

Communication on Engagement (COE) of RIT Croatia

2019 - 2021

Dubrovnik, January 22nd, 2021

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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,



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.

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.

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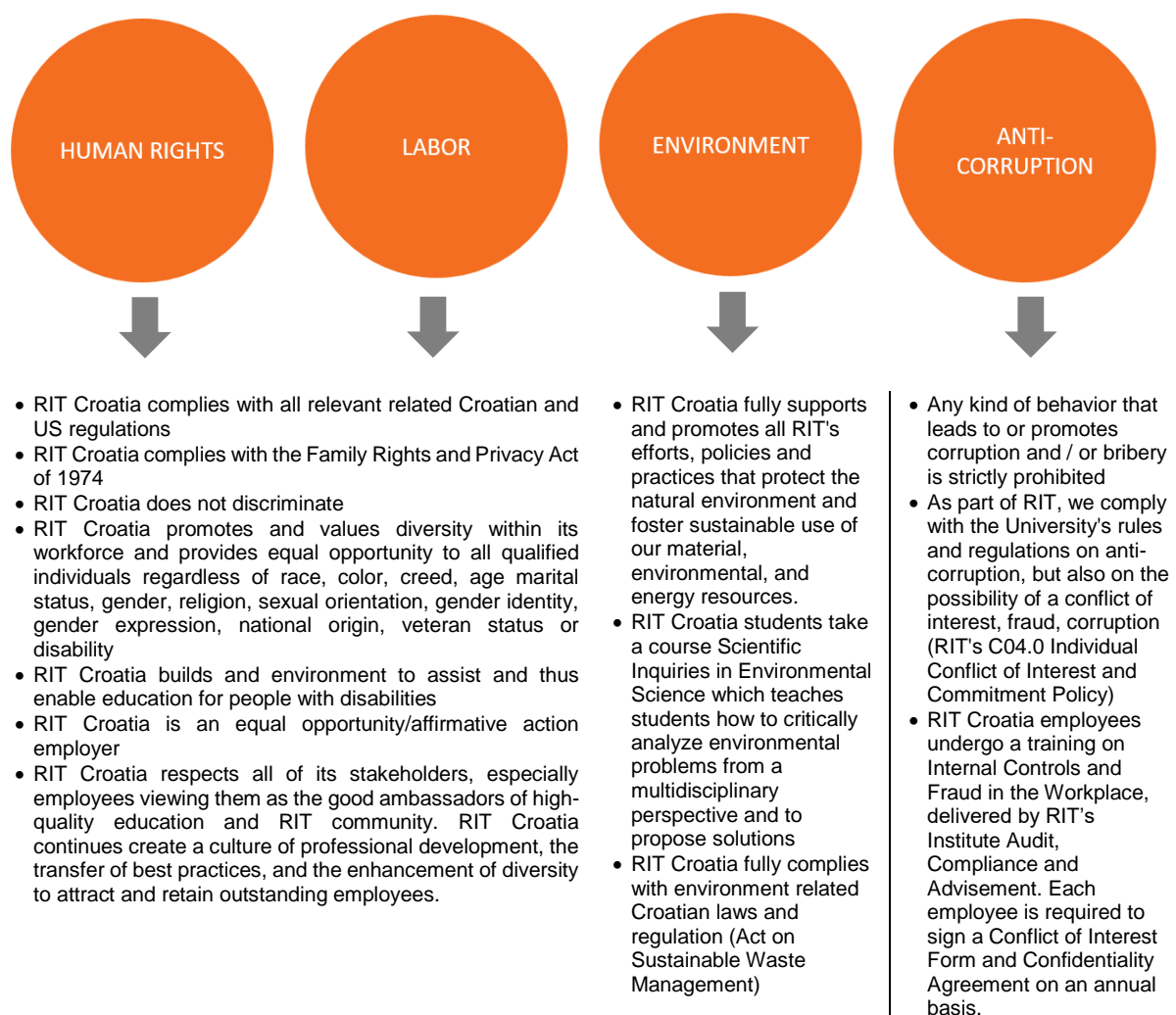
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RIT Croatia's Compliance with the Principles of the UN Global Compact

RIT Croatia fully supports the principles of the UN Global Compact and complies with them through policies, procedures and by-laws applied in our everyday operations, as well as through our strategic initiatives and objectives laid out in our [Committed to Greatness 2019 – 2022 Strategic 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. We have highlighted some of them to present our compliance with UN Global Compact global goals.



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Quality Education



The "brewerIT" Student Project: Producing a Supply Chain in Craft Beer Production between USA and Croatia (2019-2020)

The "brewerIT" is a student-driven project focused on producing a supply chain in craft beer production between the USA and Croatia. The goal was to introduce USA craft beer ingredients and knowledge to the Croatian craft beer industry and make Dubrovnik a springboard for similar future projects.

