



Erasmus Policy Statement

Internationalization is one of the crucial issues for development of Higher School of Labour Safety Management (WSZOP). It is understood as offer of full courses for foreign students, as participation in joint research and conferencing projects as well as student, teacher and administration mobility activities. It is also understood as joint publishing . WSZOP is also active as a partner of important cultural and business projects in the region. On the basis of our partnerships we want to expand our role as an important player on the educational market.

We believe in steady growth in international presence, which includes annual increase in international projects, among others students and staff Erasmus mobility. We believe this is feasible due to constant improvements in our service quality, especially in terms of building international awareness and contributing to foreign language competence of our staff and students.

Partners

Search for partners is a result of experience within networking e.g. Baltic University Programme enabled search for some Erasmus partners. Our target partners offer education in similar or supplementary fields so that students and teachers could participate in mobility projects as well as to make research activities interesting and needed. It is also important for us to have partners in accessible geographical locations to make trips affordable. This means direct flights from Poland, preferably Katowice or Krakow airports. Affordability also means partners in countries where living on a Polish student budget is possible.

So far, throughout the first year of executing mobility projects we have cooperated with seven Erasmus partner institutions, most of which we evaluate as efficient. As the most efficient in terms of staff and student mobility and the most satisfying we can regard cooperation with our partners in Turkey, Portugal and Estonia.

We strongly believe that thanks to mobility our educational value is increased and we want to continue improvements of this kind. Both study and training mobility do not only bring profits to their direct beneficiaries but also to other participants of teaching-learning processes.

For the sake of close cooperation in various areas we find lost in common with Ukrainian partners. We are present as a partner to Alfred Nobel University in Dnepropetrovsk (DUAN) (student exchanges, conferences, joint research) as well as the Education Board in the City of Ternopil (English teaching) as well as Forteca association (promotion of Polish language and culture).

In terms of double degrees we want to make use of our experience with the University Paris 13 with which we conducted joint Bachelorate Programme in Healthcare Management. Our experience tells us that presence of international teachers enriches educational offer for students. Therefore, we are

currently working on two projects in this field i.e. double diploma in philology with DUAN and diploma in technical sciences in English with a British partner, which could be offered to students worldwide. The programme will be designed together with our business partners. Due to the demand in Asian countries, mainly China and India, we are planning to offer our education also on these markets.

We also want to extend our international relations with professional partners, mainly the Institute of Labour and Health in Dresden, Germany. The research profile and cooperation experience let us hope for further development of joint projects concentrated around the issues of occupational safety.

Due to our involvement into sustainable development issues we are active in Baltic University Programme. We want to work harder on popularization of BUP courses and ideas among our students and staff.

WSZOP is a participant of locally and regionally managed international business and cultural projects. We want to extend our presence in this area initiating cooperation with professional and sector institutions and organizations. We want to build networks around specific projects with the use of our current and new contacts. We believe that by involving our students in international business and culture projects we will give them opportunities to obtain experience on more and more demanding labour market, at the same time constantly contributing to modern image of our university.

In terms of LLP Erasmus Programme WSZOP has so far been concentrated on teacher, student and staff mobility. Due to the fact that we have executed the project for less than a year we dedicated this initial period to launching first partnerships, organizing procedures as well as sending and receiving students and staff. Strategically, we aim at increase in mobility by means of increase in the number of partners, reduction of less efficient contacts and increase in international awareness. We plan to improve promotional activities mainly by means of dedicating certain tasks to deans of faculties. Their direct contacts with teachers and researchers should result in even greater interest in mobility. This also means involvement of deans in recruitment process. The target situation is strong competition among teachers and staff supported by their deans with the Rector being in position to choose the best projects on the basis of the recommendation of Erasmus Team. The aforementioned projects should carry didactic innovation and/or research presentation which could stimulate further research cooperation with our international partners.

Throughout the initial year we have observed great interest of the staff in mobility projects due to the opportunities connected with learning from international partners. If possible, we will be working to enable larger number of administration workers to participate in international trainings. This contributes to exchange of experience and ideas how to improve non-didactic aspects of work with students.

Priority 1 Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

At WSZOP we believe that internationalization is a key element in improvement of teaching effects through transfer of knowledge, inter-cultural encounter and flexibility. A graduate who has had international experience will be more open for new cultures and ready to adapt to changing

international (mainly European) labour market, which is appreciated by employers. He/she will be more mobile and ready to face new challenges. International experience also means more thorough knowledge of studied subjects as it is observed from different perspectives. Another outcome is better foreign language literacy, which should contribute to wider studies of international literature. Foreign aspects at the beginning of one's professional career also mean integration into international professional groups. The impact is also present in the other direction i.e. incoming students mean 'new look' and 'fresh air' that they bring to the university. This also means constant contrasting of curricula with the needs of foreign recipients i.e. international demand.

Priority 2 Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

This priority can be achieved through Priority 1, with special focus on modernization of educational offer under the influence of international demand expressed by both incoming participants and own students interested in international mobility. Our institution underlines a very important issue of high quality foreign language teaching as being an aspect which does depend directly on us as educational services provider.

Priority 3 Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Mobility opportunities is becoming a necessary standard at higher education institutions. This priority is interconnected with Priority 1 and 2, however, we strongly stress the importance of teachers' and administration staff mobility. Teachers will contribute to quality by means of implementing new techniques and transfer of knowledge while administration staff by means of receiving training and implementing elements of best practice learned at other institutions. Sometimes even negative example will be valuable as allowing to observe administrative work from a more objective perspective.

Priority 4 Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

Due to the fact that WSZOP is also a partner of important cultural and business projects we cooperate closely with regional business environment. We try to adapt our educational offer to the expectations of our business partners and the opportunity to organize international internships would bring great advantages in this scope. We would like to combine our business and international relations in order to facilitate entry of our students onto the labour market as well as to conduct international research projects needed by economy especially within our region.

Priority 5 Improving governance and funding

European funds will undoubtedly contribute to the possibility of enhancing the planned activities. We also do hope that good practice and exchange of experience will result in benefits for management of various areas of university.

RECTOR

Elżbieta Krawczyk-Neifar
dr Elżbieta Krawczyk-Neifar