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# Strategy of the Internationalisation of Slovenian Higher Education

*(review on the slovenian higher education state and action plan)*  
Sebastijan Frumen

[www.elevate.space](http://www.elevate.space)

# The Internationalisation of Slovenian Higher Education

1. The internationalisation of higher education is important for the establishment and development of Slovenian's global relationships and connections in the world
2. The internationalisation of the Slovenian higher education area shall proceed as a part of a long-term and sustainable process based on high-quality, holistic and balanced international partnerships. For that, the following is necessary:
  - A partnership between the government, higher education institutions and the wider public
  - A partnership between key areas
  - A common concern for the Preservation and development of the Slovenian language
  - An integrated governmental policy
  - The establishment of a recognizable, integrated, national identity for Slovenian higher education

# Some Issues on Internationalisation in Slovenian Higher Education

1. Resolution on National Higher Education Programme 2011-2020: internationalisation as one of the key areas of further development for the sector
2. Strategy for internationalisation of Slovenian higher Education (SHE) 2016-2020:
  - Adopted in July 2016 by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
  - SHE shall become a part of the global HE area by 2020
  - Despite positive trends in recent years, Slovenia still lags behind the OECD and EU averages in the international comparisons of mobility
  - The strategic plan of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport focuses primarily on the opening of the higher education and scientific research area
  - The strategy is focused on five key areas: international mobility, openness of institutions towards the international environment, high quality international scientific research and development cooperation, promotion of intercultural competences and a focus on targeted priority regions and countries, as well as the ongoing promotion, support and monitoring of the strategy
  - Daring action plan for the period 2016-2018, within which we are pursuing 25 objectives and over 50 measures with a total value of 57 million, is already being implemented

# Areas and Objectives

## 1. Mobility as a key component of the Slovenian higher education community, open to the international environment:

ENCOURAGING THE MOBILITY OF SLOVENIAN STUDENTS ABROAD	
Increasing the number of Slovenian students on student exchanges and student internships abroad	(Objective 1)
Increasing the number of Slovenian students studying abroad full-time	(Objective 2)
Strengthening support environments for the improved quality of international mobility	(Objective 3)
Implementing a pilot project to promote students' competences gained from mobility abroad	(Objective 4)

ENCOURAGING THE MOBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO SLOVENIA	
Increasing the number of international students participating in student exchanges, internships or full-time study in Slovenia	(Objective 5)
Enabling the placement of international students in public student housing	(Objective 6)
Informing international students on Slovenian culture, society and language	(Objective 7)

ENCOURAGING THE MOBILITY OF SLOVENIAN HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES ABROAD	
Increasing the international mobility of Slovenian higher education teachers and professional staff	(Objective 8)
Removing legislative barriers to international mobility of Slovenian higher education teachers and professional staff	(Objective 9)
Encouraging Slovenian citizens who have completed doctoral studies abroad or are employed at a higher education or research institution abroad to return to Slovenia	(Objective 10)

ENCOURAGING THE MOBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES TO SLOVENIA	
Increasing the number of visiting international experts and higher education teachers in Slovenian higher education institutions	(Objective 11)
Informing international higher education teachers on Slovenian culture, society and language	(Objective 12)
Removing of legislative barriers to encouraging mobility of staff from non-EU countries	(Objective 13)
Establishing a support centre to help international professionals, teachers and researchers with administrative processes	(Objective 14)

## 2. Quality international scientific research and development cooperation:

ENCOURAGING QUALITY INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	
Ensuring effective inter-institutional and international mobility of higher education teachers and researchers	(Objective 15)
Increasing the international visibility, attractiveness and competitiveness of Slovenian scientific research and development potential	(Objective 16)
Increasing the volume of international multilateral cooperation and establishing new strategic forms of international bilateral cooperation	(Objective 17)



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# Areas and Objectives

## 3. Promoting the development of intercultural competences:

### ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCULTURAL, SOCIAL AND CIVIC COMPETENCES OF STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF

Including intercultural competences and internationalized learning outcomes in study programmes (Objective 18)

Removing administrative barriers to the accreditation of international joint and double/multiple degree study programmes (Objective 19)

