

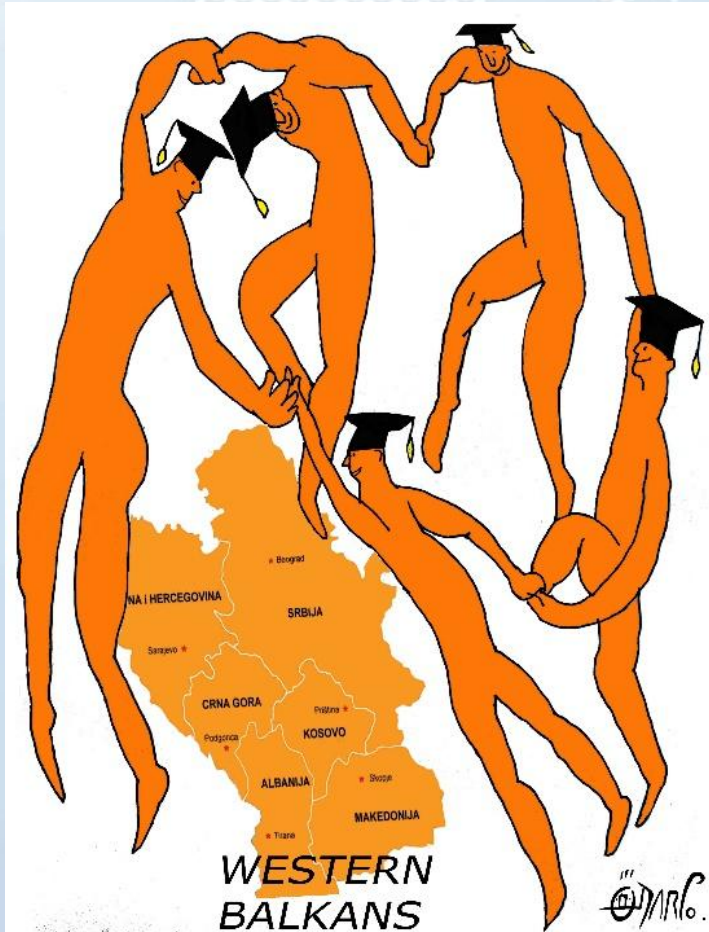


# Erasmus+



Higher Education in  
International dimension -  
cooperation with  
Western Balkan region

# WB region at the glance



- Participation in various **EU accession instruments and programmes;**
- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro – **third countries non associated** to Erasmus+ programme;
- Members of **Bologna process** as of 2003

