



## Erasmus+ Policy Statement 2021-2027

The efforts to strengthen and develop international collaboration, multiculturalism, mutual respect and understanding, as well as sustainable development are the foundation of Collegium Civitas (CC) activities. Our mission is fully compatible with the values expressed through the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), with its provisions being observed in all the aspects of our work, as they constitute an integral element of Collegium Civitas Policy. Therefore, participation in Erasmus+ Programme is a natural path for us to follow in furthering our development and our mission.

***The mission of Collegium Civitas is to create a multi-generational and international academic environment fostering thinking and action through top quality education of future public life leaders in Poland and abroad: leaders of social, political and economic areas, an enterprising and creative generation that is open towards multicultural heritage and current challenges and that perceives the world through the lens of prosocial categories, pursuing the common good. Collegium Civitas is a place and a hub for exchanging ideas, public debate and discourse about the world based on knowledge and experience of excellent scholars and experts in social and political sciences, international relations and diplomacy, security and management, new media and journalism, culture and art. Collegium Civitas is also a model of a certain civic stance, where the sense of individual freedom and community, as well as pluralism of thought and expression in the search for truth are considered the most important values. This means, first and foremost, respect for other human beings, seen as a primary and universal principle, irrespective of time and culture. Our institution is a diverse and nuanced environment, reflected in our motto: „Gradu diverso, via una” – „The same way by different steps”, i.e. pursuing a common goal while respecting individuality and different paths that may lead to it, according to the principles of social responsibility of science and education.***

The strategic goal of Collegium Civitas as a Higher Education Institution offering a wide range of Bachelor's and Master's programmes in English is to become more international and to strengthen our international presence. We have been able to gradually achieve this over the years, with our active participation in the Erasmus+ Programme playing a major part in that endeavour.

We actively encourage our students to spend time abroad under Erasmus+ Programme, we provide recognition of qualifications gained abroad during studies and training, we promote among our students the learning of two languages in addition to their mother tongue; with a variety of support programmes (i.a. scholarships) we aim at enabling access to high-quality education offered by our university, irrespective of the socio-economic background of our students. In all our academic endeavours and daily work of our university we present a strong sense of our European identity, Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity and we continuously promote these values among our students.



Collegium Civitas is an institution with a high degree of internationalisation. Around 30% of our students come from abroad and there is a growing interest among foreign students in visiting our institution as part of Erasmus+ Programme. Our long-term strategy for the years 2021-2027 includes continued efforts to increase both the presence of international students and our international presence, while increasing student and staff mobility and collaboration with other higher education institutions within Erasmus+ Programme.

The leadership of Collegium Civitas, appreciating the significance of international presence, promotes and supports Erasmus+ and actively encourages students and staff to participate in the programme, which translates into a) increased competences of the participants, b) better quality of teaching and study programmes, c) implementation of scientific projects (including the increased number of international publications authored by our staff and more attractive offer of study programmes), as well as d) optimization of a whole range of processes that support learning and teaching within our institution, and the process of student and staff exchange.

Digitalization of processes related to participation in Erasmus+ is also an important aspect, facilitating ambitious goals set by the initiative Erasmus Without Paper (EWP). EWP is fully compatible with the policy pursued by Collegium Civitas – a modern and highly digitalized academic institution. Organization processes (including teaching) are largely based on cutting-edge IT platforms. It is noteworthy, that during the Covid-19 crisis, our institution was able to swiftly implement a complete on-line teaching programme (100% of classes) and offer it to all of our students, without any detriment to the quality of teaching. For several years, Collegium Civitas has been implementing systemic ‘green’ solutions in our day-to-day work and promoting sustainable development – digitalization of our processes has proved to be an ally in pursuing these goals. These experiences will be beneficial for our participation in the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027, as we are prepared for hybrid learning and teaching, online collaboration during research projects, and for sharing our experience and lessons learned with Erasmus+ partner Universities.

Due to participation in Erasmus+ our academic, teaching and administrative staff have been developing international collaboration skills which foster their participation in international environment and provide them with valuable experience of working within our partner institutions abroad. Our objective for the years 2021-2027 is to continue and strengthen this process, including transfer of knowledge and exchange of experiences and best practices with our partners, with a view to create long-term benefits for the whole region.

In line with our strategy, CC aims to further develop collaboration under Erasmus+ Programme with our partner academic institutions through in-depth exchange of knowledge and experiences, intensification of academic collaboration, panel discussions, conferences, seminars and scientific symposia, as well as joint initiatives, e.g. enabling our students to graduate with double degrees. Our international collaboration extends to EU and third countries (including, e.g.: the US, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Vietnam). Our institution has achieved tangible, positive results due to collaborative action favouring education, initiated as part of Erasmus+. Among examples of the successful cooperation enabled by Erasmus+ there are the double degree programmes such as the Transatlantic Dual Master’s Degree in History and Security Studies, offered in collaboration with West Virginia University, projects



including research components, such as the Strategic Partnership WISE: Widening Interdisciplinary Sustainability Education, implemented by an interdisciplinary consortium of European academic institutions, or the partnership implemented as part of Jean Monnet Network.

The students, academic and administrative staff participating in Erasmus+ Programme have access to full information and mentoring support (at every stage – visit preparation, stay abroad and follow-up). The results of their participation in the programme are subject to evaluation, which facilitates planning next stages of our activities within Erasmus+. Participants also benefit from the experience of Erasmus+ alumni, who support us in promoting the programme by acting as Erasmus+ ambassadors and offering advice to new participants. At Collegium Civitas we aim at further developing the Erasmus+ ambassadors network in the years 2021-2027 as the participants often prove to be the best spokespersons for the Programme.

Our university respects in full the principles of non-discrimination set out in the Erasmus+ Programme and ensures equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds. We ensure full recognition of all education experiences and their results, as well as the transfer of learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of student mobility and training abroad. Importantly, we charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities. Incoming students are treated as equal to Collegium Civitas students, and we offer them support in adjusting to life in Poland and integrating into the wider student community in partnership with the Collegium Civitas Student Council. The primary Collegium Civitas departments responsible for the Erasmus+ Programme and its participants are the Department of International Cooperation and Promotion, the Career Centre and the Academic Affairs Department. All other departments of our institution and administrative staff undergo comprehensive training on internationalisation and intercultural communication and are happy to provide counsel and help students and staff from international partner institutions.

At Collegium Civitas, the Erasmus+ Programme, which is the linchpin of the internationalisation of our institution and building an openness to partnership, is present in everyday activities of the whole institution. It occupies a central place in the internationalisation strategy, which has a meaningful impact on the growth of our institution through establishing strategic partnerships, exchanging good practices and taking effective teaching measures. We strive to further improve the level of internationalisation and plan to enhance Collegium Civitas' participation in the Erasmus+ Programme in 2021–2027 as we believe that this has not only an invaluable impact on the future shape of our institution, but will also allow us to make our contribution the development of the European Education Area.

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For more information on Erasmus+ Programme at Collegium Civitas please visit:  
[www.civitas.edu.pl/en/erasmus](http://www.civitas.edu.pl/en/erasmus)