## 4. Targeting priority regions and countries:

### TARGETING PRIORITY REGIONS AND COUNTRIES

Promoting Slovenia as a study destination in the Western Balkans (Objective 20)

Promoting the development of strategic partnerships in the region of the Western Balkans (Objective 21)

Promoting mobility between Slovenia and priority regions and countries (Objective 22)

Promoting Slovenia as a study destination in the countries in the priority regions (Objective 23)

## 5. Promotion, support and monitoring of the strategy:

### PROMOTION, SUPPORT AND MONITORING OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF SLOVENIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Promoting a single entry point „Study in Slovenia“ (Objective 24)

Monitoring the implementation of the objectives, measures and indicators of the Strategy (Objective 25)

As is apparent from the Overview of Slovenian Higher Education in the Field of Internationalization, data shows that the mobility of Slovenian and international students and academic staff in Slovenia is among the lowest in the EU.

### 1. Mobility – Slovenian students „going out“ – mobility (share according to Slovenian students' population)

	2008/09 [%]	2009/10 [%]	2010/11 [%]	2011/12 [%]	2012/13 [%]	2013/14 [%]	2014/15 [%]
ERASMUS <sup>4</sup>	1,3	1,3	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,1	2,5 <sup>5</sup>
CEEPUS <sup>6</sup>	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1
NFM <sup>7</sup>	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,2
Sklad – Ad futura <sup>8</sup>	0,0	0,1	0,3	0,6	0,4	0,5	0,5
Skupaj	1,4	1,5	1,9	2,5	2,4	2,7	3,4

### 2. Mobility – Foreign students „coming in“ – mobility (share according to Slovenian students' population)

	2008/09 [%]	2009/10 [%]	2010/11 [%]	2011/12 [%]	2012/13 [%]	2013/14 [%]	2014/15 [%]
ERASMUS <sup>9</sup>	1,0	1,2	1,4	1,7	1,9	2,1	2,7 <sup>10</sup>
CEEPUS <sup>11</sup>	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
BILATERALE <sup>12</sup>	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
NFM <sup>13</sup>	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,004
Skupaj	1,2	1,3	1,6	1,9	2,2	2,4	2,9

### 3. Mobility – Slovenian students „going out“ – full study abroad (share according to Slovenian students' population)

In 2013 there was 2.370 Slovenians, enrolled into study programmes all over the world. Most of the students, are studying in Austria (28 %), Italy (11,2 %), Germany (11, 2 %), USA and Netherlands.

### 4. Mobility – Foreign students „coming in“ – full study abroad (share according to Slovenian students' population)

	2012/13	2012/13 [%]	2013/14	2013/14 [%]	2014/15	2014/15 [%]
Število študentov	2962	3,4 %	2970	3,7 %	3128	4,2 %

