

D. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Riga Business College (RUK) provides four first level professional higher education study programmes: Business Administration, Business and Enterprise Management, Technology of Food Production and Refrigeration Engineering. Riga Business College is the only college in Latvia which implements the study programmes Technology of Food Production and Refrigeration Engineering in Latvia.

The aim of the first level higher education is to implement the deepened acquisition of knowledge in the specific branch. The main attention is being paid to the professional preparation, which manifests itself through the students' knowledge, skills and competence. The strategic aim of the programmes is to provide the students with the amount of theoretical knowledge and acquired practical skills, to give the students the professional competence in compliance with the defined occupational standard and the first level professional higher education.

The international cooperation with the foreign higher education institutions is realized in the frame of the Lifelong Education Programme Erasmus, also in the frame of the GRUNTVIG Project. The main College international activities are students' traineeship and study mobility, teaching and staff training mobility. While searching the partner higher education institutions the choice of the College is mainly determined by the aims of the college education and the study directions and programmes implemented. The partners are found in the International Erasmus weeks; in international conferences and seminars; also in the seminars organized by the National Agency and in data basis of potential cooperation partners. The representatives from the European higher education institutions contact the College and arrive in study visits. The main partner higher education institutions are in Lithuania, because the concept of the college education in Lithuania and Latvia is similar. There are also other college cooperation partners mainly in Europe – Denmark Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Italy, The Great Britain, and Netherlands, also in other countries Turkey and our neighbour countries - Russia and Belorussia.

The College is planning to extend cooperation with the colleges and universities in Poland, Romania and Portugal. The College has had a successful involvement into staff training and teaching staff mobility. The College is developing the cooperation with higher educational institutions and the College is planning to continue the process of mutual cooperation with the existing partner institutions and is looking for new potential partners.

In line with the strategic aims of the college education the main activities are connected with the students' training mobility. The main points of the College training strategy are the following: to provide the use of theoretical knowledge in practice; to gain an idea about the processes in real job market and in the company; to introduce the students with the real situation in the business environment; to improve the communication skills; to strengthen the cultural awareness of the host country. The number of the students involved in training mobility is increasing every year. In the academic year 2012/2013 5% of all the students have used the opportunity of the Erasmus programme to have training in foreign enterprises. The College is planning to increase this amount to 15%. The College is searching for the placement organizations abroad involving local cooperation partners and partner higher educational institutions by making use of their contacts and experience in the collaboration with foreign enterprises. The students are encouraged to look for the practice places themselves according to the requirements of the practice programme

and their interests. It will develop the students' skills in finding the practice place, also skills of applying for a job in the job market. The College students have had the placement in Lithuania, Estonia, Great Britain, Ireland and Spain. The College will pay significant attention to the study programme Refrigeration Engineering (a new programme which started in September 2012) students' involvement in placement mobility activities to achieve better professional results of them. The cooperation with refrigeration enterprises in Poland, Germany, and France etc. is being planned. The College is planning to extend the present cooperation and to start the cooperation with new enterprises. The College ensures that high quality of placement mostly depends on students themselves, on their interest in the work, their activity and initiative.

The aim of the College participating in the Erasmus Programme is to increase the College competitiveness, the competitiveness of the College graduates as well as their integration in the EU job market. The aim is also to increase the staff and lecturers' competence that would improve the quality of the study process. The processes of internationalization and globalization stimulate the College to participate in international cooperative projects in EU and non- EU countries. The strategic decisions are made considering the College capacity, prior study programmes and also the outcomes of the projects. The College has to continue participating in the Project of Lifelong Learning programme GRUNTVIG, which fosters the improvement of the teaching methods in the field of adult education using E- study environment.

With the growth of the capacity of the new study programme Refrigeration Engineering the College is planning to cooperate with Estonian Maritime Academy, Saint Petersburg Institute of Refrigeration and Biotechnologies (Russia), Kaliningrad Technical University (Russia, concerning the mobility and common projects.

The College also intends to engage in intensive programmes and multilateral projects with the present partner institutions, also the intention is to search for new opportunities. When making the strategic decisions about the international cooperation the College considers the strategic directions of the College development, its capacity, subject area and geographical priorities and the implementation of the project outcomes.

Riga Business College confirms that having signed the ECHE It will take part in the EK implementation of the plan of internationalization and modernization of higher education and will observe the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda. By participating in the international programmes the College will improve the quality of higher education. The international experience of the lecturers and staff, regular involvement of foreign lecturers in the study process will enable the College to modernize and improve the teaching methods, using the advanced technique and technologies. Taking into consideration the strategic aim – to prepare high quality specialists in short time period, the experience of the College graduates obtained during the international mobility will provide high qualified and competitive labour force in the European job market. Participating in the forming of the strategic partnership and the knowledge alliances of Erasmus programme will strengthen the College status and prestige, also the significance of higher education. The College has decided to update the content of the study programmes systematically so that they meet the requirements of the changing European job market using the experience of the international mobility. The College study programmes and the applied scientific

research in cooperation with the partner institutions will develop and strengthen the link between higher education, science and entrepreneurship. The participation in international projects will improve more effective supervision of the College and more rational resource allocation and appliance. By participating in Erasmus programme and other international activities the College will gain recognition and will become internationally open.

Through internationalisation the College wants to achieve the highest international standard in research and teaching, that enables the College students to become competitive labour force in today's global labour market. The College recognises its responsibility for promoting tolerance and understanding between Latvians and other nations and cultures and for combating xenophobia and racism in the society. The College observes the principle of equal opportunities regarding female and male students and staff, as well as disabled students and staff, equal opportunities to participate in Lifelong Learning programme Erasmus activities are granted to all the candidates.