



Līdzfinansē
Eiropas Savienības
Erasmus+ programma

SSE Riga Erasmus+ Policy Statement 2021-2027

In line with the mission of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSE Riga) to contribute to the economic, social and democratic development of the region, internationalization of higher education and the EU dimension sets a new agenda that is incorporated in SSE Riga strategic plans. Internationalization of the student body and the involvement of the faculty in international research projects need to be widened and strengthened in the period of 2019-2025 to educate highly qualified people with increased employability in Europe.

To help SSE Riga achieve the aims and plans, set out in the *Development Strategy of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga 2019 – 2025*, SSE Riga actively organises student and staff exchange mobilities within the Erasmus+ framework.

Student Mobilities

The student mobility programme aims at providing long-term educational, personal and professional benefits for incoming and outgoing students. It is supported by a well-organised structure of maintaining the quality of exchange students, including information published on the website, materials made available both as hard copies and electronically downloadable, and a scheme of consultancy, evaluation and feedback. The incoming students are provided with a special welcoming programme, a cultural programme, an overview of Latvian culture and language.

In addition to study exchanges, SSE Riga students and recent graduates undergo internships in business-related enterprises in various EU countries. The internship is currently a part of the core BSc programme curriculum and students can choose where to have it in Latvia or abroad. Besides fulfilling the internship programme, the internship abroad gives an opportunity to broaden the participants' horizons, improve their employability skills, get international working experience, which later will increase the chances of their competitiveness and employability in labour market.

In future, SSE Riga is considering the opportunity of combining study period abroad and internship period. Such a combination will create synergies between the academic and professional experience abroad.

Teaching and Training

As to staff and faculty mobility programme, it aims at generating thematic networks, joint teaching projects and multicultural research projects. The thematic networks in Economics and Business are developed through building personal relationships that generate the development of new courses, improved and updated curricula and strengthen the links between education and research to respond

to the requirements of the knowledge economy. The staff and faculty mobility programme is provided with well-structured support services, including information published on the website, a tailor-made communication scheme and an individualised welcoming and cultural programme.

International experts from enterprises are invited to deliver open lectures and courses at SSE Riga which helps to strengthen the ties with labour market and get to know the current trends and tendencies from employers. By sharing the topicalities of the labour market and the peculiarities of the economic field in various regions, international experts contribute to the curriculum and delivery of the study programme, making it more diverse.

The collaboration between the partner universities is strengthened through international weeks, teacher exchange, teaching and training projects.

Organisation of Mobilities

The International Office is in charge of international relations strategy in terms of student and staff mobilities. This includes the development of the partner university network, reviewing partner agreements, promotion of incoming and outgoing mobility opportunities, providing support to mobility participants before, during and after mobility period, ensuring experience sharing for the benefit for SSE Riga at large.

When choosing the partners, there are three aspects considered, i.e. the geographical location, the size and programmes offered at a partner university and the research focus. First, the conceptual base for the choice of partners is established in the aims of SSE Riga to contribute to the development of the region, hence a number of mobility schemes and multilateral research projects involve the Baltic Sea region. Further, to produce comparative studies and provide diversity, the partners from Southern Europe are addressed. Second, with SSE Riga being a small higher educational institution, we are looking for partners that offer a broader range of courses and programmes to provide our students with specialization opportunities to enrich student specialization. Third, with SSE Riga focusing on research within entrepreneurship and sustainable business, partners with similar research areas are of importance for implementing multilateral projects.

Impact of Mobilities

The expected results of all mobilities are internationalization of the student and staff bodies and SSE Riga in general, modernization of the curriculum and updating courses in accordance with current labour trends, strengthening cooperation with other educational institutions and representatives of labour market.

To sum up, staff and students' participation in the Erasmus+ mobilities contribute largely to the SSE Riga community. First of all, the students have an opportunity to live, study or have an internship abroad, meet new people, get to know different cultures, traditions, peculiarities of the economic sector and labour market in particular regions. Those students who stay in Latvia, have a chance to communicate with incoming students, study, organize and participate in events together with them. Secondly, the faculty have an opportunity to teach abroad, get to know different educational systems, learn contemporary teaching methodology, share good practices with the colleagues, establish stronger connections for further research activities. Staff can participate in training activities and bring all the latest developments and trends to their current work in SSE Riga. Additionally, invited experts and

incoming staff deliver open lectures and organize courses in SSE Riga which brings diversity and adds more value to the curriculum.

As SSE Riga alumni occupy leading positions not only in Latvia but also abroad, therefore, the impact of implemented Erasmus+ mobilities is significant for labour market not only in Latvia but also in the countries where SSE Riga alumni are employed later on. A recent example of SSE Riga alumni employment includes a report written by SSE Riga Professor Anete Pajuste looking into managerial and entrepreneurial activity by SSE Riga alumni operating in the Baltic states. The report showed, e.g., that in total 764 companies in the Baltic states (with a turnover over EUR 10,000) are led or owned by the SSE Riga B.Sc. alumni.