20 dedicated and persistent students from the Hospitality and Tourism Management program, along with their mentor Domagoj Nikolić, were working hard for months to overcome all obstacles posed by the unexpected COVID-19 situation. The partners in the project were the barley growers of Domoy Farms, Oakville, NY, the malting facility – Valley Malt, Boston, Dubrovačka pivovara – DBC, and RIT Croatia as the main facilitator. More information is available [HERE](#).



RIT Croatia students develop web and mobile solution for monitoring air quality and pollution in collaboration with A1 Hrvatska (2019)

RIT Croatia and A1 Hrvatska, the first private mobile network operator in Croatia, a part of the Telekom Austria Group and a strategic partner of Vodafone, signed the Memorandum of Agreement in late 2019 and announced their collaboration. The collaboration included four teams of senior IT / web and mobile computing technology students who worked on it as part of the Senior Development Project course at RIT. The course includes work on real projects for real clients - companies in Croatia and America.

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Experiential learning: First-year student pitch their business ideas in front of entrepreneurs (2019)

Experiential learning is embedded in the RIT Croatia student experience in all programs. One great example of 'learning by doing' is Business 1 course (International Business program) that our students take in their first year. They learn about key functional areas of business, evaluating business opportunities and feasibility of business ideas. They come up with their own business ideas which they develop through the remainder of the course. The course culminates with their final exam with students presenting and pitching their fully developed ideas in front of a jury comprising of business professionals – entrepreneurs and start-up owners.

The pitching event in 2019 took place in ZICER (Zagreb Innovation Center) and students had 2 minutes to pitch in the idea they have been working on for the whole semester in front of the jury members who evaluated their ideas and gave them feedback from “entrepreneurs' angle”. We are particularly proud of this event since it brings together following key RIT Croatia stakeholders: faculty, staff, students, alumni and industry partners!



Cooperative education in EY Japan (2019)

RIT Croatia promotes hands-on approach and puts focus on the application of gained knowledge in real life. Our mandatory cooperative education program is fit to prepare students for real life work experience and they conduct their co-ops all over the world. Read Lucija's story about her experience in EY in Japan [HERE](#)

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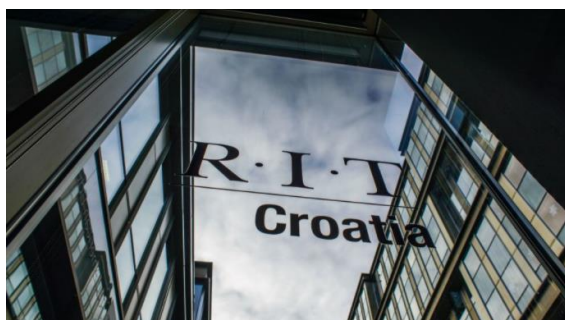
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Students presented their research at MIPRO 2020 (2020)

RIT Croatia IT/WMC students participated and presented their research papers at the 43rd International Convention on Information and Communication Technology, Electronics, and Microelectronics – MIPRO 2020, organized on September 28 – October 2, 2020, in a hybrid format in Opatija and online.

MIPRO conference (<http://www.mipro.hr/>) is one of the oldest international scientific conferences in Croatia supported by many universities and large companies and also co-sponsored by IEEE, which indexes all published papers in respected research databases such as Web of Science Core Collection, IEEE Xplore Digital Library, and Scopus. More information is available [HERE](#).



Faculty-alumni research wins first prize at Historic Cities congress (2020)

RIT Croatia alumna and her faculty mentor Dr. Francis Brassard won first prize at the 6th International Historic Cities Congress, organized by the Tourist Board of the city of Solin in November 2020. The topic of the congress was preservation and interpretation of historic attractions and localities in historic cities throughout Croatia. Their paper, "Improving Cultural Heritage Offer Through Game Design: A Proposal for Dubrovnik," won the first place international cultural-tourism "Plautilla" award which included a gold plaque and a prize.

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The value of student clubs and extracurricular activities at RIT Croatia (2019)

RIT Croatia's Eta Sigma Delta (ESD) Chapter received Eta Sigma Delta Chapter of Distinction Award for 2018/19. ESD is an international hospitality honor society that recognizes the academic excellence of students pursuing a degree in hospitality, tourism and culinary arts. Every year, the ESD Chapter of Distinction Award is given to the chapter that showcased the ESD Five Pillars of Honor in the best way, and those are: excellence, leadership, creativity, service, and ethics. More information is available [HERE](#).

