



COLLEGE OF TOURISM - BLAGOEVGRAD

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

PARTICIPATION IN ERASMUS+

On institutional level, College of tourism - Blagoevgrad has traditions in internationalization. The Strategy for internationalization is implemented in 2024 as an amendment to the Strategy for development of the international relations for 2021-2025. It is guided by the belief that processes of internationalization are drivers for innovation, sources of inspiration, opportunities for work in multicultural environment, powerful tool for achieving high quality of the higher education.

College of tourism - Blagoevgrad aims at further developing the internationalization which will be beneficial for the academic community and will further improve the competitive position of the College through:

1. Stimulation of the international mobility of students, academic and administrative staff.
2. Encouraging the international dimension of the College (internationalization at home)
3. Participation in international projects

By renewing its participation in Erasmus+ Program, College of tourism - Blagoevgrad plans to implement the following activities:

Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals

The reintegration of the College of tourism - Blagoevgrad to Erasmus+ program will foster the sustainable development of policy of support for student, academic and administrative staff mobility. Every student and staff member will be given the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in mobility. The outgoing mobility will build in participants key competences for life-time learning, including communication skills, additivity, overcoming stereotypes, creativity, communication in foreign language, intercultural awareness, civic engagement. Procedures of automatic recognition of periods of study abroad will be upgraded by application of the European Student Card Initiative in the context of the European Educational Area. The focus on the incoming mobility aims at fostering the cultural diversity at the College through the positive interaction between students and academic staff with different background to foster common values of tolerance, human dignity, overcoming stereotypes. Student, academic and staff mobility will foster awareness about the Erasmus+ program and European Union Values, will increase motivation for future education abroad and life-time learning.

The benefits from learning mobility for College of tourism - Blagoevgrad consist of continuous development of capacity for work in international and multicultural environment,

management of internationalization, cooperation with partner institutions, funding for project participation, validation of practices for preparation, execution and monitoring of projects. Academic exchange creates opportunities for development of attractive and adaptive to students' needs programs, improved quality of delivering classes and procedures for recognition and validation of key competences, acquired during mobility.

Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organizations and institutions:

The main goal of partnership for cooperation is to give participating organizations the opportunity to improve quality, enlarge capacity for cooperation on international level by fostering internationalization of own activities and exchanging and developing of new practices and approaches, sharing and debating aides.

College of tourism - Blagoevgrad is planning to enlarge its institutional capacity for research, creativity and innovation in longer term. Based on experience with student and staff mobility and bilateral agreements with partner institutions from Program countries the College will gradually be involved and participate in interdisciplinary and transnational teams to take part in solving society issues related to the link between education and practice.

STRATEGY, OBJECTIVES AND IMPACT

The strategy for internationalization of College of tourism - Blagoevgrad formulates three strategic goals for 2025-2030

1. Stimulation of the international mobility of students, academic and administrative staff.

Objectives

Renewal of Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education

Gradual enlargement of partnerships within Erasmus+

Upgrade of mechanisms for organization, administration, evaluation and control of mobility

Motivation of participation in students and staff mobility

Outgoing and incoming student and staff mobility

Implement automatic mutual recognition of higher education procedure

2. Encouraging the international dimension of the College (internationalization at home) by internationalization of the academic community and the learning content

The internationalization at home is among the most ambitious objectives College of tourism - Blagoevgrad aims to achieve through its participation in Erasmus+ program. It is considered to be main tool for building key competences for both students and academic staff. Virtual and blended mobility is planned which, by use of modern information and communication technologies will guarantee quality foreign education at home. This will enhance students' motivation for mobility and digital competences. The implementation of Moodle as learning environment revealed the necessity for quality online education capable of responding to the challenges of the new dynamic reality. Participation in educational networks will foster the exchange of innovative educational methods and approaches, sharing of educational resources and building interdisciplinary programs.

Objectives:

Building conditions for language skills development and improvement for students and staff

Organisation of system of courses for development and improvement of students and staff intercultural communication skills

Enrolling foreign students for full courses

3. Participation in international projects

Objectives:

Cooperation with national and international structures in the field of tourism and management

Participation as partner in Erasmus+ projects

Development of Erasmus+ projects as leading partner

Enhancement of international visibility and distinction of College of tourism – Blagoevgrad.