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Higher education system in the Republic of Serbia

Regional Approaches to Building Partnerships and Student Recruitment

Jelena Jevtović, project officer in higher education unit

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We'll talk about...

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Existing and future cooperation models



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Higher education system in the Republic of Serbia

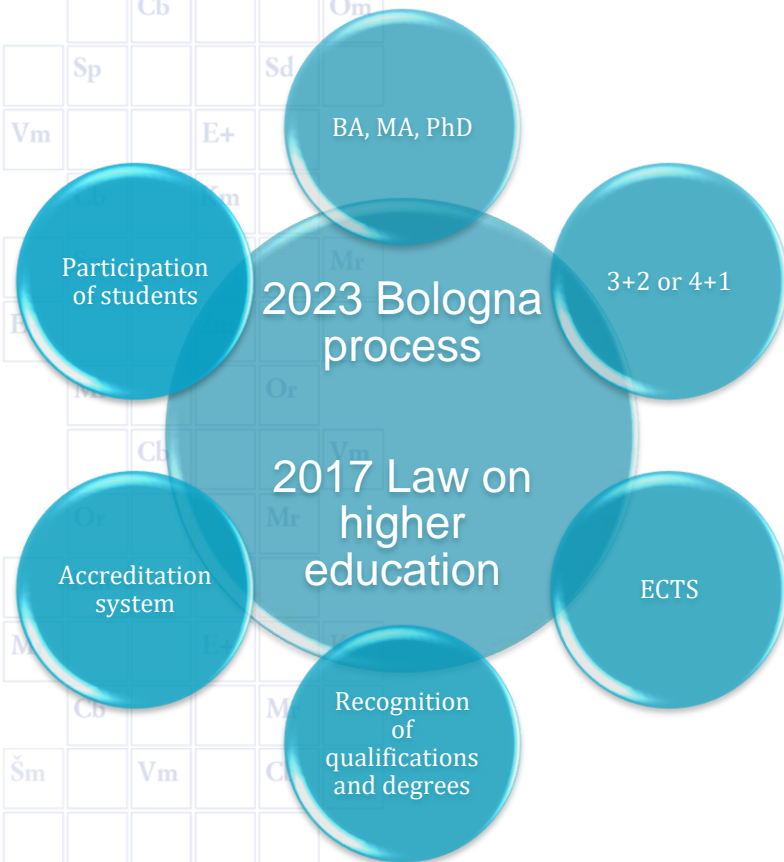
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HE in Serbia - Legal and policy framework



Accreditation

Higher education institutions and their study programmes must be accredited by the *National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Serbia* – NEAQA.

<https://www.nat.rs/en/about-us/?script=cir>

HE in Serbia - Legal and policy framework

New Law on Higher Education adopted in 2017.

Strategy for the Development of Education in Serbia by 2030 adopted in June 2021

<https://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SROVRS-2030-1.pdf>

Legislation and key policy documents available on the Eurydice website:
https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/legislation-58_en

More information about the Serbian higher education system is also available here:

[Obrazovanje.rs](https://www.srbija.gov.rs) and [Study in Serbia](https://www.srbija.gov.rs)

<https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/en/129775/higher-education.php>

HE in Serbia - Legal and policy framework

Strategy for the Development of Education in Serbia by 2030

In the field of internationalization, the Ministry of Education will continuously provide support to higher education institutions in the development and accreditation of study programs in foreign languages at all study levels.

Internationalization of HE in Serbia is one of the specific priorities set in the Strategy for the Development of Education in Serbia 2030.



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Higher education institutions in Serbia

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Higher Education Institutions in Serbia

Types of HEIs

Universities

Faculties and
academies of arts

Academies of
Applied Studies

Colleges of
Applied Studies

Colleges of
Academic Studies

HEIs in numbers*:

- 66 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- 19 universities (9 public and 10 private universities)
- 124 nationally accredited faculties
- 12 academies
- 35 colleges

