

Communication On Engagement (COE) Of RIT Croatia (2017 – 2019)



Dubrovnik, January 23rd, 2019



RIT CROATIA

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To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that RIT Croatia reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hudspeth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald W. Hudspeth
President and Dean



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About RIT Croatia

RIT Croatia was established in 1997 as a global campus of the prominent private American university, Rochester Institute of Technology from Rochester, New York. At that time, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia initiated the establishment of private higher education institutions and RIT was chosen as the best partner in these efforts. The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and RIT signed a cooperation agreement, making us the first and only private institution of higher education in Croatia that provides its students dual degrees for undergraduate programs; an American degree from RIT and a Croatian degree from RIT Croatia. English was chosen as the official language and all lectures are held in English.

We are student-centered, committed to creating excellent learning experiences for our students. Through an individual approach, 360-degree support, and qualified, caring faculty and administration, we create an environment that will help our students become the best versions of themselves and easily compete on a global job market!

OUR VISION

Committed to personal excellence, RIT Croatia will be the university of first choice in south Central Europe for globally minded students who wish to receive an American education and excel in their careers.

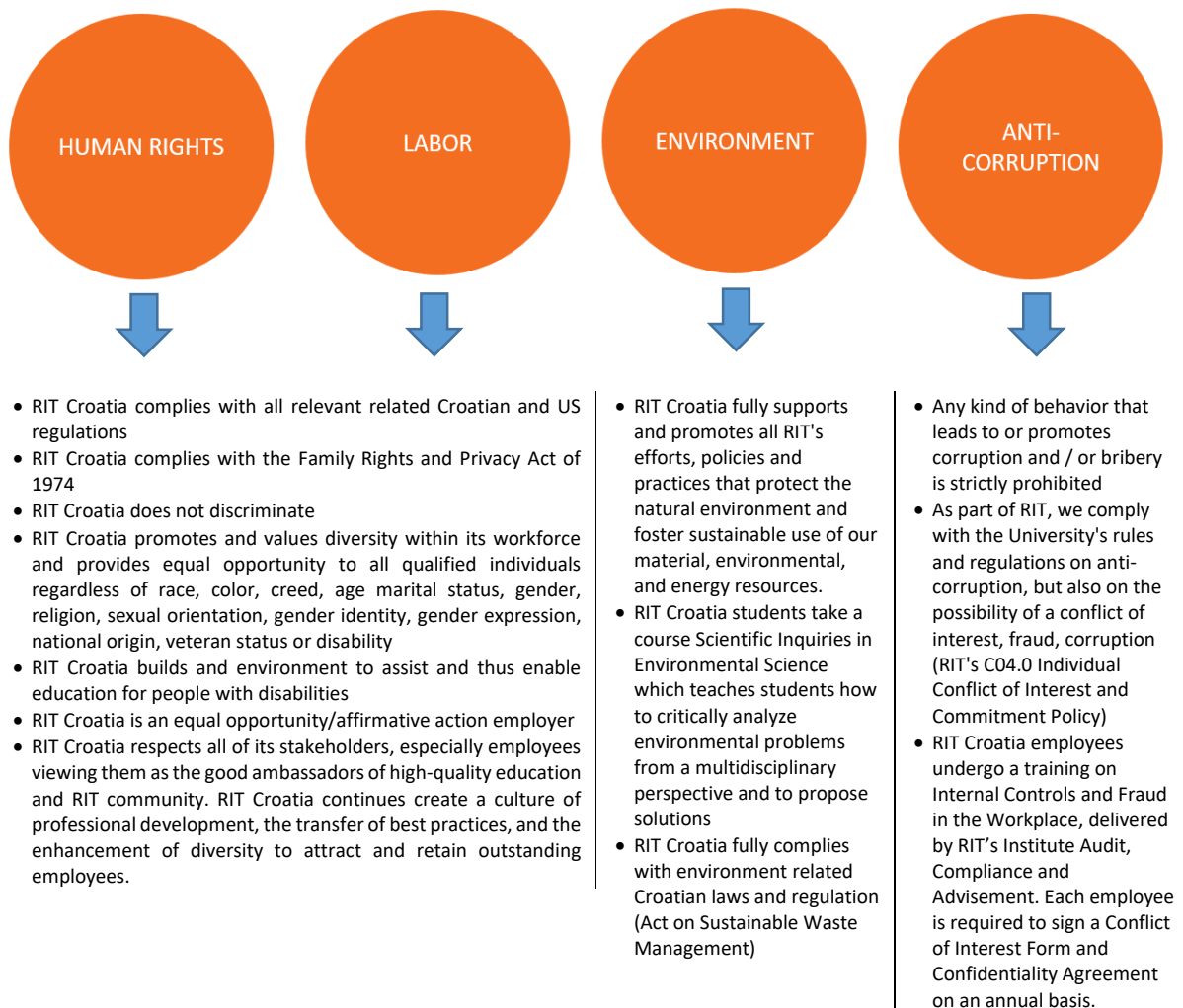
OUR MISSION

Future-oriented, committed to integrity, academic excellence, personal and professional growth, RIT Croatia:

- Builds diverse learning communities that transcend geographical boundaries.
- Creates bonds between students, alumni, faculty and industry.
- Fosters innovation, creativity, and an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Promotes a rich research portfolio through global campus collaboration and international partnerships.

RIT Croatia's Compliance with the Principles of the UN Global Compact

RIT Croatia fully supports the principles of the UN Global Compact and complies with them through policies, procedures and by-laws that applied in our everyday operations; as well as through our strategic initiatives and objectives laid out in our [Committed to Greatness](#) plan.





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Projects we take pride in

Over the course of the past two years there have been many projects conducted by our community that we take pride in. From promoting and delivering quality education, or giving back to our communities, or environmental effort - we have highlighted some of them to present our compliance with UN Global Compact global goals.





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Quality Education

