



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The mission of Wrocław University of Science and Technology is "Co-creating a competent future". Our University emphasizes developing creativity, which is a key feature in the evolution of economy based on knowledge and competence. The academic community and social capital are of great importance as well, as they create directions for the development of science and technology. Working in partnership with the environment and external partners strengthen the effects of undertaken actions and facilitate their achievement, which is also crucial in the implementation of WUST's mission. Participation in the Erasmus programme supports Wrocław University of Science and Technology in carrying out these assumptions.

Internationalisation policy has been included in the Development Strategy of Wrocław University of Science and Technology, specifying the main directions of development, such as building a strong position abroad. The University has defined two strategic goals in this field: the internationalisation of the University and the increase of scientific activity and raising the prestige of the University in Poland and abroad. Cooperation with leading foreign universities within Erasmus projects increases the recognition of WUST, not only in the European Union itself, but also among partners from around the world. The implementation of projects also increases the number of foreign students studying at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, increases the number of foreign staff members visiting the University, increases the number of established professional contacts on an international scale, and the number of courses offered in English due to increased demand. Visits of academic teachers make the didactic offer of the University more attractive, whether by organizing lectures outside the standard course or guest lectures during classes included in the programme of a given subject. On the other hand, foreign students' stay at the University is closely related to the development of the didactic offer in English - Polish students are often interested in participating in courses conducted in the foreign language. In this way, another benefit is achieved from the project – WUST students have the opportunity to experience certain aspects of internationalisation even without leaving the country. The Erasmus project enables student mobility for studies and traineeships, thanks to which students have the opportunity to expand their professional and language competences in a new, international environment. It supports the development of creativity by adapting study programmes to individual needs and flexibly building a learning path, as well as adapting them to the requirements of the labour market and future careers. In turn, the opportunity offered by the project to raise professional qualifications of staff members undertaking training abroad contributes to strengthening the links between education, research and business activities for innovation and achieving outstanding results.

By strengthening cooperation between institutions from most EU Member States, Erasmus projects significantly contribute to the creation of a knowledge-based economy, the



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process of economic integration of Europe and the building the European Education Area. Wrocław University of Science and Technology intends to continue activities aimed at supporting cross-border mobility and cooperation in the field of education and training. Successive implementation of solutions related to the digitization of the programme will improve the administrative service of the implemented projects and activities related to the recognition of qualifications and periods of study abroad. We are convinced that this will contribute to an increase in the number of people who will take part in mobility and thus not only acquire valuable knowledge and competences, but also experience life, study and work in a new cultural environment, which will make them feel more strongly that they belong to the European community.

Wrocław University of Science and Technology intends to participate in the following activities:

Action 1: Learning mobility - projects supporting higher education student and staff mobility are implemented at the central level by the Office of International Affairs - OIA (Erasmus institutional coordinator employees responsible for 1) administrative and financial management, handling interinstitutional agreements, 2) administrative support for outgoing students, 3) administrative support for incoming students, 4) administrative support for students and graduates undertaking traineeships, 5) administrative support for staff mobilities). A special representative of the dean - a faculty coordinator – is responsible for issues concerning the programme of mobility and recognition of study achievements at each of the Faculties.

Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions - action 2 projects are implemented by individual Faculties or administrative units of the University, that have the subject matter of the project in their scope of duties. Staff members who wish to implement their own idea or have received an invitation to participate in an interesting venture from foreign partners come out with the initiative to apply for a project. The Office of International Affairs assists Faculties in meeting the formal requirements of the application (gathering relevant documents, obtaining signatures of University Authorities, etc.) and, if such need is reported, helps in finding partners for the project. In the case of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees projects, OIA supports Faculties in the admission process and helps students participating in the project with such matters as: obtaining a visa, legalisation of stay, selection of appropriate insurance applicable in Poland and accommodation in WUST dormitories. OIA also supports the initiative implemented by the Erasmus Student Network called the Buddy programme. It aims to help a foreign students to adapt to living in a new city after their arrival in Poland.

Action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation - similar to Action 2, projects under Action 3 will be implemented by Faculties or other administrative units of the University, with the support of the Office of International Affairs.