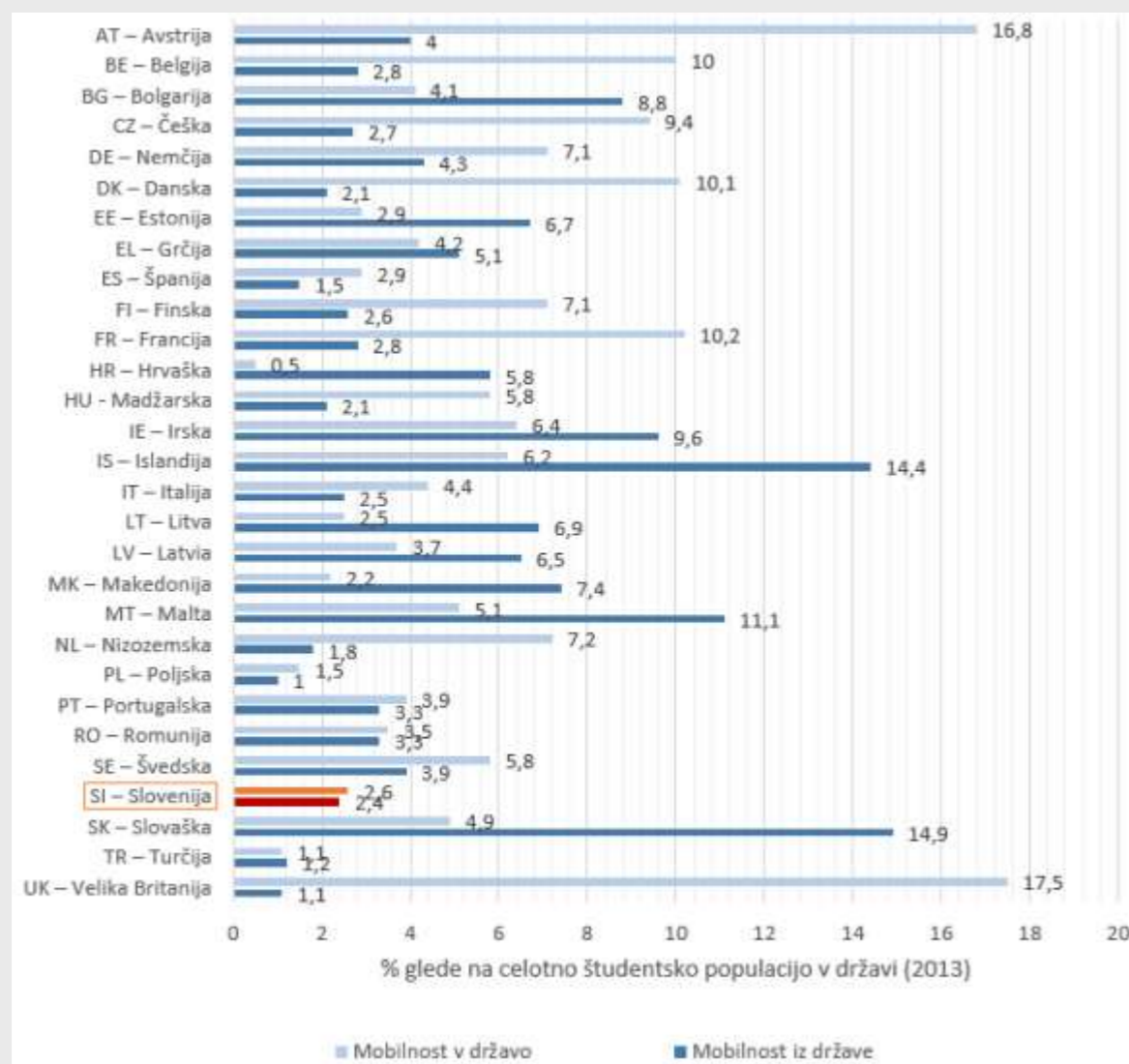
Last data shows (on 17. 11. 2017) how the numbers are increasing (full time students:

2016/17 – 5,5 %

2017/18 – 7,5 %

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Hrvaška	727	696	660	759	976	1046	1035	1132
Makedonija	248	339	303	453	555	532	565	635
Bosna in Hercegovina	208	237	268	272	381	418	421	545
Italija	110	144	158	190	191	188	297	273
Srbija	129	137	129	147	298	339	223	233
Ruska federacija	43	39	41	57	52	56	65	68
Črna gora	-	-	-	-	57	65	57	65
Ukrajina	21	26	32	45	41	41	55	55
Bolgarija	13	22	31	22	36	35	40	38
Kitajska	11	18	31	22	24	24	34	34
Nemčija	10	17	17	22	20	25	25	31
Madžarska	12	13	14	11	15	18	21	22
Avstrija	15	26	19	17	14	14	10	11
Slovaška	7	7	13	19	11	9	9	6
Druge države	211	227	295	315	356	410	443	601
Nerazvrščeno	57	88	105	156	57	-	-	-

## Comparison – share of outgoing and incoming students compared to other countries



Measures, undertaken at national level:

### 1. OUTGOING MOBILITY:

- implementation of programmes Erasmus+ CEEPUS, bilaterals,
- additional funding for Erasmus (inclusion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds)
- national scholarships
- creating a system for monitoring the quality of mobility,
- creating a database of international employers, offering student internship
- promoting the impacts of international mobility on the development of competences

Slovenia is placed among last according to number of outgoing and incoming students.