As part of RIT, RIT Croatia is all about career-oriented education. Our primary goal is to adequately prepare students for the job market that awaits them after graduation. Our curriculum has been designed to develop T-shaped students who will be ready for the jobs of the future.

Through interactive in-class experience, cooperative education and an array of extracurricular opportunities, we teach them to think critically and be resourceful, creative and innovative in finding solutions to challenges that the (business) world will bring.

Here are some of the examples in that regard:

Career Education Day (2018)



18 years ago RIT Croatia (ACMT at that time) pioneered with the Career Education day concept in the immediate region. Focused on preparing students for future careers, ACMT came up with a platform to help them connect and network with their (future) employers. 2018 was a record year – we've had over 1,000 participants and 73 companies on both of our CED events, one in Dubrovnik and one in Zagreb. Both events are held outside the campus premises and include a full day event of company presentations, interesting panels, interviews with company representatives and workshops for students. This event takes place each year and has become an integral part of RIT Croatia education ([Dubrovnik CED video](#), [Zagreb CED video](#); credit Martin Kajtazi).

"Puttin' on the RITz" (2017)



During their studies, students can participate in various projects and work with the industry partners. *Puttin' on the RITz* is one such project. It is RIT's gala dinner fully prepared and organized by RIT students. Mentored by the industry experts and their professors, students of Dubrovnik and Rochester campuses organized this event in Dubrovnik in 2017. More than 200 attendees, dignitaries from RIT, local community, former and present RIT Croatia faculty and staff members participated at the event. In 2018, Dubrovnik campus students organized the Dinburger ChaRITy Event, which was even more successful. Both events had a charitable character; profit from ticket sales went to student scholarships in 2017 and Dom Maslina (children's home in Dubrovnik) in 2018.



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Eta Sigma Delta Society's Round Table (2018)



Eta Sigma Delta (ESD) is an honorary society for students of the Hospitality and Tourism Management program at RIT Croatia's Dubrovnik campus. The society is endorsed by International Council on Hotel Restaurant and Institutional Education (ICHRIE). The RIT Croatia chapter is now one of 90 ESD chapters around the world, and the first one to be established in Croatia and the immediate region. The purpose of ESD is to recognize the scholastic and professional achievement of the students in the academic majors of Hospitality and Tourism Management. In April of 2018, ESD organized their first round table on the topic of "International Skills Development: The Triad of Students-Higher Education-Hospitality Companies", gathering distinguished panelists, RIT Croatia faculty as well as Professor Maximillian Schachner from the FH Krems (University of Applied Sciences, Austria), Ms. Sanela Omerčahić (General Manager of Hotel Bellevue) and Mr. Nikola Avram (MK Mountain Resort, Kopaonik).

