

Number: 01/13-12-21

Date: 13/12/2021

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Law on Higher Education (Official Gazette of RS 88/2017, 73/2018, 27/2018 – and other law, 67/2019, 6/2020 – other laws, 11/2021 – authentic interpretation, 67/2021 and 67/2021 – other law) and Article 12, paragraph 7, Article 15, paragraph 1, item 9 and Articles 19, 20 and 30, paragraph 6, item 17 of the Statute of the College of Professional Studies – International Centre of Professional Studies, Belgrade (hereinafter referred to as ICEPS), on the proposal of the Academic and Expert Council of ICEPS, the Council of ICEPS passed the following document

INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY
of the College of Professional Studies – International Centre of Professional Studies, Belgrade

1. Definition of Internationalization

Internationalization is a process of integration of international and intercultural elements and accompanying activities into the ICEPS teaching process in order to consolidate with regional, European, and global trends in higher education and knowledge transfer.

Internationalization is a two-sided process that involves:

1. getting to know and accepting the values, standards and achievements of others; and
2. presenting one's own system of values and results so that they can be recognized and accepted in international frameworks.

ICEPS achieves internationalization through educational interaction, by way of incorporating national, regional, international, and supranational achievements and standards of others, and by sharing its own achievements and standards.

2. ICEPS Strategic Orientation

The higher education institution – ICEPS, based in Belgrade, with its four higher education units in Novi Sad, Leskovac, Vršac, and Kraljevo, is oriented towards cooperation with other higher education institutions at the regional, European and global levels.

ICEPS implements its mission in the field of education and knowledge transfer in accordance with the values accepted in developed European countries and applies educational standards established based on international agreements signed and ratified by the Republic of Serbia.

By implementing European standards and accepted practices of European countries, ICEPS enables the exchange of information, knowledge, ideas and human resources, thus intending to become part of the European education system, while respecting national interests in the field of higher professional education and knowledge transfer and acting in accordance with strategic documents and regulations of the Republic of Serbia.

ICEPS is strategically committed to open cooperation with other international institutions and guided by the principles of mutual respect, understanding and equality.

3. ICEPS Strategic Objectives

3.1. In the Field of Higher Education

Strategic objectives in the field of higher education are as follows:

- introduction of modern study programs in cooperation with European higher education institutions,
- realization of study programs in foreign languages,
- establishing cooperation with teaching staff and lecturers from other countries and their engagement as guest lecturers,
- involvement of ICEPS teachers and associates in the educational process of foreign higher education institutions.

3.2. In the Field of Knowledge Transfer

Strategic objectives in the field of knowledge transfer are as follows:

- strengthening the educational potential of ICEPS through cooperation with other higher education institutions,
- access to information relevant for the development of innovative technologies,
- active involvement of ICEPS in international medical and health trends.

4. ICEPS Strategic Positioning

4.1. Regional Positioning

ICEPS strives to contribute to the development of other higher education institutions in the region, primarily in Montenegro and North Macedonia, and is committed to their support.

4.2. Positioning in Europe

ICEPS intends to be recognized in Europe and will strive to increase its visibility, recognition and reputation in the European context. ICEPS intends to actively engage in related associations and networks in Europe.

4.3. Global Positioning

ICEPS strives to be recognized and validated as an institution with an active role in the field of higher professional education and knowledge transfer at the global level. In this sense, ICEPS will endeavour to involve its students, teachers, associates and non-teaching staff in as many global educational and professional gatherings and events as possible and to provide them with appropriate organizational and financial support. ICEPS also intends to organize higher-ranking gatherings in its higher education units, in areas in which it has achieved notable results, in accordance with financial and other possibilities.

5. ICEPS International Cooperation

5.1. Priorities

- cooperation and connection with leading higher education institutions in Europe compatible in terms of offered study programs,
- cooperation and connection with leading higher education institutions in the region compatible in terms of offered study programs,
- cooperation with foreign higher education institutions compatible in terms of offered study programs, which are of special importance for members of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia.

5.2. Bilateral Cooperation Agreements

ICEPS will strive to expand the circle of higher education institutions with which it will cooperate in the field of higher professional education. Bilateral cooperation will be established with educational institutions and institutions that can contribute to the development and reputation of ICEPS, which are related in terms of the offered study programs. When choosing institutions to cooperate with, ICEPS will be guided by the principle of geographical diversity. At the same time, ICEPS intends to support lesser-known colleges of professional studies in order to fulfil its national and regional mission.

