

## **Mobilnost studenata iz Kenije na Sveučilištu u Rijeci**

Donosimo lijepu priču o mobilnosti studenata iz Kenije Briana i Evangeline koju su studirali na našem Fakultetu za menadžment u turizmu i ugostiteljstvu u sklopu KA171 projekta:

Brian and Evangeline, students from Kenya, embarked on an exciting journey through the Erasmus+ program to Croatia, specifically enrolling in the Faculty of Tourism. Their approach to this adventure was well-planned and driven by the desire to gain both academic and practical exposure in the field of tourism management. They aimed not only to broaden their knowledge in tourism studies but also to understand how the global tourism industry operates in a European context. Their journey would take them through academic study, cultural immersion, and a hands-on internship at the Hilton Costabella in Opatija.

### **Approach to the Erasmus+ Program**

Before leaving Kenya, Brian and Evangeline thoroughly researched Croatia's tourism industry, understanding that it is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the country. They also coordinated with their home university in Kenya to ensure that the credits they earned in Croatia would contribute to their degree. By applying for the Erasmus+ program, they sought to gain international exposure that would enhance their career prospects in the tourism industry back home.

After securing their placement at the Faculty of Tourism in Croatia, they prepared to immerse themselves in the European academic system. They were eager to engage with a diverse group of international students, bringing with them a unique perspective from Kenya, a country with a rich tourism culture of its own.

### **Exposure in Croatia**

Upon arriving in Croatia, Brian and Evangeline were immediately struck by the natural beauty of the country. From the stunning Adriatic coastline to the historical architecture, they saw firsthand why Croatia is a top tourist destination in Europe. This exposure complemented their studies, providing real-world examples of what they were learning in the classroom.

At the Faculty of Tourism, they were introduced to subjects like sustainable tourism, destination management, and marketing strategies for tourism enterprises. These courses broadened their understanding of tourism beyond Kenya's context. They learned about managing large-scale tourism operations in a highly competitive European market while focusing on sustainability—a concept gaining importance worldwide.

The academic environment was rich with international students, giving Brian and Evangeline the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from their peers. This experience helped them to develop a global perspective on tourism and how it can be used to promote economic growth while preserving cultural and environmental heritage.

### **Internship at Hilton Costabella, Opatija**

An integral part of their Erasmus+ experience was their internship at the Hilton Costabella Beach Resort and Spa in Opatija, a renowned seaside destination. This practical training allowed them to apply the theories they learned in class to a real-world setting. The Hilton Costabella is known for its luxury services and high-end clientele, and Brian and Evangeline were exposed to the intricacies of managing a world-class hospitality business.

During their internship, they rotated through various departments, from front-office operations and guest relations to marketing and event planning. Evangeline found her passion in event management, working closely with the team to coordinate weddings and corporate retreats, while Brian was drawn to hotel operations and guest services, learning how to ensure a seamless and memorable experience for guests.

Their time at Hilton Costabella was invaluable, as they gained insights into how a global hotel chain operates, especially in a competitive tourism market like Croatia. They learned the importance of attention to detail, customer service excellence, and the ability to adapt to the needs of international guests.

## Conclusion

For Brian and Evangeline, their Erasmus+ experience in Croatia was transformative. The combination of academic learning at the Faculty of Tourism and practical exposure through their internship at Hilton Costabella gave them a holistic understanding of the tourism industry. This experience not only enhanced their knowledge but also equipped them with the skills needed to thrive in Kenya's growing tourism sector. Through this program, they gained global insights that would help them contribute to sustainable tourism development in their home country.