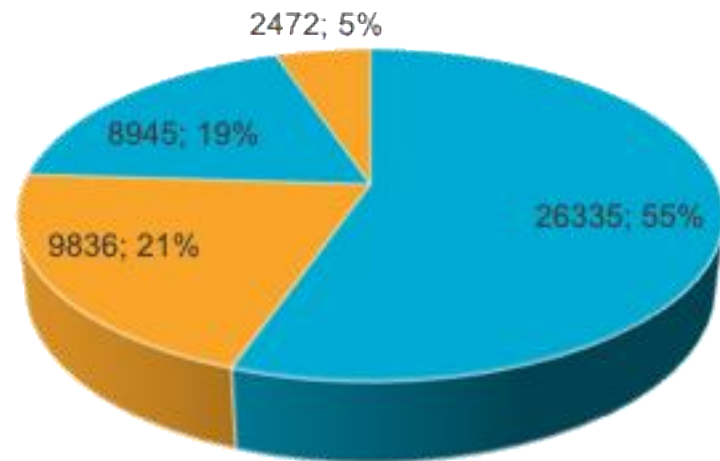
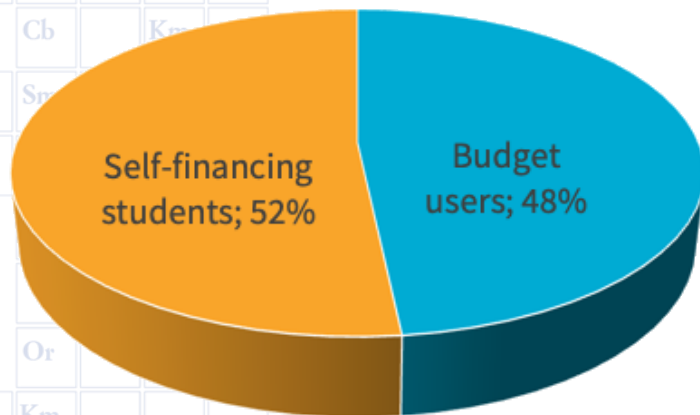
Founded by the State

Private HEIs

**National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (NEAQA), 2025; Education RS, 2025.*

Higher Education Institutions in numbers

A total of **47,588 students** enrolled in the **first year of bachelor's studies** across various higher education institutions.

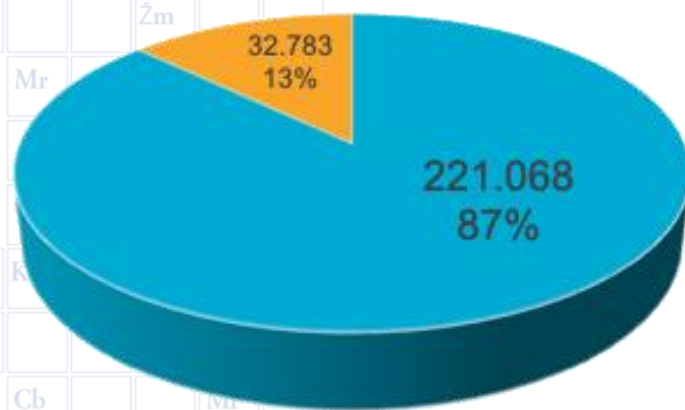


- public universities
- private universities
- state academies of vocational studies and colleges
- private academies of vocational studies and colleges

Higher Education Institutions in numbers

253,851 students

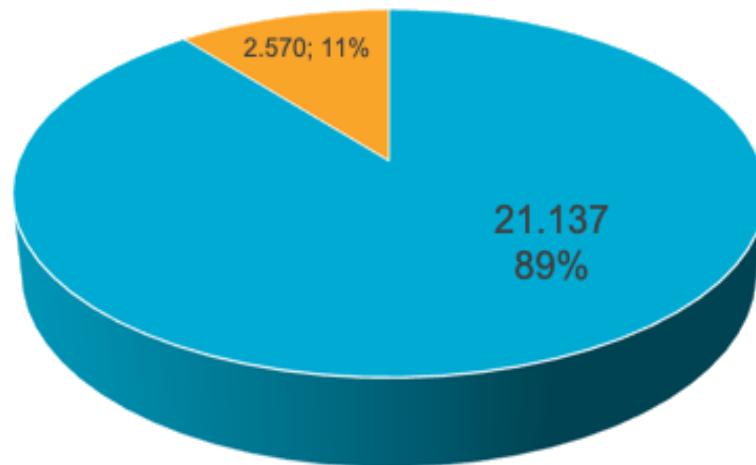
Total number of enrolled students in
2024/2025



- studying at public higher education institutions
- studying at private higher education institutions

23,707 employees

Total number of employees in 2024/2025



- Public higher education institutions
- Private higher education institutions

Higher Education Institutions – study programmes

1st cycle

Undergraduate Studies
(Bachelor)
180 or 240 ECTS
3 or 4 years

Bachelor Applied Studies
180 ECTS
3 years

Specialised Applied
Studies
60 ECTS
1 year

2nd cycle

Master Academic Studies
60 to 120 ECTS
1 to 2 years

Master Applied Studies
120 ECTS
2 years

Specialised Academic
Studies (with MA)
60 ECTS
1 year

3rd cycle

PhD studies
180 ECTS
3 years

Integrated studies

*The primary language of
instruction in Serbia is **Serbian**.*



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**170+ study programs across
all academic levels
delivered entirely or
partially in English**