Furthermore, the Business Environment Exploration Student Club members and other students, accompanied by RIT Croatia faculty and staff, visited Vienna in May 2019 in order to learn about different company cultures in some of Europe's biggest companies: an IT company Gentic Software, Raiffeisen Bank and Vienna Insurance Group. They also had an opportunity to connect with two of our alumni who work in IBM in Budapest and whose current employment is a result of the previous BEE Club trip.



Global RIT Student Government Consortium in Zagreb

Global Student Government Consortium was held in Zagreb from October 4th to October 7th. It was attended by 13 students and 6 advisors from Rochester, Dubai, Kosovo, Dubrovnik and Zagreb campus. Students spent 4 days exchanging ideas and learning about their differences and similarities. Part of their program also included a visit to Caritas Children home where students held art and language workshops for the children.

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Good Health and Well-Being



Providing high quality education in a safe environment – RIT Croatia's response to COVID-19 pandemic (2020 – ongoing)

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought changes in people's lives around the world. Using RIT's network of global campuses, and its extensive experience in distance learning, we continue diligently working to ensure a safe environment for our employees and students and provide them with the same high quality of education that RIT Croatia is known for.

Adhering to all relevant authorities and epidemiological measures, we have developed and continue to update our Safety Plan for Academic Year 2020/2021 defining our behaviors and operation standards during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also introduced a COVID-19 alert level system that helps us monitor the safety level on both of our campuses. A team of RIT Croatia officials evaluate and monitor internal and external factors in determining the current level of safety on a daily basis. In addition, we have developed a dashboard on our website that contains daily updates regarding the number of possible positive and isolation cases of RIT Croatia campuses community. More information is available [HERE](#).



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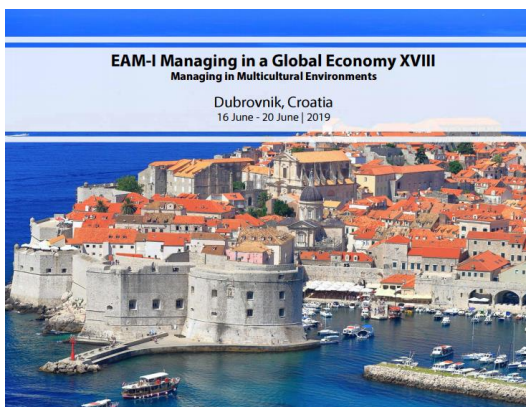
Giving back to our communities



Imaging a future for the past – uncovering lost text from manuscripts (2019)

RIT Croatia Dubrovnik campus, in cooperation with Dubrovnik libraries, had the honor of hosting and organizing a series of lectures, a workshop and a round table discussion on the topic "Imaging a future for the past – uncovering lost text from manuscripts".

The overall idea of the lecture was to introduce Cultural Heritage Imaging as a growing field of research into the use of novel imaging techniques to study historical objects of known or unknown significance. The workshop took place at the Dubrovnik Scientific Library and the goal of the historical spectral imaging workshop was to familiarize librarians, curators and scholars with the capabilities (and shortcomings) of spectral imaging. The workshop was delivered by Dr Messinger, Dr Easton and Ms. Kleynhans from RIT, and it consisted of short presentations about successful recovery of texts, the basics of spectral imaging, and a high-level overview of how these imaging systems works. Moreover, the RIT team took the opportunity to image a handful of objects from the Scientific library such as parchment fragments, possible palimpsest material and faded text in order to explain and demonstrate the imaging process. This was followed by a discussion and demonstration of how to process the collected images in order to uncover the lost text. More information is available [HERE](#)



EAM-I Managing in a Global Economy XVIII, Managing in Multicultural Environments Conference, co-sponsored by EAM-I and RIT Croatia (2019)

EAM-I's prestigious conference has been taking place for over 30 years in countries all over the world – from Europe, to USA, to South America, Africa and Gold Coast, Australia. In 2019 it was co-sponsored by RIT Croatia and took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The conference brought together academics and practitioners from 23 countries and 6 continents. The attendees and participants were respectful experts, scientists, intellectuals and academics from many recognized universities from all over the world. More information is available [HERE](#).

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RIT Croatia charity auction: students raise more than HRK 22,000 (2020)

Last year, which was in many ways challenging, did not discourage students from holding a traditional charity auction and helping those in need.

Our students organized a humanitarian auction in an online environment, using the AirAuctioneer platform on which 72 items were exhibited, for which 155 employees, alumni and students of RIT Croatia competed. A total of HRK 22,007 was raised through the activities of a "silent" auction, raffle and live bidding through the Zoom event. The funds were intended for the association SVE za NJU. More information is available [HERE](#).

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