience and skills. Through Erasmus +, they can gain hands-on experience abroad, which is essential for the student's further career. Through cooperation with companies in Slovenia and abroad, in which we send students for practice and employees for training, we provide them and the school with new knowledge, skills development and learning about the working environment, which can provide students with greater employment opportunities in the European labor market. Employer feedback shows that our students are appropriately competent to successfully transition into the work environment. Students competence is also aided by the experience gained by the student during practical training abroad. Companies are thus provided with quality staff that they can work with well.

It is our wish and expectation that in the future we could enable our employees in education to gain practical experience in partner companies in Slovenia and abroad. Until now, we have used Erasmus + training for our employees in the range of 5 - 10 working days abroad, and in the future we wish them to have a longer five-year development plan, adopted in 2013 and updated in 2018, to allow them longer training, as employees can gain more practical skills. This will help them to follow the trends of the profession and transfer fresh practical knowledge to students. With quality educational programs, expertly supported staff and international and domestic connections, we are among the best educational institutions in the professional fields for which we are educating and thus co-create new trends and guidelines in these fields.

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GIMNAZIJA IN VETERINARSKA ŠOLA

Cesta v Mestni log 47, 1000 Ljubljana
Tel >01/280 3 700, fax >01/280 3 720
gvs@bic-lj.si > www.bic-lj.si/gvs

ŽIVILSKA ŠOLA

lžanska cesta 10, 1000 Ljubljana
Tel >01/280 7 610, fax >01/280 7 620
zs@bic-lj.si > www.bic-lj.si/zs

VIŠJA STROKOVNA ŠOLA

lžanska cesta 10, 1000 Ljubljana
Tel >01/280 7 606, fax >01/280 7 620
vss@bic-lj.si > www.bic-lj.si/vss

MEDPODJETNIŠKI IZOBRAŽEVALNI CENTER

lžanska cesta 10, 1000 Ljubljana
Tel >01/280 7 609, fax >01/280 7 620
mic@bic-lj.si > www.bic-lj.si/mic

