

Erasmus Policy Statement

International Center of Professional Studies

Participation in Erasmus+

The main goal of the International Center of Professional Studies (ICEPS) is to become regionally and internationally recognized institution in educating professionals in the healthcare industry ready to respond to the challenges of modern society and contemporary working environment. This goal is realized by equipping the students with skills and knowledge that are in line with the current needs of the national and international circumstances in healthcare industry and the labor market.

The ICEPS operates according to the market principles of attractiveness and competitiveness and continuously works on improving the conditions for work and study. Other main goals of ICEPS are to raise quality through the development and improvement of study programs following contemporary knowledge trends, European standards and the latest achievements in teaching and science, and through cooperation and exchange of best practices with institutions and organizations in Europe and the rest of the world.

The participation of ICEPS in the Erasmus+ program would contribute to the achievement of the goals defined by its Internationalization Strategy which, above all, relate to the mobility of students and staff, development of international degree programs and improving existing practices and processes. Also, the aim is to improve the knowledge, skills and experiences of students and staff by establishing cooperation with higher education institutions, healthcare institutions and organizations and international scientific and professional organizations in the region and Europe. The intention is to contribute to the creation of a single European learning environment, to the promotion and reinforcement of European identity within the national framework, as well as to the

understanding and acceptance of European cultural heritage and its diversity by applying European standards.

By participating in the above-mentioned activities of the Erasmus+ program, ICEPS will encourage the realization of the goals of internationalization, through the implementation of international and intercultural elements in the teaching process. These processes will enable the inclusion of ICEPS in regional and European trends in the field of science, higher education, and knowledge transfer. The benefits of the internationalization process will be obtained through the recognition and voluntary acceptance of values, standards, and achievements of foreign institutions on the one hand, and through the presentation of its own system of values and results in various fields to be recognized and accepted worldwide through cooperation with European partners, on the other.

The activities in which the ICEPS would like to participate in the Erasmus+ program are in line with its Internationalization Strategy, its capacities and resources.

ICEPS will primarily focus on the following activities:

- Erasmus + Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility, and
- Erasmus + Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation among organizations and institutions.

Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility

The primary activity of ICEPS within the KA1 projects will be the implementation of student and staff mobility programs with the aim of transferring knowledge, gaining international experience, developing professional competencies, promoting, and implementing them. The operational implementation of the mobility program is the responsibility of the ICEPS International Relations Office, which is in charge of both incoming and outbound mobility. Main tasks include: announcing calls for application, selecting candidates, providing administrative support to selected candidates (assisting with travel arrangements, accommodation, visas, health insurance and other relevant issues), offering academic support (choosing courses through learning agreement, doing the academic recognition of

mobility outcomes, offering language courses), as well as assessing the level of personal and professional development achieved during the mobility period.

Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation among organizations and institutions

By participating in KA2 projects, ICEPS wishes to encourage modernization through the development of study programs, improvement of practices and processes and the achievement of various forms of cooperation within the higher education sector, healthcare industry and society as a whole. As regards to the development of study programs, the priority will be the improvement of the existing, and the development of new curricula, as well as the development and implementation of joint study programs within strategic partnerships. Concerning the improvement of the healthcare practices and management processes in healthcare institutions, the intention is to support the development of the effective and efficient processes, as well as the development of centers for providing various types of support to students and current healthcare workers. Furthermore, through the implementation of KA2 activities, the aim is to contribute to national and regional development by transferring the best European practices in interaction within the education sector, healthcare industry and the wider community. Providing institutional support in the preparation and implementation of this part of the program is the responsibility of the Projects Department under the International Relations Office.

Strategy, objectives and impact

By participating in the Erasmus+ Program, ICEPS intends to start a process of integration of international and intercultural elements into its teaching process and thus consolidate with regional, European and global trends in higher education and knowledge transfer. That would be achieved in two ways, through the strategic objectives in the field of higher education and the objectives in the field of knowledge transfer set in the Internationalization Strategy.

The efficiency of the implementation of Erasmus+ program activities, as one of the priorities of the ICEPS, aims to make the process of preparation and implementation of all

segments of the program as simple and as efficient as possible with an emphasis on simplifying administrative processes related to student mobility.

In this regard, ICEPS will support the initiative to introduce a European Student Card (ESC) as proposed by the European Commission and ensure all technical and other capacities for full online management of inter-institutional agreements and learning agreements during the year 2023 when ICEPS will also focus on exchanging student nominations and acceptances and transcripts of records related to student mobility. During this period, the technical and other necessary capacities will be continuously improved with the aim of extending the ESC initiative to other parts of the Erasmus+ program, too.

