**ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) – Archiepiscopal College of Veszprem**

**2023**

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| **Participation in Erasmus+** |
| The Archiepiscopal College of Veszprém is authorized to launch programmes in the fields of religious life, teacher training, humanities, economics and social sciences. Since September 2020, the Theology programme has been deactivated. Currently, the College offers the Teacher of Religious Education undivided MA and the Social Work BA programmes. Based on the cooperation agreement between our College and the University of Pannonia located in Veszprém, the Teacher of Religious Education programme is not just a single degree training but can be combined with other teacher training programmes as well.  In order for our College to act as a catalyst in the Archdiocese of Veszprém and in the national economy, it should step out into society by expanding the range of its – educational and scientific – activities with a service profile. For this purpose, the Pastoral Institute, the Mental Health and Psychology Centre, and the Talent Nurture Centre were founded, all of which became operational in the autumn of 2022.  Education relating to social sensitivity, embracing the poor and the needy (education relating to the respect for human dignity), forming the human character are not only moral and religious moral principles but social responsibilities of an institution maintained by the Church, consequently it also refers to our College.  In 2020 our basic strategies were redefined and more emphasis was given to quality assurance. Our quality targets involve creating quality organisational culture, building quality guarantees into organisation development processes and into international relationships, as well as into the operation of the quality system and its improvement. These objectives can be reached by building on our past and traditions providing theological and social education, on our results and on the institutional culture. However, the social and economic procedures of the 21st century, expectations resulting from pandemics, global migration and the market environment, as well as the changing community and individual needs are also taken into consideration.  Our priorities involve high-level organization of research work and research development, and last but not least continuous contact with the educational and economic actors of the area.  By way of implementing the guidelines set in 2020, we are committed to achieve these goals through more intensive international and social engagement, through better-organized involvement in the missionary activity of the Church and through more active participation in local community life.  As an initial step, the College is committed to benefit from the opportunities offered by the 35-year-old Erasmus+ program, since individual learning performance is promoted by KA1 activities, international research cooperation among institutions is fostered by KA2 actions, and all targets listed above can be reached easier aided by the program. |
| **Strategy, objectives and impact** |
| One of the top strategic priorities in line with quality targets of the Archiepiscopal College of Veszprém in 2022 is to make the institution internationally recognised in the field of science and education, and to increase its research and innovation ability and achievement in international and regional comparisons.  In order to achieve the objectives set, participation in the Erasmus+ KA1 requires the renewal of the partnerships and building new ones, as a first step.  Another priority is to promote universities in the neighbouring countries where the language of instruction is Hungarian in order to elaborate joint cooperation activity in the field of education and research, and to sign bilateral cooperation agreements (Memorandum of Understanding) on the conditions. The agreement provides also possibilities for joint activities in family and creation protection from scientific and educational perspectives. The common educational activity can be regulated within Erasmus+ inter-institutional agreements, while further cooperation plans can be defined in separate agreements. The College signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in the field of social work with the Partium Christian University, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Oradea, Romania on 24 November, 2022. There are plans for further agreements with 2 more HEIs in the neighbouring countries.  The College finds it highly essential to provide opportunity for its students and staff to improve foreign language competences and enhance intercultural awareness aided by the Erasmus+ program. To serve this purpose, the College has started negotiations with Italian, German (Paderborn University, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, social work) and French (Université Catholique de l’Ouest, Angers, social work and Catholic theology) universities to build partnerships within the framework of the Erasmus+ program.  The College can improve its reputation and the quality of service by offering more courses in more languages of instruction in the Student Course Catalogues for international students. Currently, the English Course Catalogue for social work contains 14 courses with 46 ECTS credits, the Italian Course Catalogue for religious education has 12 courses with 36 ECTS credits. Our Course Catalogues are constantly developed.  In the framework of institutional structure development, the College places great emphasis on creating a new organisational unit – called International Office – to provide more professional service to international participants. The head of the would-be International Office works also as the rector’s appointee for international relations responsible for strategic relations, while an Erasmus coordinator with experience and good English skills will be put in charge of administration duties and informing students and staff participating in mobility to better serve international purposes.  By designing and creating the English homepage in November 2022, the College has been made internationally visible and accessible.  One of the most important steps to digitalise processes at the College is to minimise the administration workload and cut the office paperwork by learning the usage of the Erasmus Dashboard. The introduction of the Erasmus app and the European Student Card (ESC) serves the Erasmus Without Paper processes. The usage of the Erasmus mobile app is planned to be promoted at the College in 2026.  When acquiring the ECHE certificate again, the Archiepiscopal College of Veszprém is going to implement KA1 mobility activities during the period until 2027. Later on, in the next application period the College intends to intervene into KA2 activities promoting international research cooperation between organizations. |
| **Indicators** |
| In 2020, we established our major plans for **curriculum and degree programme development** in order to increase the number of students attending our College. By 2026, new programmes are planned to be launched in the fields of humanities and social sciences, with such an up-to date training content that can be useful not only in the educational, social and service provider systems of the Church, but in the wider labour market as well.   * The new degree programmes are expected to attract more Hungarian students and consequently more international participants within the Erasmus+ mobility activity by 2026.   **Building international relationships** within the Erasmus program by increasing the number of partners.   * Our mutual interest and common will on cooperation are expressed in the Memorandum of Understanding agreements that offer possibilities for cooperation in the field of education and research. Our aim is to sign at least 6 Memorandum of Understanding agreements with partner universities by the end of 2027. The partners will include * Partium Christian University, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Oradea, Romania, * Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education, Beregszász, Ukraine, * Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance, Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology, * one German university: Paderborn University, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, * one French university: Université Catholique de l’Ouest, Angers, * one Italian university. * The conditions of the common educational activity will be set in the Erasmus Inter-Institutional Agreement as soon as the College earns the ECHE certification. The College intends to sign bilateral inter-institutional agreements with the above mentioned HEIs.   Providing a wider and **wider choice of courses in 4 languages in the Course Catalogues** for International Students apart from Hungarian degree programmes.   * Currently, we have an English Course Catalogue for Social Work with 46 ECTS credits and an Italian Course Catalogue for Religious Education with 36 ECTS credits. * We are devoted to improve our service by creating French and German Course Catalogues for Religious Education and by increasing the quality and number of courses in every catalogue.   The college is committed to provide improved and **more professional service** to international participants**.**   * Setting up an **International Office** by the beginning of 2024. * The head of the office as the rector’s appointee for international relations was employed in 2022. * Employing an Erasmus coordinator with experience and good English skills by the beginning of 2024 before mobility activity starts at the College possibly in 2024/25. * Designing the **English homepage** to serve digitalisation and internationalisation purposes in November 2022. * It is under constant development.   Promoting **digitalisation** and **green practices** at the College in line with international trends by the end of 2027.   * Using the Erasmus Without Paper practices such as the Dashboard by the end of the academic year of 2024/25. * Application of European Student Card by the end of 2025. * Using the Erasmus app by the end of 2026 in order to provide relevant information quickly. |