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The participation of Wrocław University of Science and Technology in the types of projects listed above will contribute to:

- increasing recognition and strengthening the University's position;
- teaching at a high level, using the latest teaching methods and technologies;
- raising the level of entrepreneurship and student involvement in scientific activities;
- providing education allowing graduates to gain competitive skills on the labour market;
- implementation of innovative solutions in key areas for the functioning of the University;
- improving foreign language and digital competences among students and staff;
- creating favourable conditions for conducting scientific research in international teams;
- conducting innovative scientific research;
- building lasting relationships with key foreign partners;
- transferring and consolidating values such as tolerance, equality, openness and intellectual freedom necessary for the development of the modern world;
- supporting the activity of the student community;
- providing attractive working and learning conditions conducive to development;
- creating the best conditions for studying and working for people with disabilities (removing architectural barriers, a wide range of support services);
- active promotion of the study offer in English.

Participation in Erasmus+ Programme allows Wrocław University of Science and Technology to realise the assumptions contained in its internationalisation strategy, to increase its visibility on the international arena and to gather valuable experience necessary for the implementation of further EU funded projects. For students, graduates, teaching and administrative staff of WUST participating in the exchange and the opportunity to stay in a foreign partner institutions to carry out the mobility programme, the scholarship holders are able to expand their knowledge and skills, confront their competences with the requirements of the international labour market, benefit from the exchange of experiences and good practices. It is worth noting that participation in the programme equals the possibility of increasing linguistic competence by attending classes conducted in a foreign language or by working in an international environment - but above all the experience of staying in the new cultural setting. In case of staff, established professional contacts often result in attracting partners for new initiatives and joint research projects, as well as strengthening cooperation. For students and graduates, it is important to increase professional and soft skills (such as the ability to adapt to new conditions and a different cultural context, solve problems, analytical thinking, openness to new challenges). Erasmus mobility strengthens the feeling of self-confidence and self-assuredness in students and graduates, the ability to adapt faster to new situations, makes them aware of their strengths and weaknesses. For Wrocław University of Science and Technology, participation in Erasmus projects has for many years been associated with the acquisition of new partners, as well as encouragement to pay attention to the constant development



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of an attractive teaching offer in English. Incoming students enrich the academic community of WUST,, develop openness and intercultural awareness in Polish students, and encourage them to take part in exchange projects. Incoming staff members support the "internationalization at home" process and diversify the university's teaching offer.

Action 2 and 3 projects will provide employees of Wrocław University of Science and Technology with the opportunity to share good practices and will contribute to the introduction of novel solutions developed in cooperation with partner universities in the areas of the University's activity that require modernization. Participation in consortia of European Universities will strengthen the cooperation of WUST with key partners, contribute to promoting interdisciplinarity in learning and teaching, improving inter-territorial and inter-institutional communication and building interaction between the academic and non-academic environment. The goal of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees projects is to create new study programs that integrate various fields of study and often strive to bring students closer to the international research or industrial environment. Students can choose from a list of proposed research projects and work in close cooperation with other researchers. At present, the University is implementing three EMJMD projects, another two are being prepared by the Faculty of Chemistry, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and the Faculty of Civil Engineering and will be submitted in the first call for proposals under the new programme.

In the 2014-2020 edition, the average number of mobilities implemented every year by Wrocław University of Science and Technology was as follows:

- 225 SMS mobilities;
- 116 SMP mobilities;
- 46 STA mobilities;
- 66 STT mobilities.

At the beginning of the implementation of the new edition of the Erasmus + programme, we intend to bring about a 20% increase in the number of mobilities through active promotional activities. The introduction of blended mobility will certainly help us in this, since we expect that thanks to this new type of activity, people who, for economic or personal reasons, were not able to afford longer mobility will decide to use this opportunity. In-depth analysis of participants' reports and interviews with scholarship holders will help us identify problems and efficiently organize subsequent trips. We expect that the information campaign, activating previous scholarship holders as programme ambassadors as well as assistance and mentoring done by OIA employees will lead to an increase in the number of mobilities by 50% until 2027. The average number of students coming to Wrocław University of Science and Technology every year under the Erasmus Programme is 310. The university plans to double this number in the course of the next edition of the Programme. The implementation of the project "International Centre of Wrocław University of Science and Technology" will bring us closer to achieving this goal. The aim of the Project is to increase the potential of WUST in receiving and providing



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assistance to foreign guests and foreign students, including in particular the participants of the Erasmus Programme. The project is also intended to enable the University's academic and administrative staff to increase their competences in the area of management, intercultural, communication, language, analytical or IT competences. Within the project, an International Centre will be created in one of the University's buildings. Its task will be to provide comprehensive services for the University's international activities, including first and foremost the service of students and foreign staff visiting the University. The opening of the Centre is planned for 2021.

PROREKTOR

[Handwritten signature]
Prof. Andrzej Trochimczuk



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