Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Faculty of Law and Business Studies (FLBS) follows the vision and the mission of its founder, Catholic Institute. Catholic Institute makes research from the fields of social studies and humanities. In particular, its prime aim is to set up the foundation for the Catholic University by establishing higher education institutions, libraries, research centers and student dormitories that shall merge under the umbrella of a Catholic University (CU). The future CU shall present an active community of scholars and students with a particular focus on the needs and challenges arising in the societal local and global environment. As university it must present an autonomous place for study and a place that is serving for the benefit of academic development.

FLBS is autonomous in building its own identity and recognition by following the course that is defined in its founding documents. It must respect the rights of individuals and community and remain within the catholic domain. For the research and teaching it is free within common standards and principles for science and education that are applied internationally. The faculty must seek truth and cooperation with other (Catholic and non-Catholic) universities from the region and beyond. Cooperation includes, but is not limited to research projects, teaching mobility, students’ mobility etc.

FLBS objectives are consistent with the guidelines of the National Programme of Higher Education of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of RS, no. 20/2002), in particular at: an increase in the proportion of the employed population with higher education; achieving higher levels of students per 1,000 population; increasing the number of places in the entire tertiary education; increase in the number of students and graduates of postgraduate studies; promoting cooperation with industry and civil society; promoting international cooperation; integration of experienced scientists from around the world; increase the supply of courses and content plurality, or the enrichment of higher education, in order to ensure international comparability.

FLBS is open to all students, regardless of their personal beliefs or any other personal circumstances. FLBS will complement the activities of comparable institutions of higher education and scientific research institutes that already operate in Slovenia. The study program takes into account the guidelines of the Bologna reform process and the higher education legislation of the Republic of Slovenia.

FLBS is a small and a young faculty in an active development phase. In the last two years, it has moved to a bigger and more comfortable location with better facilities for its academic activities. The faculty has changed its name according to the project of improving the existent business studies program in order to look for interdisciplinarity. According to our institutional strategy, FLBS is developing a Law Program at the Master Level, which will be working in the next academic period.

The Faculty has numerous bilateral agreements with international higher education institutions from the EU. Since FLBS received ECHE charter, it has signed more than 15 Erasmus+ inter-institutional agreements, and it is constantly upgrading its network of partners. In 2019 it has started overseas collaboration with a partner in Chile: University Adolfo Ibáñez (UAI).

Some of FLBS partners are within the network of Catholic universities and institutes, and some others beyond Catholic origin. Our institution is open to collaborate with organizations which are looking at internationalization of their programs –logically, compatible with FLBS own programs-, research cooperation and show profesionalism and responsibility in their duties and communication with partners. So far we experienced Erasmus+ is fitting our agenda the most.

At the begining, FLBS international partners were more from Alpe-Adria and Danube region, but now we have been expanded our network to west Europe. The reason why we cover these areas is that we have been meeting colleagues from these local areas through research projects, conferences, and other academic events.

International cooperation 2017-2020

In this period FLBS has signed new Erasmus+ agreements. Erasmus+ program has given FLBS the opportunity to strengthen the already existing relations with some of our partners to create successful cooperation not only between students but also between staff members and teachers. These are the following achievements:

