

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The responsibility of the University is to provide students with comprehensive education for individual courses of study. The University is aware that interdisciplinary education increases graduates' chances of finding employment in line with their education.

The first stage of development of the strategy to internationalise the studies is:

1. following and identifying the employers' needs in order to better adjust study curricula to the requirements of the current labour market (mainly postgraduate studies),
2. more extensive co-operation with business and economy in the area of teaching,
3. close co-operation with the bodies of self-government, aiming to e.g. propagate widely defined physical culture and sport within the framework of programmes enabling people to gain practical skills.

The results of the analysis of information from outside environment and the following of professional careers of the graduates is modernisation of the teaching offer by:

1. formulating new, interdisciplinary curricula of interdepartmental and inter-institutional studies by creating consortia of domestic and international institutions in order to provide a more attractive curriculum, which will allow to obtain double degrees on all levels of education,
2. increasing an offer of postgraduate studies and unique specialist courses,
3. increasing the number of workshops and courses to enable change of professional orientation of graduates.

The necessity of "lifelong learning" requires the University to support:

1. continuing education and self-study by learning to solve problems independently, study independently, and react to a potential change of profession,
2. individual course of study for most talented and above-average students,
3. universities' assistance in planning professional career by a student by providing substantive, psychological and social support for under-graduate and post-graduate students,
4. introduction of the modern multimedia carriers and the Internet, facilitating distance-teaching,
5. adaptation of universities to accept disabled students, mainly by elimination of architectural barriers and providing individual forms of study,
6. promotion and implementation of ideas of lifelong study by recognition of qualifications obtained by non-formal and informal education,
7. providing equal educational opportunities, in particular in relation to young people from small towns and villages.

The improvement of teaching quality requires constant supervision and quality assessment of teaching processes at the University by:

1. raising the level of knowledge of the candidates (providing patronage for classes in upper-secondary schools, organisation of specialist courses for candidates)
2. development of internal system of providing high educational quality (periodic assessment of achievements of teachings staff)
3. obtaining domestic and foreign accreditations.

The international strategy of the University will be developed through the following actions:

1. strengthening of emphasis on language learning by students and staff by starting language courses in specialist vocabulary and running classes in selected subjects in a foreign language,
2. development of language competence of the staff e.g. by launching free English courses, periodic examinations, monthly benefit,
3. introduction of a module system of classes in a foreign language,

4. providing a possibility of spending part of the study and traineeship abroad and recognition of qualifications obtained abroad,
5. co-operation with foreign institutions in order to create curricula of studies aiming to grant double/multiple/joint degrees,
6. accepting foreign students as part of bilateral agreements, obtaining new partners, negotiating terms of agreements and organisation of stay. The period of population decline is a trigger for territorial expansion of the University, which will be possible thanks to a language-competent staff and curricula in a foreign language. The University is planning to attract a large group of students from Belorussia and Ukraine. This is mainly due to their close geographical location, out common history, a large number of people with Polish origins living there, and our teaching offer involving a relatively low costs of study compared to the respective costs in the countries of the old EU.
7. attracting foreign academic teachers and other staff in order to run classes for students and to carry out research jointly with the staff of the University.

All these actions will lead not only to an increase in quality of education, but also in multiculturalism and related increased attractiveness of the environment of the University.

The advantages that the University can achieve by development of its activities within the framework of the offered Project cannot be overestimated. The participation in them will certainly:

1. allow for and facilitate carrying out any structural reforms at the University by creating conditions for the development of the teaching staff and elimination of staff with no potential for the University,
2. enforce and activate teaching of foreign languages among the University staff and allow for a development of a more varied teaching offer in terms of language, level and profile of classes,
3. contribute to a greater internationalisation of education by the exchange of students and staff involved in the development of a given project, allow for a better integration of international students and staff, provide the basis for mutual exchange of experience in various systems of education, enforce the need to use multimedia techniques more extensively, facilitate development of joint curricula of studies, allow for granting joint degrees, enable undertaking research initiatives together with partners, contribute to extending competences at the international labour market,
4. enable obtaining funds to organise joint classes, material assistance for students taking part in the project. The financial assistance for students may be a big incentive for its potential participants, as well as for the universities carrying out the joint project,
5. enable students and staff to develop such competences as: the ability to work in an international and intercultural team, the ability to create, run and manage various projects, lead to independent and critical thinking, openness, and the ability to respond to new challenges.

The participation of the University in a new edition of the Programme is necessary for it to function at the modern market of education and science. Further continuation for these efforts may give the University the following benefits:

1. Wider opening of the University to outside environment (potential students, employers, government and self-government institutions). Increasing the role of the university in the region by co-operation in research and projects in physical culture, tourism and rehabilitation and preparing commissioned expert opinions or preparing strategies for development. Practical training, voluntary work, traineeships organised for students in companies and institutions are also forms of building the position of the University in the environment. The participation of foreign students will allow for extending the offer e.g. running physical education lessons in foreign languages. Co-operation with specialists/practitioners in a given area in the teaching process will enable students already during their education to get acquainted with the reality of the labour market in the region.

2. Participation in projects will enable long-term development of courses and specialties at the University and enforce continuous improvement of curricula, which will respond to the needs of potential employers. It will contribute to the maximisation of the teaching process at the University by improvement of competences of the teaching and administration staff. It will force the staff to continuously raise their qualifications to run classes for students. It will allow for development of new technologies in student-teacher communication (combining traditional classes with Internet support).
3. The development of co-operation with other universities of similar profile will lead to exchange of methodology of classes with other partner universities and adaptation of them to the home institution (benchmarking). It will facilitate export Or import of individual curricula of studies, opening so called branch campuses and may be an initial stage in the construction of university consortia.
4. Attracting students and exchange of staff with the neighbouring countries (Belorussia, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic) will be a contribution of the University to the formation and development of the partnership strategy. Staff of various nationalities will contribute to strengthening of the competitiveness of the University at the global educational market. The experience related to the mobility will sensitise students and staff to the relations between their own culture and the cultures of partner countries, which will facilitate job searching for graduates abroad.
5. Taking into consideration the need to meet ever increasing challenges related to internationalisation, the University Has undertaken actions aiming to obtain funds in order to expand the existing teaching and sports facilities and is implementing