# Why cooperating with WB countries?

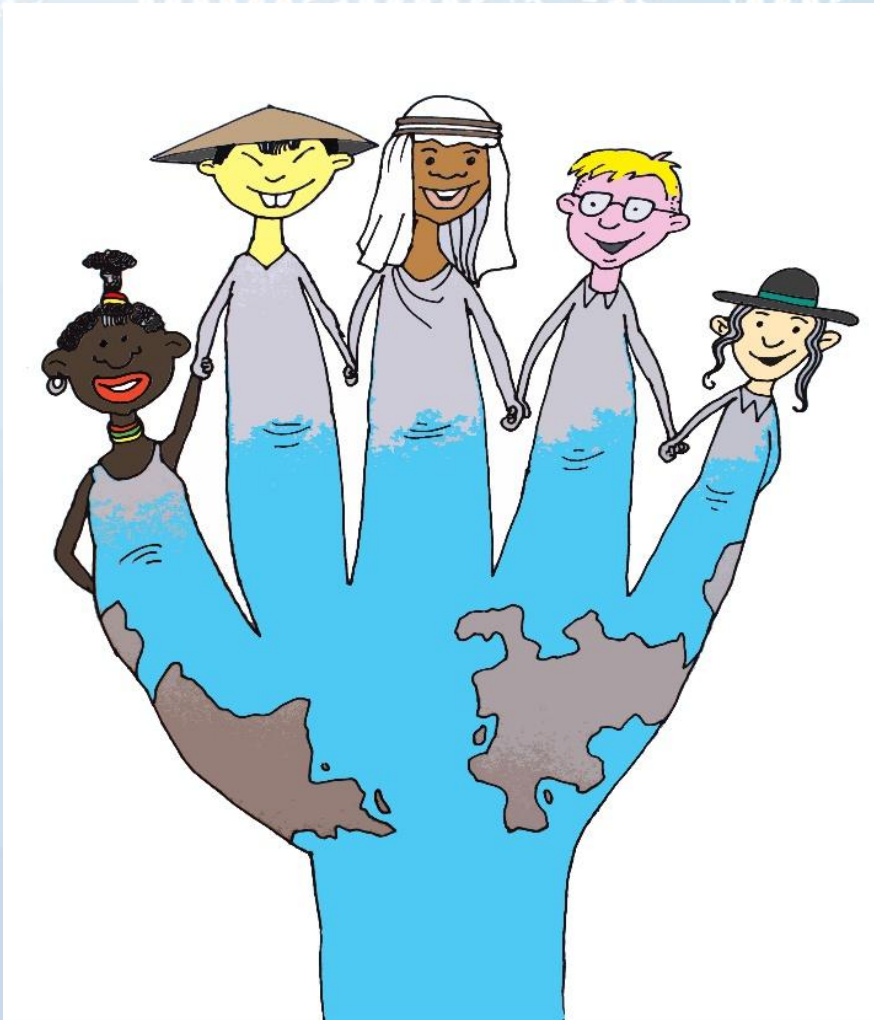
- All the countries are member of Bologna process as of 2003
- Strategic framework on internationalization of HEIs and HE systems in WB countries;
- International mobility and projects;
- Very good results in CB HE and ICM projects
- Diversity of partnerships developed
- Coordinators of many projects
- Take part in European programmes for territorial cooperation (Interreg IPA, Interreg MED, Interreg Adrion, etc.), Horizon..
- All four are partners in European University Alliances

# WB region – prospective for future?



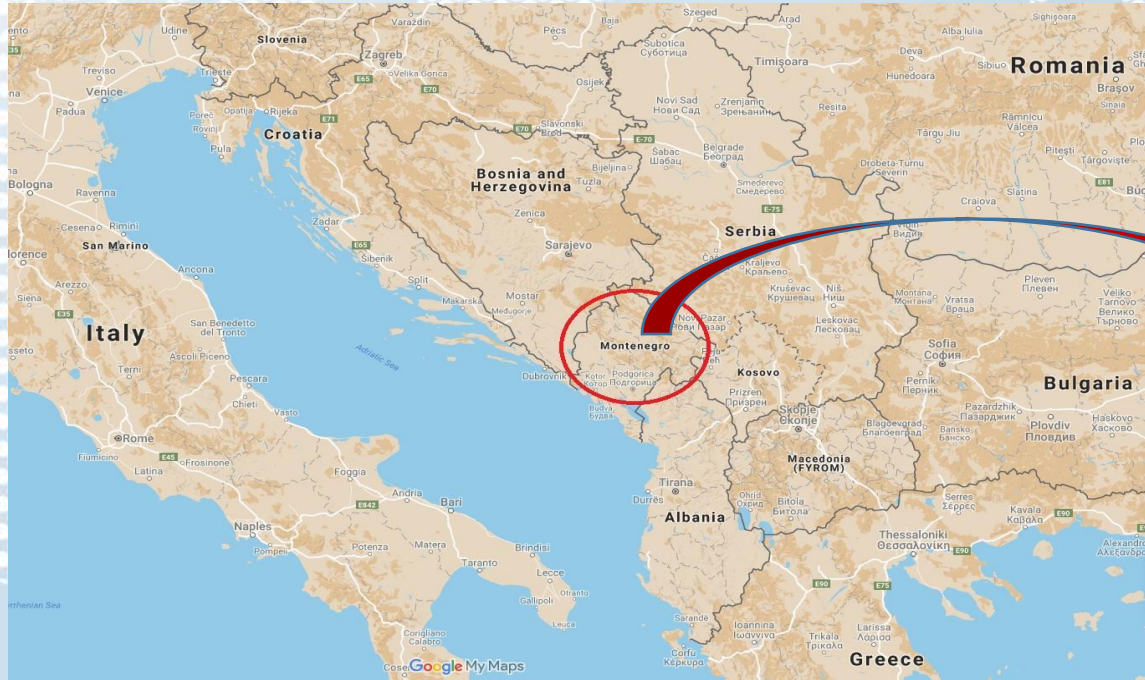
- All the countries aspiring to become EU member states: status of candidate and potential candidate countries
- A region whose countries would potentially become third countries associated to the Programme with NAs in place

