



University of Zagreb



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Erasmus programme at the
University of Zagreb



ERASMUS & CROATIA – short look back

- The programme introduced in Europe in 1987
- Croatia joined in 2009/10
- Full participation with both incoming/outgoing mobility as of 2011/12

↳ In the period 1987-2009: strong lobbying by the University of Zagreb for Croatia to join LLP

WHY?



University of Zagreb wanted to take **full advantage of Erasmus opportunities** and become an **equal international player & partner in the EHEA**

FOR STUDENTS

- studying abroad
- doing a traineeship abroad
- learning foreign languages

FOR TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- teaching abroad
- receiving training abroad

FOR UNIVERISTY

collaboration with partner universities/institutions in

- intensive programmes
- academic networks
- multilateral projects



STEEP RISE IN THE NUMBER OF MOBILE ERASMUS STUDENTS IN JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS

Academic year	Outgoing students	Incoming students
2009/2010	126	12
2010/2011	251	35
2011/2012	357	180
2012/2013	approx. 550	182 (only in WS)



In very short time **mobility supported through Erasmus programme started to give incentives for changes**

THREE-FOLDED IMPACT

- **Individual / personal** level: participating UNIZG students, teachers and staff
- **Institutional** level: improving, opening up and modernising of UNIZG
- **Policy** level of University of Zagreb



CHANGING THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

When on Erasmus, students have multiple possibilities

- can study at some of the best universities in Europe & world
- increase their foreign language proficiency
(also of less spoken languages)
- gain intercultural competences and skills in multicultural learning environments – learn to interact with international colleagues and friends
- develop multiple cultural perspectives and approaches
- not to underestimate: make friends and have fun with students from all over Europe & world 😊



CHANGING THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

After returning home from Erasmus mobility students will

- adapt more comfortably to an unfamiliar cultural environment (like living and working in a foreign country)
- have better subject/field specific knowledge and soft skills (team-working, interpersonal communication skills, adaptability to new situations, problem solving)
- have better chances at the domestic and EU / global labour market



INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

Exchange of students, teaching and administrative staff is leading towards a number of changes:

- **Introduction of new learning & teaching methods / approaches and exchange of good ideas / practices** through presence of international teachers / researchers at UNIZG and our teachers/staff going abroad
- **Introduction of new support services for domestic & international students**
 - development of International Relations Office: central office + 33 ECTS-coordinators & IRO officers at faculties/academies
 - development of activities for exchange students with Erasmus Student Network (orientation week, field trips, language tandems...)



INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

- **Full application of the ECTS (credit) system**
transparent acknowledgement of the study period abroad
- **Internationalisation of curricula**
 - Courses in English for domestic & international exchange students (360 in 2012/2013)
 - Study programmes in English:
 - Bachelor Degree in Business, Faculty of Economics & Business
 - Undergraduate Engineering Programme – new, as of 2013/14
 - Medical Studies in English, Medical School
 - Advanced Master of European Studies, Faculty of Political Science
 - PhD Programme in Biomedicine and Health Sciences, Medical School



INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

- Double and joint-degree programmes:
 - Management and Counselling for European Education, Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Zagreb & University of Münster
 - new programmes in life sciences, history of SE Europe... are in the process of accreditation
- International accreditation of study programmes:
 - EPAS accreditation for the programme Bachelor Degree in Business (BDiB), Faculty of Economics and Business awarded by the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD)



Erasmus programme & University of Zagreb
Zagreb, 24 October 2012



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INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

Development of international institutional profile

UNIZG has around 700 active Erasmus agreements for exchange of teachers & students with European partners ⇒ basis for further development of research and other kinds of co-operation



POLICY CHANGES AT UNIZG

- **Internationalisation strategy of the University of Zagreb**
 - the first internationalisation strategy in the University history
 - for the period 2012-2018, with defined measures, actions and time plan for institutional internationalisation
- **Reform of the CROQF / Croatian Qualification Framework**
Curricula reforms (competence- and student-centred learning & teaching) towards more readable and comparable degrees



WHAT THE FUTURE BRINGS

- more UNIZG students going on Erasmus for the study period & placement in Europe ⇒ greater competitiveness at the European labour market after graduation
 - more international students at UNIZG
 - more programmes & courses in English language
 - intensified exchange of researchers & staff leading to more international research collaborations
 - better international visibility of the UNIZG
 - ... **AND MUCH MORE**
- ⇒ **ULTIMATE AIM:** international dimension tangible in all activities of the University of Zagreb



Thank you for your attention!