5.3. Strategic Partnerships

ICEPS will raise bilateral cooperation with other higher education institutions to the level of strategic partnerships if higher mutual interests arise. This includes coordinated action in different areas, joint project management, linking the resources of partner institutions, mutual capacity building, joint appearances towards third parties, etc. Strategic partnerships imply the conclusion of agreements with institutions that are respectable and recognizable for their results in the field of education and knowledge transfer.

5.4. Multilateral Agreements

ICEPS strives to become an initiator, promoter and coordinator of development projects, as well as an organizer and co-organizer of international conferences and events, in partnership with other institutions and international organizations and will conclude multilateral cooperation agreements to this end.

5.5. Networking With Foreign Educational and Other Institutions, Organizations and Associations

ICEPS intends to become part of a network of colleges of professional studies, universities, international organizations and associations in order to establish functional links in the field of education and knowledge transfer. In areas with no adequate form of organisation, ICEPS will initiate cooperation and take responsibility for networking and coordination.

5.6. Participation in European Mobility Programs

One of the strategic priorities of ICEPS is the exchange of students, teaching and non-teaching staff within the Erasmus+ program and other EU mobility programs. In this context, ICEPS will strive to achieve a proportionate distribution of students planning to attend foreign higher education institutions and those planning to spend part of their studies at ICEPS.

5.7. Participation in Mobility Programs, International Organizations and Associations Outside the EU

ICEPS intends to establish and improve the exchange of students, teaching and non-teaching staff with other higher education institutions and international organizations and associations, both within and outside the EU borders.

5.8. Digitalization of Work Processes on International Projects and Mobility Programs

ICEPS supports the development of digitalization and the digital management of mobility processes. In this sense, it will initiate the digital implementation of international projects and mobility programs and aim to systematically and continuously develop and improve human capacities in order to implement digital EU initiatives that imply the transition to digital functioning and other possibilities in the context of international cooperation.

5.9. Environmental Protection During the Implementation of International Projects and Mobility Programs

ICEPS will implement and promote institutional policy and practices protecting the environment during all activities related to mobility programs. In accordance with international and national policies, legislation and practices of environmental protection and sustainable development, ICEPS will implement international projects and mobility programs based on cost-effective travel planning, digitalization of administrative affairs, online communication, production of electronic publications and promotional materials and establishment and development of cooperation with stakeholders in the field of environmental protection.

5.10. Process of Internationalization and Observing the Principles of Transparency, Inclusion and Prohibition of Discrimination

ICEPS prohibits all discrimination and unequal treatment, be it direct or indirect, on any grounds, and particularly on the grounds of race, gender, national origin, religious belief, language, social origin, property status, mental or physical disability, health status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and other actual or presumed personal characteristic, and supports inclusivity and equal opportunities for participation in international projects and mobility programs, in accordance with the choice and abilities of students, teaching and non-teaching staff.

In this sense, the ICEPS education policy will contribute to the participation of underprivileged individuals and strive to support persons with disabilities, socio-economically disadvantaged persons, refugees, national minorities, migrants and other members of marginalized groups.

5.11. Social and Civic Engagement in the Internationalization Process

ICEPS supports civic engagement and encourages students and staff to engage as active citizens when participating in exchange programs and cooperation projects. In this sense, ICEPS will strive to integrate visiting students into activities that contribute to the local community in the Republic of Serbia while also supporting the socially relevant practices and civic engagement of its students spending time at partner higher education institutions.

6. ICEPS Internationalization Action Plan

The achievement of strategic orientations and objectives of the ICEPS Internationalization Strategy will be more precisely regulated by the ICEPS Internationalization Action Plan, proposed by the ICEPS Academic and Expert Council, i.e. verified by the ICEPS Council.

7. ICEPS Expert Service for International Cooperation and Internationalization

Operational affairs related to internationalization will be managed by the Office for International Cooperation.

In Belgrade,

College of Professional Studies – International Centre of
Professional Studies, Belgrade
President of the Council



Prof. Jovana Bulatović, PhD