**Last but not the least... Why?**



**Cultural exchange  
and diversity**

# Montenegro facts and figures



**A small country located in the  
Western Balkans**

- Country profile: area: 13,812 km<sup>2</sup>  
population: 633.158
- Regained independence in 2006
- Member of NATO, OSCE, CoE
- Front runner in EU integration process
- The first declared ecological country in the world
- Regional center for cyber security located in Podgorica
- Languages: Montenegrin (official), Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian and Croatian (official use)

# Tourism and agriculture as the two main sectors of the country's economy



# Higher education in Montenegro

- HE - implemented based on the principles of the **Law on Higher Education** adopted in October 2025
- Member of Bologna process as of 2003
- Elements of Bologna process in the Montenegrin HE legislation incorporated



# Higher education in Montenegro

Strategic objectives for further higher education development - formulated in the  
**Strategy for the Development of Higher Education 2024-2027**

IMPROVING THE MATCHING OF STUDY PROGRAMS WITH THE NEEDS OF THE LABOR MARKET, ADEQUATE RECOGNITION, HIGH EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS AND IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

IMPROVING THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH EHEA AND ERA STANDARDS

# Higher education institutions in Montenegro



Universities	Status	Location
University of Montenegro	Public	Podgorica
University Mediterranean	Private	Podgorica
University of Donja Gorica	Private	Podgorica
University Adriatic	Private	Bar
<b>Independent faculties</b>		
Faculty of Business Management	Independent private faculty	Bar
Faculty of Administrative and European Studies	Independent private faculty	Podgorica
Faculty of Montenegrin Language and Literature	Independent public faculty	Cetinje

# Higher education institutions in Montenegro

- Academic and applied study programmes,
- Various professional development and training programmes.

- **1** public HEI in Montenegro
- **3** private HEIs
- **3** independent faculties

University Name	Number of faculties / institutes	Number of students
University of Montenegro	19 faculties + 3 institutes + 1 academy	18.000
Mediterranean University	6 faculties	1000
University of Donja Gorica	12 faculties + 2 centres	3000
Adriatic University	7 faculties	1535



**University of Montenegro** - the largest research university with 75% of total students population



# Universities in Montenegro



**Adriatic University is private institution and the faculties are spread along the entire Montenegrin coastline (Herceg Novi, Tivat, Budva, Bar, Ulcinj)**



**Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor**



Most faculties are located in the capital city Podgorica, such as:

- **Faculty of Economics,**
- **Faculty of Law,**
- **Faculty of Electrical Engineering,**
- **Faculty of Civil Engineering**
- **Etc.**



**Institute of Marine Biology-Kotor**

# Internationalization of HEIs

- Cooperation with numerous universities worldwide, based on the bilateral agreements signed.
- Areas of cooperation:

Student and staff exchange

Participation in joint scientific and research projects

Exchange of scientific literature and experiences in the teaching process and scientific work



**University of Montenegro** as the leading HEI is member a number of university associations having representatives in the working bodies and participating in the initiatives of those networks.

Here we include:

- European University Association,
- Mediterranean Universities Union,
- Centre for Mediterranean Universities,
- Balkans Universities Association.