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International cooperation in higher education sector

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Position of Serbian HEIs in global education area

University ranking



THE World University Rankings

University of Belgrade
1001-1200
University of Kragujevac:
1001-1200
University of Novi Sad
1501+

QS World University Rankings

University of Belgrade
731-740
University of Novi Sad
1001-1200
University of Kragujevac
1201-1400
University of Niš
1201-1400

Rank Pro

University of Kragujevac
657
University of Belgrade
735

Shanghai ranking

University of Belgrade
101-150, 201-300
University of Novi Sad
151-200, 301-400
University of Kragujevac
401-500
University of Nis
401-500

International cooperation



Erasmus + programme:

➤ **Key Action 1 (Learning mobility of individuals)**

➤ KA131 projects

➤ KA171 projects

➤ **Key action 2 (Cooperation among organizations and institutions)**

➤ Partnerships for Cooperation

➤ Partnerships for Excellence

➤ Partnerships for Innovation

➤ **Key Action 3 (Support to policy development and cooperation)**

➤ **Jean Monnet**

International cooperation – KA1 action

Serbian institutions are actively engaged in Erasmus+ mobility projects (total of 49 **ECHE holders**).

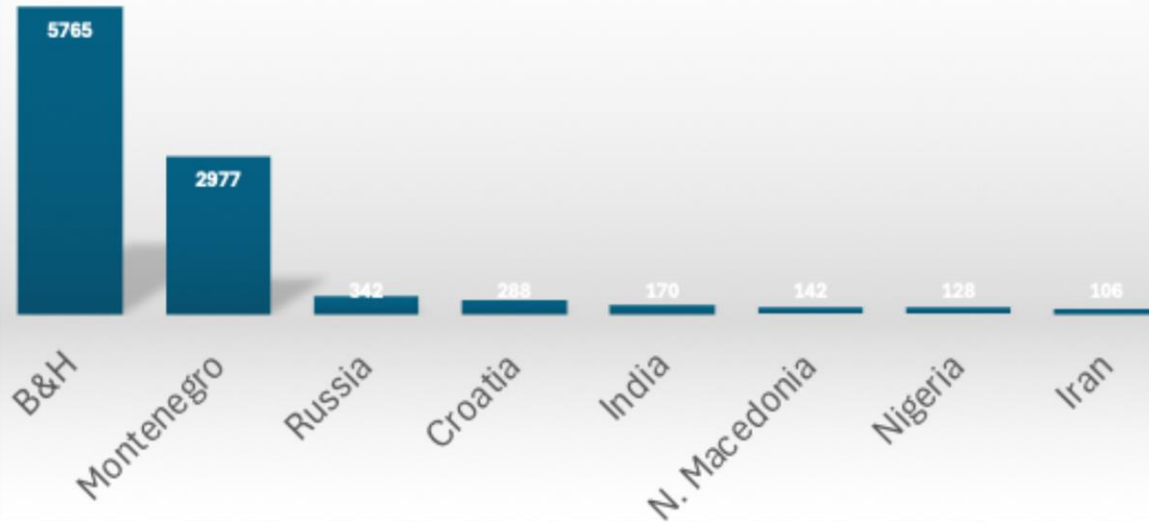
Number of Serbian HEIs participating in mobility projects:

- 17 universities,
- 13 academies, and
- 19 colleges.

During current seven-year Erasmus+ cycle, as part of the KA1 mobility projects approved in the period 2021-2024, there were:

- 1,771 outgoing student mobilities,
- 1,955 incoming student mobilities,
- 1,134 outgoing staff mobilities,
- 1,948 incoming staff mobilities.

International cooperation – foreign students



According to a 2023 publication by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the total number of foreign students in the 2023/24 academic year was **11,573**, with **1,532 foreign students** graduating that year.



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Cooperation with HEIs from Hungary

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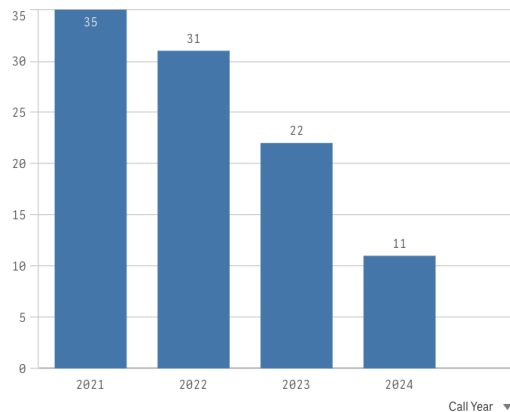
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Cooperation with institutions from Hungary

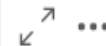
Cooperation between Serbia and Hungary Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027