Business 1: Freshmen students pitch their business ideas (2018)



In Business 1 course of RIT's International Business undergraduate program, our first-year students work in teams throughout the whole Fall semester developing a business idea. They need to define their product / service, decide who they would sell it to, how they would do it and what they need for the whole operation (budgeting). The grand finale of the course is pitching ideas in front of the industry professionals in a form of a 1-minute long presentation of their work, more popular as the 'elevator pitch'. The jury then evaluates their ideas and gives them a constructive feedback they can learn from. In 2017 it took place on our Zagreb campus ([VIDEO](#)), and in 2018, in HUB385.



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Experiential learning in hospitality industry (2018)



RIT Croatia provides experiential learning opportunities for its students. As part of the Lodging Operations Management course of RIT Croatia's program in hospitality, our students presented the solutions they worked on for 3 months using HotelSim in front of our faculty and industry experts and professionals from Hilton Imperial and Hotel Bellevue.

Ideathon 2018



Another experiential learning opportunity occurred in October 2018 in HUB385. Similar to Hackaton, an event that lasts typically for 24 straight hours in which participants try to come up with a solution to the challenge of the event Ideathon gathered not only programming students, but RIT Croatia business students as well. The topic behind this event was "The Future of Education" and our students came up with some really interesting ideas. First, second and third place winners received an opportunity to attend workshops hosted at HUB385. Additionally, the first place winners received a 2,000kn cash prize, sponsored by Extension Engine.

Contributing to our communities

Giving back to communities and working towards their betterment is an integral part of the overall learning experience at our campuses. Values such as volunteering are embedded in our courses and extracurricular activities.

In order to contribute to promoting the importance of education, we have collaborated with NGOs that have interesting and engaging educational programs such as [HUKI](#) and [Ekonomska klinika](#) and we have given them our facilities free of charge to deliver their programs. Our faculty members have taken part in these programs (pro bono) by teaching. Furthermore, together with HUB385 we have organized educational workshops for high-school students tackling new and important trends such as blockchain technology. Finally, our Dubrovnik campus has been also giving its facilities for use to a local association [Udruga za promicanje prirodnih znanosti](#) (*Association for the Promotion of Natural Sciences*).

Here are some examples of our activities in this regard:

Charity Auction (2018)



This activity is among those with the longest tradition at our campuses. It has been over 15 years that RIT Croatia (ACMT at that time) started this event that is fully planned and executed by our students. The charity auction implies obtaining different products and selling them at an auction. Students plan the auction event and take care of the items that will be sold. They also decide on the recipients of the donation. For example, in 2018, the amount raised exceeded 30,000 HRK (around 4,600 USD) and was donated to the Dubrovnik NGO Slatki život which helps young people with diabetes, Dubrovnik citizen suffering from cerebral palsy, and the NGO Mali Zmaj from Zagreb which works to improve the quality of life of poor children and children without proper parental care.



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Community Service Day (2018)



We depend on communities we live in and the quality of everyone's lives depends on how much we all give back. This is one of the key concepts behind the Community Service Day, also a traditional happening on both our campuses organized by students. Each year, our Dubrovnik and Zagreb campuses' students research the local communities' needs and choose the one the whole campus dedicates its time and attention to. In 2018, students and employees of Dubrovnik campus dedicated their time and efforts for the benefit of residents of the Josipovac Center for Rehabilitation. Zagreb students organized a volunteering and charity event for Noina Arka (Noah's Arc) animal shelter.

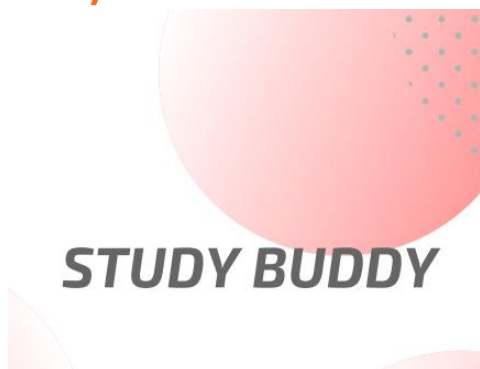
RIT Global Day of Service (2017)



RIT Global Day of Service
24 Hours + 1,000s of Tigers = A Better World

RIT Croatia regularly participates in RIT Global Day of Service, a joint effort between its Alumni Association and alumni chapters around the world, with the goal of bonding together and making a difference in the communities through service projects. In 2017, our alumni visited elderly home in Zagreb where Professor Ninoslav Mimica, President of Alzheimer Croatia, held an insightful lecture about this disease. As part of this event, our alumni were also able to register into a pool of potential donors to the Croatian Bone Marrow Donors Registry (in collaboration with Ana Rukavina Foundation).

