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Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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]

The East European State Higher School in Przemyśl (PWSW) is an international state college founded with the approval of Polish government in 2001.

Our college is open not only to Polish students but also to students of other nationalities, including the significant number of Ukrainian students, what reflects in the important role of our college in promotion of Polish language, culture and European values in the region.

International cooperation of our college includes the exchange with universities of the European Union, Eastern Europe and the United States.

PWSW develops the academic cooperation in a number of geographical areas and cooperates with foreign universities with a similar educational profile.

One of the deciding factors in the selection of a partner university for PWSW is the language area in which partner institution is located, in accordance with the language policy of PWSW, offering courses of Slavic languages, as well as Turkish, English and German.

The cooperation is initiated by the International Relation office of PWSW and Erasmus Coordinator. The selection of a foreign partner institutions is made by departments of PWSW, after appropriate studying of the educational offer of a partner university, what allows our students and staff to benefit efficiently from the mobility in the framework of Erasmus Programme after the cooperation agreement is signed.

An important element of bilateral cooperation is the exchange of lecturers and administrative staff within partner institutions, thanks to which both, PWSW and partner university can monitor the quality of work of the International Relations Office of the partner institution and partner's educational activity.

International cooperation of PWSW

PWSW cooperates with partner universities from the European Union, with particular reference to the Slavic countries, such as Slovakia and Croatia. Among international partners of PWSW, belonging to the European Union, there are universities of Greece and Portugal.

Within the framework of the Erasmus Programme, PWSW collaborates actively also with several Turkish universities. Apart from Erasmus Programme, PWSW develops effective cooperation with Ukrainian and American universities, resulting in mobility of PWSW students within a short-term exchange programmes and incoming students' hosting in Przemyśl.

The key objectives of the international exchange of PWSW include: the increase in the mobility of young people in Subcarpathian Region (including students belonging to national minorities), promotion of learning of European languages, especially Slavic languages and English language, what will contribute to increasing the competitiveness of our graduates in the European labour market, their openness to cultural and ethnic diversity, and to the promotion of culture, language and history of Poland and our region in Europe.

As a college, offering 1st cycle studies, PWSW focuses on international exchange for students of the early years of higher education, in particular: the students of engineering studies. We believe that this will influence the interest in science among high school graduates and thus will lead to increase in the number of future researchers and also business links with education, so important for the modernization of our region and country.

For our college it is also crucial to promote mobility among teachers and administrative staff, in particular, persons who participate daily in international and cultural projects and staff working with youth from abroad hosted at PWSW. It will have an impact on the growing importance of the internationalization of our college and will be an incentive for the teaching and administrative staff to develop language skills and above all, it will affect the quality of teaching of the persons actively participating in the international cooperation.

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]

Our college in an attempt to obtain an Erasmus Charter for 2007-2013, undertook a quality improvement programme for international cooperation in three groups of activities that have been fully achieved:

1. Establishing a specific institutional unit which is in charge of supervising mobility activities and coordinating the cooperation with foreign entities;
2. Content-related preparation and linguistic arrangements enabling students to participate in academic life abroad. We provide supplementary language courses as well as the courses that aim at expansion of knowledge concerning the European Union, the system of higher education abroad and the role it plays there;
3. Financial arrangements in order to undertake the international cooperation at a greater scale, including building a modern library, a new academic campus, international student house that will comprise a modern teaching, social and cultural base with indispensable facilities for the disabled.

The strategy's priority for the next years of PWSW participation in the program will be: increasing the international cooperation in engineering studies field, including the promotion of mobility of students of engineering studies in the frame of Erasmus Programme, both studies and internships. Currently, the university is also planning to expand cooperation to other Slavic-speaking countries, including the Balkans, increasing the number of students benefiting from the Erasmus programme by organizing additional language courses helping to study abroad, the promotion of university partner institutions both through new media, as well as through mobility of teaching staff, so that by 2020 the university could be visited by the possibly significant group of lecturers from the European Union and countries participating in the programme, and increasing the mobility of teachers and administrative staff of our institution.

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]

1st Priority Modernisation Agenda

Participation in the Erasmus for All Programme will enable us to implement the 1st Priority of Modernisation Agenda, by supporting language learning, enabling the exchange that develops the knowledge of studied fields and variety of cultural areas.

The participation in the exchange and international internships by our students will allow them to expand opportunities for job seeking in the future and will encourage them to continue their education and researches, and thus may result in the increase in the number of graduates and future scientists in Europe, what is one of our objectives.

2nd Priority Modernisation Agenda

PWSW is committed to the development of quality its teaching staff, and therefore we would like to participate in the Erasmus Programme to enable the teaching staff the participation in exchange for teaching and training purposes, which will contribute to the development and quality of our education program, innovative teaching methods and the internationalization of the university, important in the process of learning of diversity's acceptance in today's world.

3rd Priority Modernisation Agenda

As a college located near Polish-Ukrainian border, we cooperate with Ukraine in the educational field. The significant part of PWSW students are Ukrainian citizens. Through the projects implemented under the Erasmus programme, we enable students from non-participating country to take part in it, what contributes to the spread of the European values and knowledge about the European Union and its education system.

Due to mobility and access to international internships, PWSW in Przemysl will improve the quality of education and skills of young people, Polish and Ukrainian, in our region.

4th Priority Modernisation Agenda

By including engineering courses to our educational offer and active seeking of international partners in these fields, we want to encourage young people to choose engineering studies, that increase our graduates' competitiveness in the labour market and the number of links of higher education and business.

By increasing the number of partners in the framework of Erasmus programme, especially among technical universities, and by promoting international exchange, we want to improve the quality of teaching. Enabling students to participate in internships in companies abroad will not only increase their competitiveness in the labour market but also will have an impact on innovation of our region and on the number of our future scientists.

5th Priority Modernisation Agenda

Participation in the Erasmus Programme will lead to improvement of the management of international projects in our institution and to the transparency in the process of recruitment and later recognition of the participants' achievements, thanks to the measures that we undertake to create and develop a transparent and widely available procedures for the financing and management of the programme.

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

E

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: Przemysł

Name: Lukasz Węsierski

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013

I have read and accept the Privacy statement

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


Dr hab. inż. Lukasz Węsierski

Original stamp or seal of the Institution

P a n s t w o
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