

## RIS Internship programme

Project title: RIS Internship programme: broadening University-Business Cooperation



Duration of the project: 1.1.2022. – 31.12.2024.

Project leader: University of Zagreb - Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG-RGNF)

### Consortium:

National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece  
Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (ZAG), Slovenia  
Technical University of Košice (TUKE), Slovakia  
Université de Liège (UL), Belgium  
University of Miskolc (UM), Hungary  
Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia  
Wrocław University of Science and Technology (WUST), Poland  
Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (TUBAF), Germany

Web page: <https://www.ris-internship.eu/>

Contact person at UNIZG-RGNF: Professor Sibila Borojević Šoštarić, PhD

E-mail: [info@ris-internship.eu](mailto:info@ris-internship.eu)



MISKOLCI  
EGYETEM  
UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC



Politechnika  
Wrocławska



TAL  
TECH



National Technical  
University of Athens



## Project description

Public Higher Education Institutions (HEI) at the RIS region and especially at West Balkan often find it difficult to fund internship programmes for their students, therefore within many raw material programmes internship is rated as an extracurricular activity or is included in the curricula with minimal involvement of the HEI. Without receiving structured support in their search for hosting company/institution within Europe, raw materials students have low chances of succeeding in Internship application comparing to other sectors. Lack of structure within the implementation of internship decreases its positive impact, thus disabling a smooth transfer of entrepreneurial/business skills and leaving both student and hosting organisation unsure of the expectations, optimal work organisation, workload, structure and objectives of their collaboration. RIS Internship project will address this regional challenge and introduce **structured internship mobilities for the benefit of the raw materials students and the organisations** of the ESEE region.

The foundations of the RIS Internship Programme were created through a pilot programme launched in 2019 by EIT RawMaterials Hub Regional Centre Adria, called [ADRIA Internship](#). The Programme was carried out from 2019 to 2021 with the key objective to improve professional opportunities for the students of sector related studies in the ADRIA region. During the three years of pilot programme implementation, around 70 individual internships were completed in total duration of 113 months, involving more than 43 different organisations.

The territorial coverage of RIS Internship includes the initial pilot region (Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia) and the newly joint East European RIS countries: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia but also Portugal and Spain. Overall objective of the project is to implement a sustainable and structured **RIS Internship Programme for East European RIS and EIT-Raw-Materials-labelled students**. Within the Programme, students will perform 1-to-3-month internships in one of the companies, gain invaluable experience and knowledge as well as opportunity to later get the job in the same company or at least field of interest.

## Project objectives and scopes

During the next three years of project implementation...

- 367 students will conduct an internship in 300 companies;
- 21 matchmaking events for students and hosting organizations will be organised;
- 637 individuals (students and industry supervisors) will be trained for implementation of the internship;
- 25-40 interns will be employed at the hosting-organizations;
- internship-related best practice will be identified, together with other available funding schemes and national programmes ensuring the financial sustainability of the programme.

At current rate of employment of 10% for the interns participating in the programme, we estimate that about 40 students will remain employed in the industry after their graduation. Train-the-trainer activities focused on 270 industry supervisors will additionally increase the entrepreneurship/business skills of the interns and broaden University-Business Cooperation



(UBC) activities. The project will encourage employment of the raw materials graduates in the local industry and leverage brain drain in the ESEE region.