The University of Montenegro (UCG) is a full member of the **European University Ulysses**, a network of European universities

# Erasmus+ mobility in Montenegro in a decade

2015-2020

- 475 ICM projects selected
- 2.944 approved outgoing mobilities
- 1.801 approved incoming mobilities

2021-2025

- 588 ICM projects selected
- 2.642 approved outgoing mobilities
- 1.775 approved incoming mobilities

# Erasmus+ mobility in Montenegro: what are the most common used types?



**Most**  
frequently  
used types

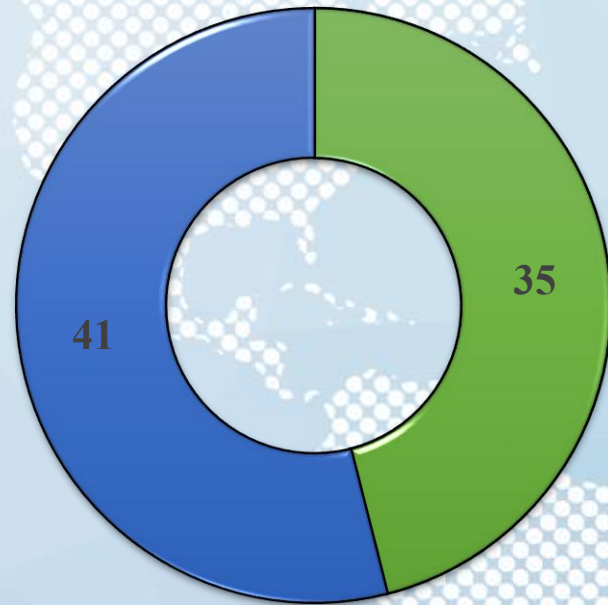
- Students (**study** mobility)
- Staff (**training** mobility)

**Less**  
frequently  
used types

- Students: **traineeship** mobility)
- Staff (**teaching** mobility)

# Capacity Building in Higher Education

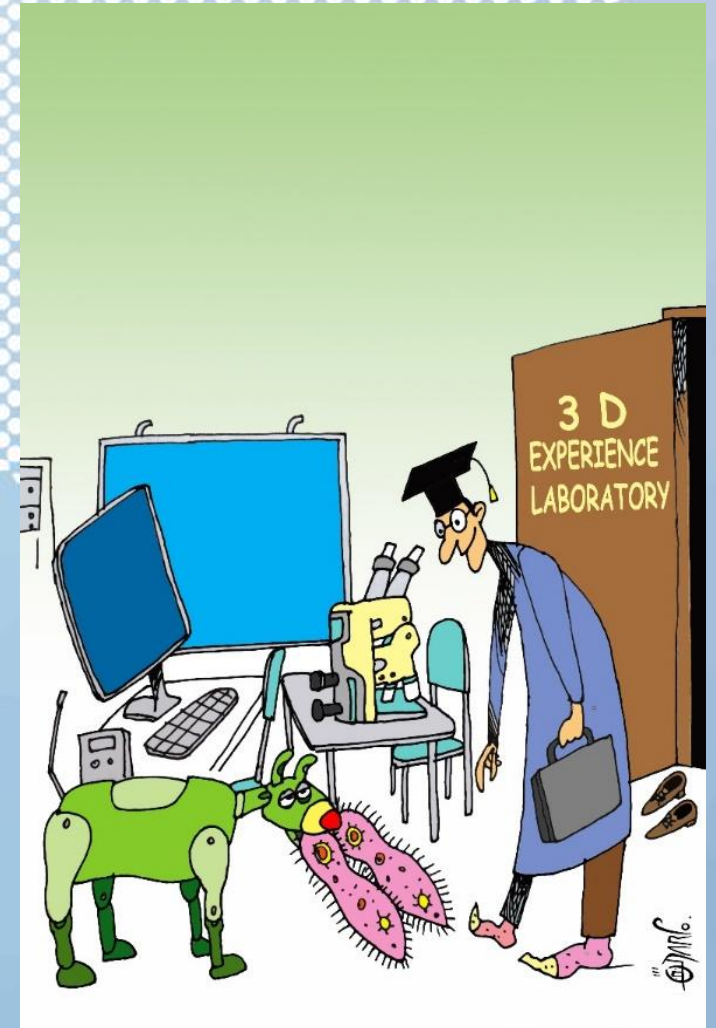
Number of selected CB HE projects



■ 2014-2020 ■ 2021-present



Total grant awarded 2014-2020: **23.4 million EUR**



# Montenegrin cooperation with Baltic countries

## International Credit Mobility

- **ESTONIA**

- TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (TALTECH)
- Estonian University of Life Science, Estonija
- University of Tartu, Estonija