1. With Universitat International de Catalunya (UIC, Barcelona) we have a double degree cooperation at the level of Master Studies in the area of Entrepreneurship and also a memorandum of Understanding regarding the cooperation in the Doctoral program «Economics and Law». Two students have applied in the framework of this collaboration.
2. With the Catholic University of Valencia (UCV, Spain), we have fruitful student exchange mobilities. Another of our students went to UCV Valencia. We have started a collaboration at the doctoral level.
3. It was organized with the University of Thomas More Kempen (Belgium) an international winter school in the topic of Service design. Both students and professors came from eight different European countries.
4. We are collaborating with Edutus College (Hungary) every year in the organization of cultural and educational events plus staff mobility.
5. We have hosted Erasmus+ students from the Partium Christian University (Romania), Collegium Da Vinci (Poland), Universita di Parma (Italy), UC Leuven-Limburg (Belgium), Universidad Adolfo Ibañez (Čile), Universidad Católica de Valencia (Spain).
6. We have had two outgoing student mobilities for training: one, in a company in Milan; the other, in Portugal; and 5 outgoing student mobilities, three to Universidad Catolica de Valencia (Spain), another to UIC (Barcelona), one to Alba Iulia University (Romania).
7. We have started scientific research cooperation with Stefan cel Mare University (Suceava, Romania) and two staff teaching/training mobility.
8. As a result of staff mobilities and participation on academic conferences, we have started collaboration with UC Leuven-Limburg (Belgium), Universita Europea di Roma (Italy), Bilkent University (Turkey), FH JOANNEUM (Austria), Universita di Parma (Italy), University of Rijeka (Croatia), UNIR (Spain), Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta (Rome), among others. We are preparing one Erasmus inter-institutional agreement with one partner from Madrid (Spain).
9. It is also in a study phase a collaboration at the doctoral level with a partner in Pamplona (Spain).
10. There are in preparation phase outgoing and incoming mobilities in our new KA107 project: from FLBS to UAI and vice-versa. One incoming student mobility and one staff training outgoing mobility are already done during the pandemics.
11. Due to COVID-19 pandemic some mobilities have been cancelled, others have been continued within restrictions, and still others have been finished as digital-online mobilities. We have been giving support to all participants, incoming and outgoing during this hard period.

Objectives and target groups in International cooperation 2020-2022

Firstly, the Faculty recognizes the ECHE charter as one of the key instruments for the appropriate development of its programmes and international recognition. Secondly, the Faculty shall remain committed to the strengthening of its international recognition to become a credible and internationally respected education and intellectual centre, actively involved in scientific research and education initiatives with national and international partners. It shall choose and maintain its partners based on common interests both in education and research activities. In particular, it shall choose them based on the values of transparency, attitude with respect to fairness, efforts, patience, dedication and intellectual honesty. We do not discriminate based on geographic nor any other criteria that would have its source in matters which are within the scope of basic human rights. Having said so, cultural and geographical backgrounds make the EU countries and both Americas our geo-priority list because of the programs implemented by our faculty (Law and Management), research networks and objectives of our academic staff.

As a holder of ECHE charter and ambassador of internationalisation at Home and/or internationalisation of Curriculum we are targeting to take an active part in the strategy of internationalisation of HEI for the next period.

We do not discriminate between target groups based on their contribution to the implementation of our modernisation and internationalisation strategy. We find them equally important as we would like to expand our international presence and international recognition in all areas we cover.

Regarding the new period ECHE 2021-2027 we are comitted to fostering the priorities laid down: the implementation of digital management (Erasmus without paper); the promotion of environmental friendly practices, i.e. in transport and promotional materials (Green Erasmus); the stimulation of individuals with less opportunities; active participation through civic engagement.

In particular, the strategy for attaining a greater internationalisation should be the following

objectives:

1. Increase the mobility of incoming and outgoing students and teachers; increase the mobility of researchers and internationalise curricula.

2. Offer more educational programmes with international lecturers.

3. Offer permanent international study programmes in English, i.e. international weeks, blended learning.

4. Boost the participation of own lecturers abroad also in the neighbouring regions.

5. Facilitate joint-research within international networks of research partners.

6. Studying the possibility to apply for a KA2 project with a national partner.

Regarding the above-mentioned objectives, we consider the following Actions from the Erasmus+ Programme:

* Key Action 1

-KA 103: Higher education student and staff mobility within programme countries

-KA 107: Higher education student and staff mobility between Programme and Partner Countries

* Key Action 2

Knowledge Alliances; Capacity building in the Field of Higher Education

Ljubljana, 26th April 2021