Studdy Buddy student club (2018)



RIT Croatia makes sure that its students have a variety of extracurricular activities available. One of the most popular ones are student clubs. Founded exclusively by students and then funded by RIT, students have an opportunity to work on the ideas or projects of their interest. Study Buddy is a project started in 2016 by 2 students at RIT and continues to exist to this date. The Club was built to help kids in Djecji Dom A.G. Matos in Zagreb, and more information is available [HERE](#).

Environment

As a global campus of RIT, we follow and promote all RIT's efforts, policies and practices that protect the natural environment and foster sustainable use of our material, environmental, and energy resources. We also teach our students about the environmental issues through general education courses built in our programs' curriculums as well as through extracurricular activities organized and mentored by our faculty members...

Giving Back to Community as part of the Class Project (2017)



This project is a great example of doing something beneficial for the community and safeguarding our environment; as part of their Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility, students need to develop a project about a sustainable development goal of their choice and not only write about it but actually do something about it. In 2017, a group of students decided to clean a heavily littered area in Sopot (Zagreb). 14 of our students got together and cleaned the space on one Saturday and were greeted by people living there who thanked them for their effort. Our students turned a littered area into a fertile ground; a week after this initiative, students visited the area only to discover that someone started planting in that area!

"GreenGo" – DIY parabolic solar BBQ (2018)



RIT Croatia students named this experimental and fun workshop as the "GreenGo" initiative, which was mentored by one of our faculty members, Dr. Staša Puškarić. They wanted to show how to make a DIY solar cooker and parabolic solar BBQ, in order to encourage people to use alternative sources of energy for everyday activities. They had a group of 10-15 former, future and current RIT students and professors. Watch the [VIDEO](#) (credit Martin Kajtazi)

Sustainable development – field trip



As a part of the course Scientific Inquiries in Environmental Science, our Dubrovnik campus students went on field trips to investigate former Dubrovnik Republic's natural resources sustainability system. Among other places students visited peninsula of Pelješac where they learned about the biological diversity in the ecosystems of the sea, the river and the mountain and their current anthropogenic impact. They also went to Konavle that supplied the Dubrovnik Republic with food and water; students visited the river Ljuta and have tested the quality of water by examining its physico-chemical characteristics (temperature, pH, clearness, etc.). As part of the class, students did the SWOT analysis and made recommendations towards sustainable development of that area.



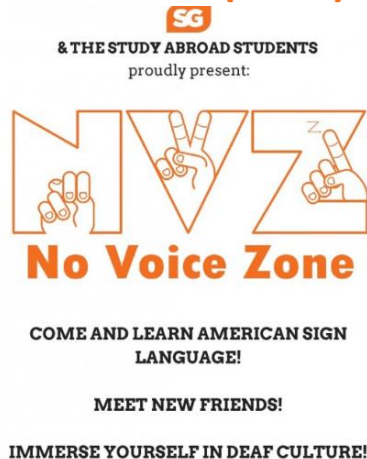
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Equality and inclusiveness

RIT Croatia promotes and values diversity within its workforce and students and provides equal opportunity to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, creed, age marital status, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, veteran status or disability. RIT Croatia is a fully inclusive campus, and we believe in our established values of Respect Diversity and Pluralism. RIT Croatia builds an environment to assist and thus enable education for people with disabilities.

No Voice Zone (2018)



Each year students from Rochester campus visit and study in Croatia and our students go to other RIT global campuses to expand their learning experience. One of the campuses in Rochester is NTID, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, hence deaf and hard of hearing students from the US come to our campuses. Our Student Government decided to introduce the Deaf Culture and American Sign Language to the rest of our students. Hence, in collaboration with study abroad students from the Rochester campus, they jointly organized a No Voice Zone, a series of workshops where students taught other students American Sign Language.