

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

For the University of Wrocław adhesion in the European Higher Education Area is a privilege and an obligation to fulfil our duties. The development strategy has emphasised the need to build an International University rooted, in the city, region and the country. We strive to build a University to be at service for science and society, rich in multicultural students and teachers, a University well appreciated and recognized in Europe and in the world. The condition necessary for the achievement of this objective is to conduct intensive international cooperation in terms of research and teaching. Hence the UWr consistently develops cooperation with European and global institutions.

The Polish accession to the EU has opened a new chapter in the development of international cooperation. The intensity of this cooperation may be seen in the fact that within 10 years the number of bilateral agreements regarding the mobility of teaching staff and students, concluded with the EU Institutions increased from 100 to 865. The conclusion of new agreements was possible only because of consistent and continuous expansion of our educational offer in English. Hence, now the UWr offers 13 Master's programmes and 7 Bachelor's programmes conducted entirely in English.

A strong emphasis has been put on adequate preparation and improvement of support facilities necessary to implement mobility. In order to achieve mobility of as many of the teaching and administrative staff as well as students the University in its activities makes sure that the numbers do not overburden the qualitative actions. For this purpose constant verification of the concluded agreements is carried out in order to assess the extent to which expected results of cooperation have been achieved, whether student participation in the mobility translated into their new qualifications and skills, and whether the staff involved in the exchange acquired a new professional experience.

While implementing horizontal mobility the UWr does not lose sight of the opportunity it creates for the development of vertical mobility. And therefore pursuing this goal the UWr entered two consortia implementing joint studies in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus programme and joint studies with Tomsk State Pedagogical University. This aim of development of cooperation with overseas Universities is one of the priorities of the international policy of our University. Undeniably each year there are more and more members of the academic community taking part in the exchange programmes and the University has a chance to host an increasing number of students and staff from partner Universities. This helps us become an academic community advanced in working in a complex global environment, accepting cultural diversity and able to easily find our feet in a changing world.

The UWr increases the number of Universities and overseas centres outside the European area with which it concludes agreements to carry out joint research and teaching projects. For years the UWr has been cooperating with Russian Universities with which bilateral agreements have been signed. Kazakh universities have become important strategic partners in the University's international policy. We have been cooperating with them for several years now and we constantly develop cooperation by increasing the number of jointly conducted research projects and the exchange of students and staff.

The UWr has recently began working with Chinese Universities. This was possible after we have set up a Confucius Institute at the UWr. Due to the strong interest from the Chinese partners and our academic community this cooperation has become an inherent part of the strategic plans for the development of our policy for the coming years at the University. We have begun working on a joint programme of studies with the University in Xiamen.

In order to provide our students with the possibility to acquire knowledge and professional experience in various socio-economic environments, the UWr, as the only one in Poland, has joined the International Student Exchange Program which allows students of Bachelor and Master's programmes to take a semester course at a chosen American University and undergo professional training in various institutions and enterprises in the United States.

The UWr has an unchanging strategy of enhanced cooperation with the environment closest to us historically and geographically. Therefore numerous joint academic initiatives in both research and teaching have been undertaken with Universities in Germany, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. The development of across-border cooperation is one of the priorities of the international policy of the UWr. The care for the quality of joint teaching and research, building solid relationships with the immediate environment is an essential condition to become an International University which is open to new challenges and able to closely follow the changes in our globalised world.

The University of Wroclaw treats and has always treated its participation in the LLP-Erasmus as a chance to make improvements to the teaching and consequently the initiation and continuation of the process of 'Internationalisation at Home' at UWr. The International Office (IO) is responsible for regularly informing the academic community about the Programme and other international projects which offer participation in student, academic and administrative staff mobility, conduct joint research and taking initiative to build joint programmes of study. LLP-Erasmus is administered by the IO, its obligation is to take up any action relating to the implementation of the mobility of teaching and administrative staff as well as outgoing and incoming student mobility. Looking at it from the perspective of 15 years this organisational measure of entrusting the above mentioned tasks to the IO gave good results. This can be seen in the rankings where the UWr has taken 3rd or 4th place among Polish universities. The IO supports all departmental initiatives aimed at the improvement of the informational and organisational systems to do with both the implementation and conduct of mobility. Undoubtedly a great common achievement is increasing awareness on student training and study mobility among the academic and administrative staff, resulting in improving the procedures related to the mobility management. This process can also be observed regarding the students from partner Universities. And as can be seen from surveys of incoming students, they view UWr as a friendly place open to cultural diversity. Participation in the Programme, as well as the implementation of individual projects within it, has changed the face of the University, and today we can safely say that we had been given a great chance and we have certainly

tried to make the most of it. However, we are aware that much more can be done for our University to become a brand recognizable not only in Europe but also outside it.

As our University takes part in the Programme the academic community and University authorities see the opportunity to conduct research and teaching in accordance with the highest standards. The teaching of students is conducted in a spirit of openness, independence, honesty, tolerance and prepares them to undertake independent tasks in society and in the national and international economy. Participation in the programme will ensure the development of the UWr as an international institution rooted in the city, the region and the country. It will serve the society and science as an University rich in multicultural students and teachers, well appreciated and recognized in the European Higher Education Area and in the world. The cooperation with partner institutions and making educational and scientific contacts with the new academia centres strongly affect the fulfilment of the Mission of the University which is the creation of the elite by building social and intellectual capital of people with minds open and able to take on new challenges.

Participation in the Programme is a chance to build the University as scientific, cultural and intellectual centre, a place of meeting and exchanging of ideas, actively cooperating with its socio-economic, regional, national and international surroundings. Using international experience, the UWr shall seek to conduct teaching designed to promote not specialists in narrow areas, but people with wide-ranging social competences, able to solve problems in professional lives. There is work to be done in order to create multidisciplinary studies, equipping students with a set of social and intellectual skills necessary in professional career. In order to ensure the efficient process of lifelong learning the focus will be on the implementation of National Qualifications Frameworks compatible with the European Qualifications Framework, and the recognition of the effects of education obtained outside the classic education.

It is necessary to link education programmes with the requirements of the economy and the strengthening of cooperation with the business community through the outsourcing of research relevant to the development of new technologies and by the business partners' influence on the programmes of

study. UWr is committed to conduct research of the highest quality, modernisation of the education system, to influencing the sustainable social development by moving the key solutions to the external environment. Participation in international projects is a sine qua non condition for the development of each academic area, in terms of building the scientific and human capacity. In collaboration with external environment, be it local, and International the UWr is becoming an institution, that in accordance with the best academic tradition and a contemporary understanding of democracy and human rights strongly opposes to the exclusion on grounds of sex, age, racial origin and economic.

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