

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) GEA College - Faculty of Entrepreneurship

Since its inception in 2000 the International Office of GEA College - Faculty of Entrepreneurship (GEA FP) has been responsible for all international activities, from incoming and outgoing staff and student mobilities, establishing an international agents' network, establishing international connections for joint programs (BA, MA and MBA levels) and joint project applications. We were able to develop robust and stable international partnerships within Europe and worldwide, especially in neighbouring countries from ex-Yugoslavia, North America and China. As GEA FP is a boutique business school, focusing on entrepreneurship and management, we take care to seek out institutions who are equally specialised in the same field. At the core of all our activities is the development of the entrepreneurial mindset, both in students and staff as well, which has an overall impact on the business sector and the society. This is reflected in our curriculum (and extracurricular activities) as we provide practically oriented education, with specialist lecturers, visiting professionals from business sector, case studies and business challenges, as well as in our staff members, who are encouraged to develop "intrapreneurial" mindset, always seeking new opportunities for growth, as employees and institutionally. We offer BA and MA level programs, fully accredited by the national quality agency (ETCS recognized), as well as an MBA program. GEA FP's vision is to develop into a center of excellence for education in entrepreneurship in the region, which will be achieved by fostering and strengthening international connections and continuous modernization.

In 2020 the GEA Internationalization Strategy (GEA IS) was adopted, outlining the institution's main focus points and activities for the next years (2019 - 2024). It leans on the Slovenian Higher Education Internationalization Strategy (SHEIS), so both documents outline the following focus points:

- International student and staff mobility: growing the numbers of incoming and outgoing mobilities from priority regions, balancing the numbers of incoming and outgoing mobilities.
- International research and development cooperation:
  - International MBA program,
  - International online and classic BA level program
  - Research project cooperation (lead partner or consortium): Jean Monet, Key Action 1 (KA103), Key Action 2 (Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices and Mundus Joint Masters) and Key Action 3 (Support to policy development and cooperation), Interreg Europe,
  - Further development of own business conference, Advances in Business-related Scientific Research (and corresponding ABSR Journal).
- Development of intercultural competences, implemented throughout the activities outlined in the previous focus points.

The Institutions Erasmus Policy Statement (ESP) is focused on the projects and activities within the Erasmus projects, mainly on mobility projects and partnerships. Closely connected to the GEA IS the focus points of the ESP are:

- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Establishing new and strengthening existing partnership with HEIs from Program and Partner Countries. Historical and cultural closeness between Slovenia and other states of former Yugoslavia give us an advantage in professional connections network and thus enable us to develop and expand current cooperation with HEIs from that region, with the objective to support the modernisation and internalization of HE.
- **STUDENTS:** Improving and increasing the number of outgoing and incoming student mobilities, in both cycles (BA and MA), for studies (both flows), and for training (intensively focusing on outgoing mobilities and welcoming incoming training mobilities). With a systematic approach to encourage and enable students mobilities, we will improve students' professional, social and intercultural competences and employment possibilities and on the long-term perspective improve student experience and empower them as active citizens.
- **STAFF:** Improving and increasing the number of outgoing and incoming staff mobilities, both teaching and administrative staff. The most important objective in teaching and administrative staff mobility is to exchange and gain both new expertise and knowledge in respective staffs' fields. All mobility types are regarded as added value for the individual and for the Institution as well with a spill over effect on students and wider business sector and society.
- **PROJECTS/RESEARCH:** Developing strategic partnerships to foster intense, structured and long-term cooperation with other education and research Institutions, youth organisations and other relevant actors to contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education and its successor. We will establish knowledge alliances with business sector stakeholders (enterprises) to promote creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering relevant learning opportunities and disseminating learning outcomes. We are planning to cooperate in more multilateral projects (KA 2 and KA 3).



Expected impacts from our participation in the Erasmus programs are:

- Impact on the individual: Knowledge and experience transfer will have a positive impact on individuals, by developing intercultural and language competences, establishing international networks, internationalization of knowledge, by extending and establishing the institution and region as open to international cooperation etc. This is regarded as important added value for the European Union, as we are contributing to professional education and development of experts working in the EU and empowering them as active citizens in society.
- Impact on the institution: Increased number of mobilities will strengthen the international cooperation and enable all partners to implement new teaching methods and materials, knowledge and experience transfer amongst HEIs and amongst HEIs and business sector with high regard to modernization, consequently raising the quality of our higher education programmes. This interchange of ideas will have positive impact on Europeanisation and globalisation.
- Impact on the region: Regionally the impact will be shown through combined personal and institutional impact and position of our Institution as internationally connected and open, pro-European stakeholder, teaching a modern, practical and internationalized curriculum, promoting and enabling staffs' career and expert knowledge and strengthening civic engagement and active citizenship in the region. This also falls in line with our vision as becoming the best institutions for entrepreneurship in the region.

All our internationalization activities are implemented within the parameters of the ECHE principles, respecting in full the principle of non-discrimination; ensuring equal opportunities to mobile participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to those with fewer opportunities; ensuring full (automatic) recognition for satisfactorily completed activity of study mobility and traineeship in terms of all credits (ECTS) gained for learning outcomes, achieved during a mobility period abroad / a blended mobility; ensuring inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and/or traineeship mobility activities in the Diploma Supplement. GEA FP charges no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access library facilities.

All relevant information pertaining to Erasmus projects are displayed on the website (the ECHE Charter, ESP, project descriptions, results, mobility calls, etc.), as well as on our social media profiles and additionally in our online classroom system (e-GEA College). Dissemination and reporting on the project results and impacts is achieved by regular staff and student meetings, monthly newsletters (to our Alumni, partners and other stakeholders as well as students and staff), official Institutional reports and strategic documents. As a smaller Institution we take advantage of close personal and professional connections between staff and students, and support personal knowledge and experience sharing. We support and encourage knowledge experience sharing between national and international students, and take great care to connect them in as many activities as possible.

We will respect and perform all terms and requirements of the implementation of international activities. Within this we will preserve the programme's quality. As evidently expressed the strategy brings forward the contribution of student and staff mobility and of participation in transnational cooperation, to the quality of our higher education programmes and student experience.

GEA College - Faculty of Entrepreneurship  
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