



Erasmus Policy statement (EPS) Erasmus+

Globalisation, competition, the development of new technologies, economic and social changes beyond demographics are currently the most important factors influencing higher education institutions. In this context, internationalisation is becoming an institutional imperative and covers all aspects of the academic community, research, teaching and social mission. Similarly to other higher education institutions, The State School of Higher Education in Chełm undertakes actions aimed at increasing the level of internationalisation. The ECHE Charter is a kind of quality mark which entitles the University to apply for funding of educational projects, including cooperation with institutions from abroad. Our University pays special attention to partners from neighboring countries, especially from Central and Eastern Europe. This is due to our location on the border of the European Union with Ukraine. PWSZ in Chełm assumes that the main criterion of international partnership will be the quality of research and teaching process. The partnership should be based on trust and sustainable development, guaranteeing added value for all parties involved.

The main objectives of the internationalisation process are: to increase the number of foreign students through more transparent information, tailored guidance and quality services; to offer internationalisation to local students at home by attracting talented students, staff and researchers from abroad; to provide more opportunities for outgoing students and staff to have international experience, intercultural and language competences; to strengthen the international dimension in a greater variety of more practical types of learning and to develop common innovative teaching methods to provide a better chance of employment; to introduce learning mobility more systematically into curricula; to conduct innovative interdisciplinary research projects.

Through active international cooperation, the University sees opportunities to develop partnerships with new regions and countries; to support capacity building; to obtain external funding through active participation in national and international projects; to increase the visibility of the PWSZ in Chełm.

The international cooperation with strategic partners will focus on long-term cooperation with particular emphasis on mobility and joint activities (e.g. study visits, training of staff and students, and part of students' studies at the partner University).

Special attention will be paid to knowledge, education and research and development projects.

There is no doubt that the new programme will have a huge impact on the modernisation of European higher education systems. This should therefore be fully exploited. The new programmes will have an impact on the whole institution and its activities (individuals - students and staff); regional, national and international cooperation; teaching and teaching methods; curricula; research; mobility; internationalisation process; governance; funding.

PWSZ Chełm intends in particular to participate in activities and projects concerning learning mobility of students and employees. Thanks to these activities, the University has a chance to increase the number of graduates, improve the quality and adequacy of teaching and training of researchers, in order to equip graduates with the knowledge and basic competences they need to succeed in professions requiring high skills.

The University will encourage as many students and young teaching staff as possible to participate in the offered programmes, for whom this may be a great opportunity to improve their qualifications.

The University will initiate broad information campaigns about the Programme and its objectives aimed at various target groups through various tools and activities. In order to ensure active participation of PWSZ in Chełm in the Programme and achieve the policy objectives, the administrative and financial structure will be adapted to new challenges.

The University wants to focus primarily on the measure concerning learning mobility of students and employees. Cooperation in this area will contribute to increasing the quality of conducted research, improving the quality of education, developing cultural contacts and exchanging experiences. Through the implementation of mobility and cooperation with foreign partners, the University plans to create an offer of lectures in foreign languages, expand the possibilities of scientific internships abroad for young employees of the University, exchange of students in order to carry out part of their studies at partner universities and student trips for professional internships.

Foreign cooperation is one of the University's strategic priorities. The strategic goal is maximum mobility of students and employees. The University declares its openness to cooperation in many fields with partner universities from European Union countries and with countries outside the Programme, the aim of which is the international character of education. The selection procedure of a partner university is largely based on the scope and plans for longer cooperation. When signing cooperation agreements, the university authorities pay attention to the possibilities of educating PWSZ students at a foreign university in terms of: field of study, language, cost of living, confirmation and recognition of acquired knowledge and skills.

In order to ensure high quality of academic mobility, every year the university allows the teaching staff to go to partner universities to conduct lectures. The number of employees benefiting from this form of scientific development is increasing every year. Also the trips of employees for training are very popular. Students, on the other hand, have the opportunity to study part of their studies at the partner university or to go on a work placement.

The Erasmus + Programme Coordinator employed at the University supports organisational and promotional activities under the programme, provides administrative services for incoming and outgoing students and employees.

Information about the Erasmus + Programme is provided on leaflets, meetings, the website and notice boards.

The participation of the University in the Erasmus programme will allow for the implementation of strategic objectives through the exchange of experience and establishment of new contacts between students and staff abroad. Employees will gain new experience and learn new methods of work, while students will get to know new cultures, strengthen their language skills, gain new experience which will result in their professional life. All these activities are closely related to the intensification of the modernisation process and the University's international activities, so that the graduates of The State School of Higher Education in Chełm are prepared to participate in the European labour market, and at the same time open to European diversity, sensitive to discrimination and not afraid of the challenges that await Europe

The University assumes an increase in the mobility of students and staff in relation to the implementation of the Erasmus + programme in 2014/2020. Measures are being taken to ensure that there is more and more mobility from year to year.

When preparing and implementing mobility, The State School of Higher Education in Chełm applies equal opportunities, transparent rules of recruitment and distribution of financial resources. The University adheres to the principle of non-discrimination and equal treatment of participants. The University provides equal access to the programme offer for both students and employees. The implemented ECTS system in all fields of study ensures full recognition of study periods and subjects completed abroad. The course catalogue is updated and easily accessible on the University's website. In the course of the programme implementation, the University does not provide for any fees from visitors. The University is aware of the principles of the ECHE Charter and undertakes to observe them and take care of the general knowledge of these principles. During the implementation of the programme, the provisions of the European Student Card are implemented. In the new programme, the University intends to undertake activities aimed at promoting mobile Erasmus + application and implementation of environmentally friendly practices. To this end, it is planned, among other things, to reduce paper documentation to the necessary minimum. Citizens' attitudes will also be promoted during the programme implementation.

By implementing the mobility programmes, the University supports its participants in many stages. Students and employees can count on support before, during and after the mobility. Before the commencement of mobility, the University undertakes to publish a catalogue of courses, implement the mobility on the basis of inter-institutional agreements, ensure good preparation of trips, help in obtaining visas and insurance, and help visitors to find accommodation. Appropriate agreements on the study/training programme are concluded with the participants in the mobility. During the mobility, the University ensures equal treatment of participants and support for their integration into the local community. The programme participants can count on advice and support. Participants of the mobility have the possibility of permanent contact with the Erasmus + Programme Coordinator at the University. Upon completion of the mobility, participants will receive a certificate of participation in the programme and a description of achievements.

Participation in the programme has a long-term impact on its participants. Students gain new experiences and competences which help them function on the European labour market. The experience gained by employees in partner universities is included in their professional achievements and is appropriately scored in the employee evaluation system. After returning from the partner university, the scholarship holders share their experiences with other people, encourage them to participate in the programme, help to organize trips, provide advice and assistance.