KA1 mobility projects – from RS to HU

Number of Completed Mobilities



Completed Mobilities per Activity Type Code



Mobility Activity Type Code-Name	Number of Completed Mobilities
Totals	99
HE-SMS - Student mobility for studies	51
HE-STA - Staff mobility for teaching	20
HE-STT - Staff mobility for training	16
HE-SMT - Student mobility for traineeships	12

Cooperation with institutions from Hungary

Cooperation between Serbia and Hungary Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027

KA2 and KA3 projects

13 Erasmus+ projects in cooperation with insitutions from Hungary:

- KA211 - Capacity Building in higher education – 2
- KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education – 8
- KA230 - European Universities – 1 ([EUGLOH 2.0](#))
- KA231 - Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters – 1 ([DAFM](#))

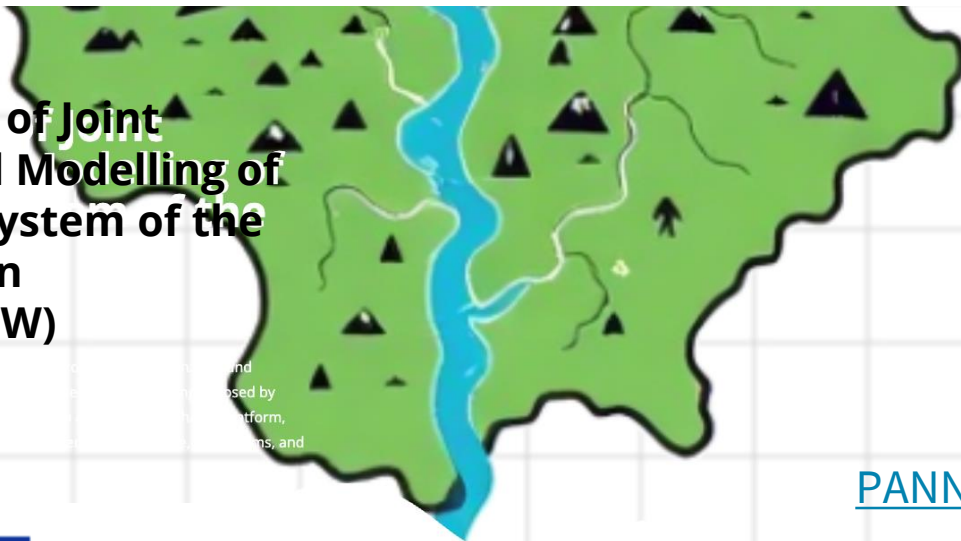
- SEPT- Support to European policy tools – 1 ([Proformance](#))

(Ministry of Culture and Innovation HU, Tempus Public Foundation HU, Széchenyi István University Győr HU, Foundation Tempus RS, Ministry of Education RS)

Cooperation with institutions from Hungary

Cooperation between Serbia and Hungary **Other programmes and projects**

**Harmonization of Joint
Monitoring and Modelling of
Groundwater System of the
Pannonian Plain
(PANNONIAN.GW)**



[PANNONIAN.GW](https://pannonian.gw)

**Interreg
Danube Region**



Co-funded by
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Contacts of educational
institutions interested in
international cooperation
can be found at the
following [link](#).



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Thank you for your attention!



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Contacts

Group for higher education

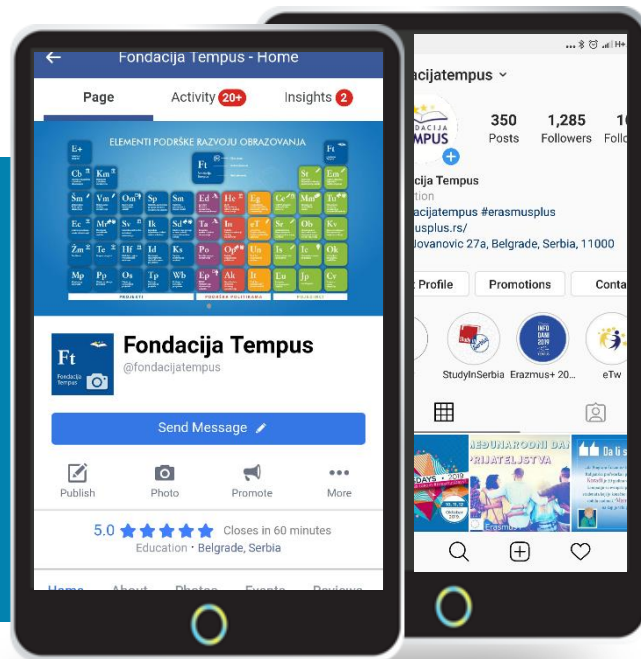
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