

# Shaping internationalization of academic continuing education

From theory to practice at the  
University for Continuing Education Krems

- The University for Continuing Education Krems is the leading **public university for continuing education** in Europe. With its expertise in teaching and research it works to overcome societal challenges.
- As university for continuing education, we specialize in enhancing the qualifications of working professionals (the **average age of our students was 39 years** for the winter term 2021/2022). The strength of University for Continuing Education Krems is providing university courses that keep pace with the times and are oriented toward current and future societal challenges. Approximately 8,000 students are currently enrolled in University for Continuing Education Krems, more than 27,000 have already completed their studies successfully.
- The University for Continuing Education Krems provides university courses, meant for **studying parallel to employment**, as Bachelor and Master programs, as well as studies to qualify as “Academically Accredited Experts” or “Certified Programs”. The PhD studies are connected to the main research areas of the university.
- Research at University for Continuing Education Krems is centered on **contemporary and future challenges society faces**. In a transdisciplinary context we build bridges between basic research and practice-oriented application, between individual disciplines and in particular to society.
- Krems is a traditional educational town in Austria - with more than 25 schools and high schools attended by more than 20,000 students. Therefore, Krems’ environment is richly furnished with restaurants, hotels, guesthouses, and students’ hostels, as well as leisure-time and cultural facilities. The idyllic environment of the **UNESCO world heritage site Wachau**, its exquisite wines and numerous sports facilities contribute in significant measure to the quality of life of students at the University for Continuing Education Krems.

# What's the issue?



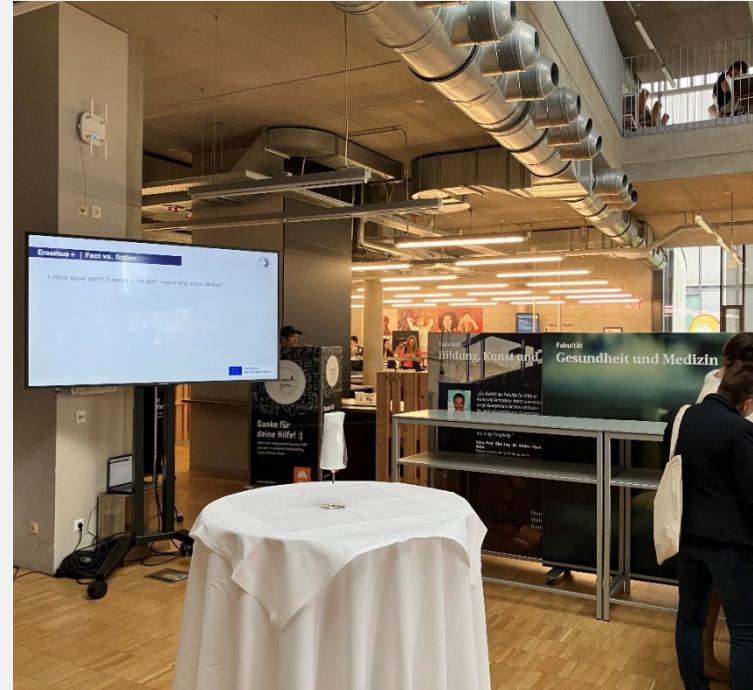
Theory	Practice
Assumption: „(Older) students studying parallel to work do not want to be mobile“	2018: 3 outgoing students

# First measure: Event „Salon International“

Theory	Practice
2019-today: Create awareness for internationalization	Event „Salon International“

# Salon International 2023

- Erasmus + is for young students?  
No, Erasmus + is inclusive and does not have an age limit. Also, if you have children or a health or disability issue, Erasmus+ will cover extra costs associated with taking the first along or special needs associated with the second.
- Erasmus + for students is for long stays abroad?  
No, Erasmus + funds travel and accommodation for short stays starting at 5 days, with a mandatory virtual element before, during, and/or after the mobility activity, for students who cannot go on a long stay abroad (i.e., because they study in parallel to employment). As such, you can go abroad in parallel to employment and/or to having a busy family life.



