



VERN' University

UN Global Compact

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

2020-2022



PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR EQUIVALENT

January 13th 2023

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that VERN' University reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. We hold our continuous endeavors in these areas cornerstones of our strategic development.

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.

Sincerely yours,



Iva Biondić
Director Strategic Development

ABOUT VERN' University

After thirty years in the education sector, of which twenty years in the higher education system as the first and largest private institution of higher education in post-communism VERN' has achieved exceptional results in the creation, development and implementation of new study programs, as well as in other higher education-related content.

VERN' University has more than 1850 currently active students.
We have 14 different undergraduate and graduate professional areas of study programs and 3 university degree study programs.

Undergraduate/ bachelor professional degree programs

- Entrepreneurship Economics
- Tourism and Hotel Management
- Public relations and Media Studies
- Journalism
- Film, Television and Multimedia
- Business IT
- Technical Management

Undergraduate / Bachelor university degree study programs

- Cyber Communications and Network Sciences
- Internet of Things
- Transmedia Dramaturgy

Graduate professional degree programs

- Human Resources Management
- Entrepreneurial Management
- Accounting and Finances
- Managing Sustainable Tourism Development
- Managing Business Communications
- IT Management
- Film and Television Directing and Producing

VERN' offers LIFE-LONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

Formal and Informal lifelong learning programs in various fields such as Tourism, IT sector, PR and Marketing.

VERN' also takes part in ERASMUS + PROGRAM

Within the Erasmus + program VERN' is carrying out the following: student and staff exchange; work on various projects in different fields such as strategic partnerships, innovation and exchange of good practices.

VERN' Vision and Mission

Vision

International, open, innovative, entrepreneurial university, recognizable in science and higher education, and socially responsible in its activities.

Mission

With academic excellence and socially responsible activities in the field of higher education, we develop academic, research and professional competences, innovation, entrepreneurship and business. We actively act on our own and overall social development.

Values

The personal and social values that we especially emphasize in our daily work and actions in accordance with the declared vision and mission are the following:

- We respect others and the ones that are different as a pledge of our own freedom and humane social relations.
- We recognize personal strengths, support and develop the pursuit of individuals' excellence and achievement as a fundamental component of community well-being.
- We encourage openness, courage, diligence, responsibility and ethics as traits that lead to individual success and prosperity in society.

Aware of our responsibility for community development, we will promote values that contribute to the development and prosperity of society through sustainable development, but also to the personal development of our students, intending to adopt those values on which the future economic and social development of the Republic of Croatia and the European Union can build.

In our further development and action, we will continue to promote the principles of social responsibility and sustainable development through study programs and research, we will also continue to cooperate with local, regional national and international bodies to promote social responsibility among young people. VERN' will involve individuals and organizations in shaping the strategic orientation of the university in particular areas.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

VERN' fully continues to supports the principles of the UN Global Compact and complies with them through policies and procedures.

HUMAN RIGHTS

VERN' does not discriminate its student nor its employees, teaching and non-teaching staff.

VERN' provides equal opportunity to all regardless of gender, race, color, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, nationality and disabilities.

At VERN' students learn to value and appreciate others, no matter their background. Student will be listened to and will be supported and challenged to reach their full potential.

Students and employees are encouraged to embrace equality and diversity.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

VERN' seeks to pass on the awareness of corruption to its students trough study classes. During the employment procedure every VERN' employee signs a disclaimer in accordance with their work position.

Any behavior that promotes any kind of bribery and extortion is strictly forbidden.

LABOUR STANDARDS

VERN' supports openness, daring, diligence, responsibility and moral values as the traits that lead to individual success and prosperity of society.

This is a supportive and safe environment, safe place to work and to study.

The professional development of all employees is very important to the VERN's Board of Governors.

VERN' supports and encourages employees to pursue further training and education. It encourages the writing of scientific research papers by its teaching staff.

Every year VERN' organizes socializing of employees in a relaxing atmosphere in an environment where people can discuss their projects, ideas, etc.

