

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Split has a long tradition in lifelong learning (LLL) programmes. In the years 2006 and 2007 the University of Split was a partner in SCM Tempus project "LLL in University context". The main goal emerged from the project was to build higher education system flexible enough to incorporate LLL concept in the comprehensive context. The basic LLL mission of the University is to offer equal opportunity to education for the entire population, perform flexible education system thus enabling mobility of the competences, provide clearly defined qualifications, and preserve high quality of education system. The University copes with development of both technology and economy by offering continuing professional development education. It also supports the activities to help modern society suffering from the demographic change by offering higher education LLL concepts for elder people.

Nowadays, the University of Split is beginning a new era in one of the most important part of the Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus academic mobility. Continuing its efforts in LLL policies, the Erasmus activities will be made as visible as possible. During the preparation period, the main task has been an adaptation of web pages by adding contents in English, especially information packages of the study programmes and other important facilities for students. Recently, the University employed two persons who will be engaged in PR activities which could be very useful for dissemination of Erasmus programme. Once obtained, Erasmus University Charter (EUC) and EPS will be posted at University's web site and promoted by Erasmus coordinators at faculty level through workshops. A special address will be prepared for student organisations and bodies.

All study programmes at the University of Split follow Bologna principles with ECTS system. There is a three cycle study system accompanied by adequate bylaws including student mobility procedures and ECTS instruments ensuring transparent mobility of students. Furthermore, the University is going to set some activities that will help foreign students to better adopt to local customs like summer courses of Croatian language, sport and cultural events.

Besides student mobility, the University has undertaken activities that will promote both academic and non-academic staff. There are also efforts in raising awareness for other mobility instruments like offering Erasmus Mundus programmes Croatia is now eligible for, as well as establishment of Joint Degree Programmes with European partners. Even though there is respectable amount of bilateral cooperation agreements with other European universities, the University of Split is continuously improving and enlarging its links by signing even more Erasmus agreements.

Following its LLL values that are: freedom and social equity in education, ethics, equity of cultures, genders and ages as well as quality of life; the University of Split strongly promotes activities which fulfil those requirements. Faculties are encouraged to implement facilities that support disabled persons, like adaptation of buildings or engaging counsellors. It is ensured that disabled students are consulted about access and support. University is fully committed to eliminate gender discrimination. It is urged that both male and female students are equally involved in the education process, and in all mobility processes. The University shows high level of intercultural understanding by active social involvement to raise awareness against xenophobia and racism by organising campaigns in cooperation with NGOs. The implementation of policies related to disabled persons, gender issues, xenophobia and racism is continuously monitored in order to achieve the utmost level of social equity.

The University of Split is absolutely prepared and decisive to join Erasmus as part of the Lifelong Learning Programme, thus taking a role in academic mobility at European level.

The University of Split fully supports recognition system for both outgoing and incoming students. Since 2005 a three cycle study system with ECTS system was introduced. ECTS key features and key documents are entirely defined by University bylaws. Student mobility procedures and ECTS instruments like Diploma Supplement, Transcript of Records, Application Form and Learning Agreement are described in detail, guaranteeing transparent

mobility of students. University ECTS committee consisting of faculties' ECTS coordinators is responsible for recognition and credit system issues.

Faculties are responsible for dissemination of information on curricula. Each faculty is obliged to post curricula on the web site and to print brochures and students' guides in Croatian and English. The role of the University is to generally inform students about all curricula and to provide information about student facilities at university level.

The Office of International Relations offers services for outgoing students, like provision of information, advising on the opportunities and conditions of mobility and support in other student matters.

Not being eligible for Erasmus mobility until now directly influenced low number of incoming students over the past years. In most cases it was individual mobility or mobility based on bilateral agreements, so tutoring and integration of students were provided at the faculty level, either at the Office of International Relations or by mentors.

Student services and staff mobility are encouraged by information activities of the Office of International Relations where support for accommodation is offered, but also student organisations organising social events. Staff mobility is also supported by the activities of the Science Committee.

Language courses of Croatian language are offered at our Centre for Croatian Studies Abroad. Summer schools are ideal for foreign students who want to learn the language and about Croatian culture.

The nature of student placements at the University of Split depends greatly on the type of the study programme. For some study programmes, placements are compulsory, e.g. engineering studies, humanities, vocational studies etc., while some do not include them in their regular curricula. Even when internship is compulsory, students mostly choose domestic enterprises or organisations, and fairly rarely travel abroad to complete internships.

Cooperation between enterprises and University takes place at the faculty level. Faculties choose their partners based on previous collaboration and quality service, so most of the partnerships last successfully over number of years and cooperation takes place on regular basis. When possible, students find placements for themselves and propose internship to the faculty.

Prior to each internship, there is an agreement between the enterprise/organisation/institution/laboratory, Faculty and student. Agreement states the purpose of internship, plan of the activities and obligations of parties. Through contacts made during internship, most of the students easily find their employment after completion of studies.

While on internship, student has mentor at the faculty level as well as at the host organisation. Both are involved in monitoring the student. After the internship is completed, student submits a report to the faculty/mentor, upon which receives ECTS credits and recognition of the placement period.

Student placements are gaining more importance in the University life, e.g. through information meetings, counselling, fairs, and special emphasis is given to internationalisation.