- **LATVIA**

- LIEPAJA MARINE COLLEGE
- RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
- LATVIAN MARITIME ACADEMY OF RTU
- ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

- **Lithuania**

- LITHUANIAN MARITIME ACADEMY
- VILNIUS ACADEMY OF ARTS

# Montenegrin cooperation with Baltic countries

## Capacity Building in Higher Education

### ESTONIA

Project title	Project year	Countries	Montenegrin partner	Estonian partner
Triggering Resilience in Up-and-coming Security Threats (TRUST)	CB HE 2024	Countries: Serbia, Cyprus, <b>Estonia</b> , Bosnia&Herzegovina, Montenegro	University of Montenegro	
MOOC-based micro-credentials for teacher professional development (CRED4TEACH)	CB HE 2022	Germany, Portugal, <b>Estonia</b> , Turkey, Ukraine, Albania, Montenegro	University Mediterranean, University of Montenegro, Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education	Tallinn University

# Montenegrin cooperation with Baltic countries Capacity Building in Higher Education

## LITHUANIA

Project title	Project year	Countries	Montenegrin partner	Lithuanian partner
Gender Equality in Academia and Research (GEAR)	CB HE 2023	Montenegro, <b>Lithuania</b> , Slovenia, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Serbia	University Adriatik, University of Montenegro, Socio-economic center of Montenegro	
Sustainable development of BLUE economies through higher education and innovation in Western Balkan Countries (BLUEWBC)	CB HE 2019	Norway, Albania, Croatia, <b>Lithuania</b> , Montenegro	University of Montenegro, Chamber of Economy of Montenegro, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis	Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
Establishing Modern Master-level Studies in Information Systems (MASTIS)	CB HE 2015	France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, <b>Lithuania</b> , Montenegro, Norway, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom	University of Donja Gorica	Kauno Technologijos Universitetas

# Cooperation with other WB countries

## Albania

- Cooperation mainly based on ICMs and CBHE projects
- Most cooperation with Lithuania, but with other two Baltic countries too
- Institutions with whom cooperate: University of Tartu, Vilnius university, Tallinn university of Technology, Vytautas Magnus university, Latvia Academy of Life Science and Technology, Lithuanian university of Health Sciences, Riga Stradins university, Turiba university of Business, Vilnius Technical university..

# Cooperation with other WB countries

## KOSOVO

- 22 private and 13 public HEIs
- Over 1,500 student/staff mobilities annually, young population and 99% internet penetration
- Participation in CBHE projects increases every year with 15 projects in 2025, 5 coordinators HEIs from KS
- Cooperation with Baltic Universities includes strong links with University of Tallin, Kaunas University, Vilnius University, Riga Technical University

# Cooperation with other WB countries Bosnia and Hercegovina

- 39 HEIS, 8 public and 31 private
- In 2025 BiH was involved in over 300 ICM projects supporting the mobility of over 3000 students and staff annually (incoming and outgoing).
- In that the same period (2025), the country was involved in:
- 11 Capacity Building projects in HE (CBHE), 7 CB VET, 10 CB Youth, 4 CB sport, 8 Cooperation Partnerships, 29 Youth mobility projects, 14 mobility of youth workers, 2 youth participation activities, and other projects.

# Potentials for future cooperation

- Improved cooperation within ICM projects
- Enhance promotion of traineeship opportunities within ICMs
- Participation in CB HE projects involving Baltic countries partners
- Work on diversification of partnerships
- Cooperation within Jean Monnet projects
- EM JM or joint programmes
- University alliances
- Consider TCAs with WB countries



# Some topics for CB HE projects

- Digitalization
- Cyber security
- Maritime sector
- Police academy sector
- EU studies
- Teacher training, inclusion, community youth work...

# Challenges

- Lack of study programmes in English language
- Lack of double and joint degree programmes
- Incoming mobility
- Internal administrative and legislative burdens linked to accreditation issues for study programmes, LLL programmes, microcredentials;
- Transformation to National agencies?..



Erasmus+

**Thank you for your attention!**

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