Our University has established an academic, ethical code that must be respected by all students, lecturers and all administrative staff.

VERN' 'University implements a unique concept of education that connects the labor market and higher education called #EducationmeetsBusiness.

As part of the Education Meets Business project, VERN' 'University is teaming up with business partners to address the challenges:

- involvement of employers in curriculum development and advisory committees, for study programs to be adjusted to the needs of the economy
- training of students for successful integration into the world of work
- inclusion of young people in the labor market after graduation and their higher (self) employability

THE ENVIRONMENT

VERN' encourages its staff and students to promote greater environmental responsibility through various initiatives, conferences and projects like the Island initiative which started on the island of Vis, The international scientific conference Mediterranean Island Conference – MIC Vis, etc.

VERN' University will continue to support the United Nations Global Compact and its principles.

PART III. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

VERN'' believes that educated, entrepreneurial and socially responsible people are the carriers of sustainable development and the well-being of the community.

In the post-pandemic period VERN' University has launched a new program called Student Wellbeing within the Student Counseling Centre.

Student Wellbeing can generally be defined as the student's overall development and quality of life. Wellbeing is a holistic concept which involves all aspects of the student's life including physical, social, mental and emotional state.

The aim of the program is:

- Overcoming difficulties and obstacles in the academic and private environments
- High quality and experiential studying with the achievement of top results
- Preparation of students for the labor market
- Full achievement of students' own potential
- Fulfilled and purposeful life journey

Student Wellbeing is held on a monthly basis during the academic year. The guests of the program are experts from the field of nutrition, mental and physical health, psychology, personal growth and development, mindfulness, emotional and social intelligence, etc. The students themselves are given an opportunity to suggest areas of their interests as well.

Wellbeing is closely connected with better academic success rates, enhanced mental health and responsible life choices. Some of the factors that make up wellbeing include a

network of relationships of support and the feeling that life has a sense of purpose and meaning.

Students' feedback is excellent. The response and interest of students and their willingness to share their experiences and participate in lectures and workshops best show that they find this program useful.

An increasing number of students attend individual counselling sessions.

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International scientific conference

MIC-VIS

The International Scientific Conference Mediterranean Island Conference – MIC Vis is organized in partnership between the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar and VERN' University.

The conference is held every two years on Croatia's most remote inhabited island, the island of Vis.

In 2022 MIC-Vis brought together more than 150 scientists and experts from 17 different countries.

The conference was held under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Zoran Milanović and the town of Vis.

International conference MIC - Vis, 2022 is a multidisciplinary scientific conference on the following topics such as: arts and literature, culture and tradition, business and economics, education, migration, renewable energy sources, sustainable development, tourism, agriculture and fisheries and others.

This year's conference dealt with current events in the field of energy, sustainability, self-sufficiency and natural resources was among the main topics of this year's conference.

The goal of MIC - Vis, 2022 is to foster new approaches to the main challenges that Mediterranean islands are facing and propose new solutions through brainstorming, discussion and scientific research.



International scientific conference Creative Future Insights 2021

Creative Future Insights 2021 is an international scientific conference about creative industries and their role in today's economy.

The conference was organized alongside with the Institute of Economics in Zagreb and was held on September 13th and 14th 2021 at VERN' University

The goal of the conference was to bring scientists and experts to discuss the fastest-growing sector of the EU economy.

One of the speakers at the International Scientific Conference "Creative Future Insights 2021" was Janani Ramanathan, a senior research associate at the MSS Research Institute (MSSR) in India.

The topics of the conference included the following areas (as well as other potential issues related to the context of creative industries and experience economy):

- The social significance of creative industries
- The relationship between culture and creative industries
- Political strategies and creative industries
- The role of creative industries in the economic development
- Design in creative industries
- Heritage in creative industries
- Arts (visual, audio-visual, performance, applied, literary, etc.) in creative industries
- Media creative industries
- Video games creative industries

- IT and creative industries
- Experience economy and creative industries
- The impact of the pandemic on the creative industries sector

