

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission. ☒

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

In the coming years, WSZIB aims at increasing the attractiveness of its educational offer, enlarging the volume of student and teacher mobility and boosting its partnership activities. These goals will be achieved through participation in experience exchanges, trainings, multilateral projects and thematic networks, as well as through active participation in student and teacher exchanges, the EU programmes among them.

Internationalization is the core issue of both – the general university development strategy and the strategy of respective departments. The main aims of the internationalization strategy are to maintain the already established partnerships as well as creating new co-operational ties with foreign partners that would enable effective student and staff exchange.

The University puts emphasis on cooperation development that leads specifically towards joint grant projects. The adjustment of educational programmes towards international demands and standards, such as courses taught in English for both internal and external students, is among the university's priorities within the didactic area. Furthermore, the university will continue work towards successful development of such tools as full application of ECTS system, enriching offer of courses with English as language of instruction and implementation of certification based on European Qualification Framework, as these are the key factors stimulating international student exchange.

WSZIB emphasizes also urgency of students' accessibility to internships and thus development of their professional competences and experience in home country and abroad, within the frameworks of suitable European programmes. Practical knowledge of foreign languages and professional experience gained in a foreign country are assets that may give the graduates upper hand on the labour market. Direct cooperation of academic institutions with business is the current focus of attention and as such this aim is also integrated within University's strategy. Such cooperation has far-reaching consequences for the didactic programme and for WSZIB's flexible approach towards the labour market demands as well as scientific research and analyses.

Partner universities are chosen on the basis of didactic offer compatibility and their language of instruction (in case of student exchanges) and possibility of research and didactical cooperation (in case of staff exchanges). Other considered factors include: partner's experience in mobility organization, their practical knowledge and experience in implementation of research and academic projects and last but not least, their readiness for deepening cooperation by implementation of joint seminars, publications, research, etc. Looking from the perspective of academic researchers and didactical staff, the potential areas for cooperation between universities as a whole or their specific units are essential. Possibility to offer lectures, gain innovative training in the field of specialization, enriching knowledge, development of qualifications and establishing contacts are the key factors that lead to cooperation initiation on the staff exchange level (both academic and administrative).

Apart from the Erasmus Office, the University runs also Office for EU Projects and Post-graduate Studies. The University has a substantial experience in implementation of Erasmus Programme as well as other projects funded by EU institutions. In the coming years the University will focus on actions that will lead to intensification of mobility and, at the same time, will develop other international projects supporting the implementation of development strategy and thus will strengthen the position of the University within the European Education Area.

The geographic aspect shouldn't be overlooked, because it strongly corresponds with specific requirements of respective international mobility programmes. WSZIB focuses on the one hand on cooperation with European partners, and on the other hand remains open to enter into cooperation with educational entities from other geographical areas.

Currently the University does not run any double degree programmes or joint programmes. However, the University plans to develop one of its existing partnership with a Dutch university towards such aim. The fact that this long-lasting cooperation has been a fruitful one so far is a strong base that will facilitate this move.

WSZIB's goal is to reach high international standards applicable for Higher Education Institutions on all levels of studies accessible within the University. Therefore the international activities will be carried out in close relation to the European Educational and Research Areas, with extensive international contacts and through participation in international projects.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]



The University's strategy paves the direction and sets the goals for achievement of high levels of scientific research. This manifests itself by appraisals among local and international academic institutions and by remarkable career achievements of its academic staff. Therefore the University place high importance on participation in the Programme, mobility increase (including academic as well as administrative staff). Such actions have strong impact on professional competences development and on increasing quality of the University's actions. Experience gained during cooperation with other partner institutions is a significant source of knowledge that enables change and widening of perspective, implementation of solutions that already operate as good practices in foreign institutions. WSZIB strives for long-term and multi-field cooperation that should be built upon joint lecturing (both incoming and outgoing academic staff mobility). Such practices should not only lead to competence development of particular participants but become the bridge for fruitful cooperation between institutions encompassing joint research, seminars, conferences and publications.

Building strong base of international contacts will help employment of international academics of renown reputation, that will in turn lead to increased level of educational quality at the University.

In the coming years WSZIB will intensify its efforts to use European funds for scientific research and for development of academic staff's activities that leads towards enhancing their academic degrees. The University will also ensure higher participation rate of its academic staff in conferences and their publication rates on both national and international levels. The University focuses on implementation of mechanisms that support the scientific development of the academic staff and intensify the activities within international dimension.

The units responsible for implementation and stimulation of such activities

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

With its participation in the Programme, WSZIB aims to enhance the quality of education with the purpose of excellence in preparation of its graduates to enter the local and European (at least) labour markets, and on the other hand, to reach high European standards and thus become a competitive place for foreign students who would seek to obtain their higher education at this institution.

Improving the quality of education and the adequate didactic offer are the strategic elements of the University's implemented strategy. Due to participation in the Programme and the international mobility, the academic staff will improve their scientific knowledge, linguistic skills and experiences and thus will reach international standards in their implemented tasks. Knowledge of international trends as high qualifications will impact considerably the quality of education. The knowledge gained throughout implementation of the programme will affect also the adjustment of didactic methods and the whole educational programme. Alongside the growing experience and development of international cooperation, it will become possible to initiate joint programmes of studies with the international institutions. Cooperation between the University and international partners will improve the standing of WSZIB on international arena, and at the same time will strengthen its quality and adequacy of its didactic offer.

Implementation of the Programme will have considerable implications on the University's cooperation development on various levels, not only with other Higher Education Institutions but also with business partners. The combination of activities on the three levels: education, academic research and business will imply higher quality of education and higher adjustment possibilities to meet the requirements of European labour market and international standards, among others. Participation in the Programme will also help to implement and to maintain high standards of management and finance. The experience gained while implementing projects and cooperating with international institutions will be a decisive factor in the modernization and internationalization processes of the Higher Education Institutions based on EU guidelines.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

Place: Kraków

Name: Prof. W.  
Roszczyński

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/05/2013

☒ *I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)

  
prof. dr hab. inż. Włodzisław Roszczyński

Original stamp or seal of the Institution

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