

COLLEGE OF NURSING IN CELJE

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The College of Nursing in Celje is a young higher education institution established in 2009 performing study program "Nursing". The programme was developed in accordance with the guidelines of the EU directive (2005/36/ES) and the Bologna Declaration.

We have already established good contacts with some higher education institutions from the field of health and nursing science and signed several bilateral agreements. Our College is a very young institution and doesn't have an important international reputation. We are using the already established collaboration of our academic staff in the international environment as a base for making contacts and establishing cooperation with higher education institutions. We also use the Erasmus contact seminars and study visits for making contacts and discussions about the collaboration. The College of Nursing is also a member of the Coehre (Consortium of institutes of Higher Education in health and Rehabilitation in Europe) and the membership is used as a way to establish the international cooperation. Our partners come from different EU countries (UK, Portugal, Poland) as well as from non-EU countries (Croatia, Turkey).

Since we are aware of the importance of international exchange and cooperation in order to improve the quality of the programme and the higher education institution itself, within the Erasmus programme and other life-long education programmes, we intend to:

- Constantly improve the study programme by adding an international dimension to it;
- Encourage the mobility of students and staff, both outgoing and incoming and offer preparatory programmes for both;
- Ensure good connections and collaboration with partner institutions;
- Develop and increase international projects as well as research and development activities.

The College of Nursing operates in the region where the ratio of inhabitants with completed higher education is under average regarding the situation in Slovenia. With the establishment of our College which was supported by the regional health care institutions and with the efforts we are putting in assuring quality of our study programmes, we will contribute to the increasing attainment levels. We are also enabling the students to choose different career paths with the defined and established system of recognising prior learning and experience gained in formal and informal education and training.

The need to develop the Nursing study programme in our region came from the regional health care institutions which are facing the lack of graduates in the field of nursing and health care. The expectations and the requirements of the profession are increasing and challenges in the workplace are becoming increasingly demanding. Therefore, health care professionals have to be properly educated in order to meet the above mentioned challenges, to master them and to act for the benefit of the patient. With the cooperation of many experts from different fields we try to create studies, which are a synthesis of high-quality theoretical education, practically applicable clinical training and introduction to scientific and research work. The vital elements of education

are also the practical placements in different kinds of health care institutions and are considered equally important as theoretical part of the study.

The College stays connected with students also after the graduation through different types of life-long learning programmes designed to equip them with up to date knowledge and with the latest results from research and development activities.

The international exchanges and collaboration of the College are very important in order to achieve a good reputation of the College and its graduates. One of our goals in the near future is to build learning mobility more systematically including also the creative ways of promoting and motivating mobility between students. We have fully implemented the EU directive (2005/36/ES) and Bologna degree structure. This also applies to the ECTS system with respect to the credits, grades, learning and training agreement. All the courses or placements taken at the partner's organizations will be recognized as a part of the student's degree. To achieve efficient recognition of the credit gains abroad, our ECTS system is comparable and consistently used. With the Diploma Supplement issued in English we enable the students to continue their careers or studies in the international environment.

Despite the young status of the college and its moderate size we have already established close links between college, health care institutions and research institutions. We are trying to integrate research results and innovative practices into curriculum and encourage students to be innovative and research-oriented in their work.

College is at the moment implementing only part-time study programmes based only on tuition fees and because of that its financial sources are relatively unstable. But the management is putting a lot of efforts into diversifying funding sources through public tenders and other sources to insure that the operating of the College is efficiently managed.