## 2. INCOMING MOBILITY:

- Promoting Erasmus+ programmes, CEPUS, bilateral programmes
- Increasing support for mobility and for the process of internationalisation at home (info points, orientation days, Slovene language courses, preparation module for foreign students)
- Regulation of the relevant legislation
- Regular renewals of study agreements (West Balkan countries)
- Changes and amendments to the regulations on tuition fees and accommodation in students' dormitories
- Offering courses on Slovenian language and culture to international students

## 1. Mobility – Slovenian staff – „going out“ (share according to Slovenian academic and professional staff)

	2008/09 [%]	2009/10 [%]	2010/11 [%]	2011/12 [%]	2012/13 [%]	2013/14 [%]	2014/15 [%]
ERASMUS <sup>31</sup>	2,9	2,7	3,3	3,2	3,6	4,4	4,3 <sup>32</sup>
CEEPUS <sup>33</sup>	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,5	0,5	0,5
NFM <sup>34</sup>	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,9
Sklad – Ad futura <sup>35</sup>	0,2	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,7	0,5
Skupaj	3,5	3,4	3,6	3,4	4,5	5,5	6,2

## 2. Mobility – Foreign staff – „coming in “ (share according to Slovenian academic and professional staff)

	2008/09 [%]	2009/10 [%]	2010/11 [%]	2011/12 [%]	2012/13 [%]	2013/14 [%]	2014/15 [%]
ERASMUS <sup>36</sup>	3,1	3,2	3,6	3,8	4,9	5,6	4,2 <sup>37</sup>
CEEPUS <sup>38</sup>	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,3	0,3
NFM <sup>39</sup>	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,2
Sklad – Ad futura <sup>40</sup>	0,4	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,1
Skupaj	3,9	3,6	4,2	4,3	5,2	5,9	4,8

Measures undertaken to increase the number of academic and staff mobility at national level:

- Promotion of Erasmus+ programmes (staff mobility)
- Mobility of Slovenian higher education teachers

- Collaboration on amendments and additions to legislation
- Pilot project – funding of projects, hosted at Slovenian HEIs
- Short- and long-term hosting of international experts and HE teachers at slovenian HEIs
- Offering courses on slovenian language and culture for foreign HE teachers

1. Slovenian higher education institutions report that accreditation procedures of international joint study programmes in Slovenia are too complicated and last too long.

2. In 2016 the higher education registry contained 31 international joint study programmes:

	UL	UL+UM	UM	UP	UNG	Zasebni VŠZ	Skupaj
Število skupnih študijskih programov	21	1	5	2	1	1	31

3. According to data of the Slovenian ministry of higher education, there are 175 study programmes carried out in English (academic year 2016/17):

- 23 BA
- 77 MA
- 75 PhD

	Stopnja			Skupaj
	I.	II.	III.	
UL	4	29	19	52
UM	1	2	34	37
UP	2	2	1	5
UNG	4	4	7	15
Samostojni VŠZ	12	40	14	66
Skupna vsota	23	77	75	175

4. Data collected among Slovenian universities show that in 2013 three Slovenian universities carried out 536 courses in a foreign language (366 at UL, 86 at UM and 84 at UP).

	UL	UM	UP	SKUPAJ
2011	265	189	55	509
2012	306	109	93	508
2013	366	86	84	536
2014	Ni podatka	138	Ni podatka	138

1. International scientific research cooperation and the effective transfer of knowledge are fundamental to the successful sharing of research outcomes between higher education institutions and the labour market.
2. As such, a Strategy for the Internationalisation of Slovenian Science is being drafted for the sector, stemming from the Slovenia's Research and Innovation Strategy 2011-2020.
3. Its purpose is to shape and strengthen a successful and internationalised public research sector with a clear mission and vision to create excellent, internationally recognised, competitive research that has a significant impact on economic growth and employment.

Measures, undertaken at national level for better international research and development cooperation:

- Removing administrative and technical barriers to ensure international mobility in both directions
- Enabling an effective network of information on career options for researchers in Slovenia and abroad
- Improving quality and quantity of international co-operation
- Strengthening the functionality of the national network of national contact point for Horizon 2020
- The Strategy for Internationalisation in the Field of Science and Research
- Participation in the development of key enabling technologies and future emerging technologies