By implementing the mobility program, students will improve their knowledge, skills and competencies through studying and traineeships, and staff through the processes of teaching and professional development, and thus get closer to European standards while modernizing the educational process as a whole.

The participation of ICEPS in other above-mentioned activities of the Erasmus+ program, through the development of inter-institutional cooperation and international strategic partnerships with educational institutions and healthcare institutions, will ensure the inclusion of ICEPS in regional, European, and global trends in science, higher education and knowledge transfer. That will help ICEPS achieve its internationalization goals, to become regionally and internationally recognizable higher education institution for quality and attractiveness of given knowledge and skills in the field of healthcare industry.

Through participation in the Erasmus+ program the ICEPS expects to encourage the modernization of study programs and healthcare practices and contribute to strengthening the European identity and to creating a European learning environment by intensifying the process of implementation of international and intercultural elements in teaching and cooperation projects.

The participation of ICEPS in the Erasmus+ program is also aligned with the European Education Area focus topics. The implementation of student/staff mobility programs will

encourage and improve the processes of integration of ICEPS into the European educational system, contribute to the convergence of European and Serbian educational practice, as well as the promotion of European knowledge within the institution and the wider community. In this context, ICEPS will facilitate the international cooperation and provide more opportunities for international mobility. ICEPS will give strong support to all beneficiaries of mobility programs in the dissemination of their international experience to encourage as many students/staff as possible to participate in mobility programs and encourage understanding and accepting of the European cultural heritage.

The impact of mobility programs on achieving internationalization goals will be evaluated through monitoring the number of signed bilateral and inter-institutional agreements, the number of mobility and other Erasmus+ project activities undertaken, the number of registered candidates for mobility and participation in other Erasmus+ projects, as well as through the monitoring of geographical dispersion, language competencies of students/staff and the dynamics of the increasing of the number of courses available in English and other foreign European languages.

Having in mind the resources and capacities of ICEPS, in the first phase of the program the focus will be on strengthening regional cooperation through the implementation of mobility with European countries from the immediate environment, especially EU member countries due to their experience in adapting EU standards into their healthcare systems. In the second part of the program the focus will be on mobility with non-EU member countries from the immediate environment that could benefit from our knowledge and experience, while in the third part of the program the focus will be on highly developed European countries.

Indicators

Indicators for each strategic objective set in the Internationalization Strategy of ICEPS:

1. Strategic objectives in the field of higher education

Objective 1.1 – Introduction of modern study programs in cooperation with European higher education institutions

Indicator 1.1.1: At least 3 modern study programs from 3 EU higher education institutions introduced in ICEPS educational practice, in 2024, 2026 and 2027.

Objective 1.2 – Realization of study programs in foreign languages

Indicator 1.2.1: At least 1 study program realized in English in 2022/2023.

Objective 1.3 – Established cooperation with teaching staff and lecturers from other countries and their engagement as guest lecturers

Indicator 1.3.1: The exchange system for professional teacher staff and lecturers from at least 3 EU countries is established and operational, from 2024.

Indicator 1.3.2: At least 10 teachers and lecturers, from at least 3 EU countries engaged as ICEPS guest lecturers.

Objective 1.4 – Involvement of ICEPS teachers and associates in the educational process of foreign higher education institutions

Indicator 1.4.1: The system for the involvement of ICEPS teachers and associates in foreign higher education institutions is established and functional, from 2024.

Indicator 1.4.2: At least 5% of ICEPS teachers and associates involved in educational process in at least 3 foreign higher education institutions.

2. Strategic objectives in the field of knowledge transfer

Objective 2.1 – Strengthening the educational potential of ICEPS through cooperation with other higher education institutions

Indicator 2.1.1: A network of higher education institutions, at least 3 from the EU countries, established and operational from 2025.

Indicator 2.1.2: Regular meetings of the higher education institutions network organized each year.

Indicator 2.1.3: At least 3 joined actions designed, adopted and implemented before the end of 2027.

Objective 2.2 – Access to information relevant for the development of innovative technologies

Indicator 2.2.1: A concept based on of innovative technologies in teaching process developed and implemented based on the existing and similar concepts from at least 3 EU countries, from 2025.

Objective 2.3 – Active involvement of ICEPS in international medical and health trends

Indicator 2.3.1: 5% of ICEPS teachers and associates accredited to participate in the international events, conferences, and meetings, in at least 3 EU countries before the end of 2027.

Indicator 2.3.2: At least 5 training programs, conferences, events in the health area attended by ICEPS teachers and associates before the end of 2027.

Indicator 2.3.3: At least 1 international conference organized related to modern health trends by ICEPS before the end of 2027.