## Second measure: Survey and evaluation



Theory	Practice
2020-2021: Survey and evaluation „International mobility of (adult) students studying parallel to employment“	90% of students indicated that stays abroad can contribute or are a part of required international competences within their field of study

# Evaluation: International mobility of (adult) working students



## Third measure: Internationalization as key strategy

Theory	Practice
2021: Key strategy „Expansion of international activities“	2022: 24 outgoing students (+ 800%)



## Key strategy: „Expansion of international activities



### Curricular and extracurricular mobility

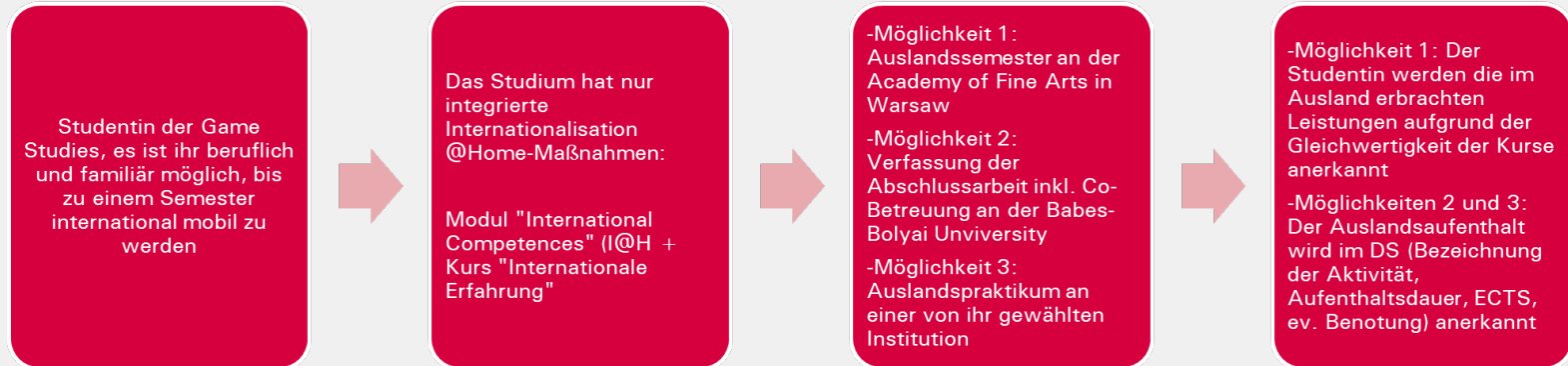
- The extension of the „blended learning“ model to „blended mobility“ models
- The establishment of further mobility opportunities and activities in the curricula
- High quality, if possible funded curricular and extracurricular mobility windows and study trips

## Fourth measure: Internationalization projects

Theory	Practice
2023-2024: Internationalization in „REFINED“ ( <i>Reform der wissenschaftlichen Weiterbildung</i> ) as part of the reorganization of continuing education studies	to be continued
2023-: European university alliance „EU.ACE“ (European University for Academic Continuing Education)	to be continued

# Project: REFINED

- Internationalization in REFINED
- In every curriculum of a continuing education program at the UWK, offers for the acquisition of international competencies are to be anchored
- This can be done through the content or format of courses or modules of at least three/six/nine ECTS in a curriculum
- These internationalization elements can include:
  - Curricula and extracurricular mobility
  - I@H measures
  - Virtual exchange
- Output: Internationalization modules



# Project: EU.ACE



- Consortium: University for Continuing Education Krems, UWK, Krems, Austria (coordinator); Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, CNAM, Paris, France; Andrassy University, AUB, Budapest, Hungary; Ulm University, Ulm, Germany; Alba Iulia University, UAB, Alba Iulia, Romania; Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, UCSC, Milan, Italy; Fundación CEU San Pablo, CEU, Madrid, Valencia, Spain; Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, HSLU, Lucerne, Switzerland; Turku University of Applied Sciences, TUAS, Turku, Finland; Utrecht University of Applied Sciences, HU, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- We understand Academic Continuing Education (ACE) as substantial part of lifelong learning, which higher education institutions provide to societies at large. A large diversity of different educational services aimed at multiple target audiences, including degree and non-degree programs besides traditional educational pathways and formats, are core elements of academic continuing education.
- Output: Joint CE curricula, short-term mobility for CE students, virtual exchange for CE students

# From theory to practice

Theory	Practice
Assumption: „(Older) students studying parallel to work do not want to be mobile“	2018: <b>3 Outgoing students</b>
2019-today: Create awareness for internationalization	Event „Salon International“
2020-2021: Survey and evaluation „International mobility of adult students studying parallel to employment“	90% of students indicated that stays abroad can contribute or are a part of required international competences within their field of study
2021: Key strategy „Expansion of international activities“	2022: <b>24 outgoing students</b> (+ 800%)
2023-2024: Internationalization in REFINED (reform of continuing studies) and EU.ACE (European University Alliance project)	2025: <b>?? outgoing students</b>

# Contact



Hélène Oberlé  
Servicecenter für Internationale Beziehungen

helene.oberle@donau-uni.ac.at  
international@donau-uni.ac.at

**Universität für Weiterbildung Krems**  
Dr.-Karl-Dorrek-Straße 30  
3500 Krems, Österreich  
Tel.: +43 (0)2732 893-0  
[www.donau-uni.ac.at](http://www.donau-uni.ac.at)