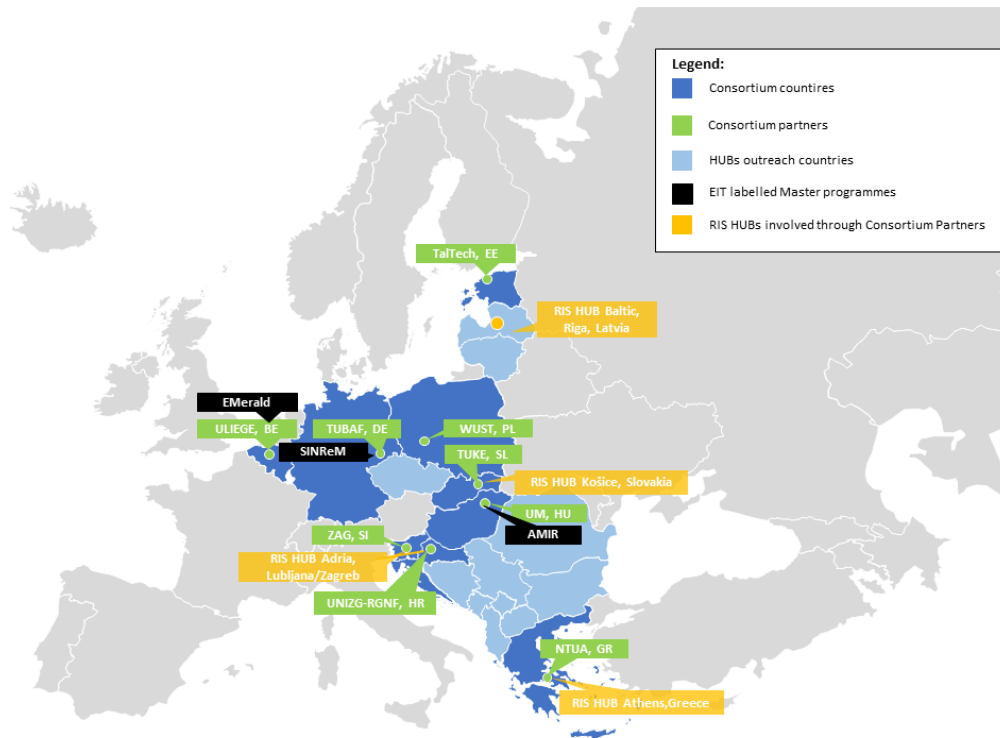


Figure showing territorial coverage of RIS Internship programme

## How does it work?

The lifecycle of RIS Internship Programme starts with launching the Calls for applications. In March 2022, [Call for applications of organisations](#) is launched, whereby all applied and approved organisations enter the open database ([Pool of organisations](#)), providing all relevant information online for the potential interns. Students can read the descriptions of all organisations, see the details of internship opportunities and submit their application for the most suitable one after the **Call for applications of students** is launched (June 2022).

After a match between a student and an organisation is made, two contracts are signed: one between the Programme management (UNIZG-RGNF) and the student, and the second one between UNIZG-RGNF and the hosting organisation. Both the student and the supervisor are directed to an obligatory online training (webinars) prepared by the Consortium. Immediately after the completion of the trainings, a competency assessment (testing) is carried out.

After the completion of an individual internship, a report is submitted by an intern to the Programme managers (using an online form). Both the intern and the respective supervisor answer a survey assessing their cooperation and other elements of the Programme. The results are used to monitor and improve the quality of the programme.



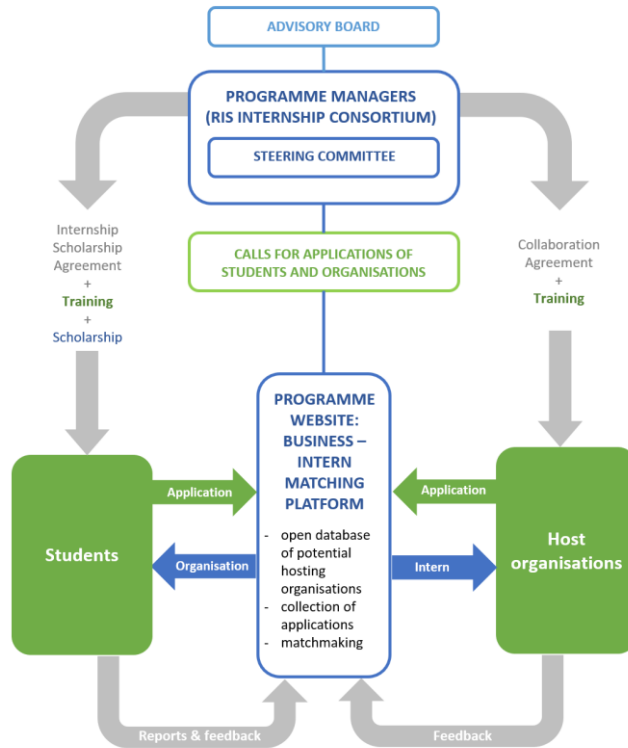


Figure showing programme concept

