

# Erasmus+ Policy Statement

years 2021 - 2027

## **Participation in Erasmus+ Programme: objectives to be achieved with reference to WSB University internationalisation and modernisation strategy**

WSB University in Wroclaw (WSB) has been dynamically developing foreign cooperation in recent years, thus meeting the challenges posed by the education and labor market in Poland, Europe and the world. Such an objective is, inter alia, determined by appropriate cooperation with foreign universities from economically and socially diverse world, both European and non-European universities, from North and South America, from Asia. The cooperation is successfully realized within the partnership with HEI's in these regions. The strategy of WSB for years 2021-2025 includes further development of international activities within EU and non-EU countries. According to WSB strategy the university strives to provide students with professional, universal and transparent qualifications combining national and international approach.

In the face of globalization of education, an important goal for WSB is to gain experience through the implementation of international projects and through mobility within and outside Europe, followed by the capitalization of knowledge and opening the education system to global expectations. This approach helps the university create an inclusive, socially responsible university. WSB constantly analyzes the labor market to improve systematically its education offer. International cooperation supports students and employees to understand better the global world and its changes.

WSB strategy is based on 5 main priorities:

- Implementation and development of student and staff mobility;
- Active participation in international programs;
- Internationalization at home;
- Higher percentage of foreign students studying at WSB;
- Improving the quality, competitiveness and enlarging educational range.

The implementation of the above assumptions is to enable improving the quality of education by creating its international dimension. WSB strategy of internationalization and the resulting directions and types of activities is designed to respond flexibly to changes in relation to present challenges, changes in Europe and in the world, the specifics of the global economy, both in the group of OECD countries and in growing countries with developing market economy with which Poland cooperates.

In relation to the five priorities indicated above, the most important activities resulting from the international strategy are:

- Enabling students to study at foreign universities and gain experience in foreign enterprises;
- Enabling administrative staff to gain experience in related units abroad, and teaching staff to conduct classes at partner universities and exchange experience in teaching methodology;
- Improving the transparency and full academic recognition of studies and qualifications;
- Promoting activities abroad and building an international brand;
- Expanding the offer of studies in English as well as guest lectures;
- Internationalization of the university's administration and campus;

- Executing gradual internationalization of research and teaching staff, staff training in the field of English language, innovative pedagogical methods and intercultural competences;
- Promoting good practices through the implementation of short forms of international projects such as: summer schools, business weeks, study visits, adaptation days, international days, conferences, seminars;
- Creating a system of recruitment of foreign candidates for studies;
- Ensuring a high level of service for foreign students and their efficient inclusion in the academic community;
- Building a diversified partnership with universities, both from countries with a developed market economy and from emerging countries;
- Implementing innovative projects, practices and solutions to help in developing and modernizing universities in line with the concept of European Education Area;
- Developing sustainable solutions for didactic and scientific cooperation implemented as part of international academic partnerships;
- Conducting joint scientific researches with foreign partners and implementing their results.

In implementing the above activities, WSB in Wroclaw is largely based on the available opportunities offered by the current Erasmus + program. Further participating in the Erasmus Program and as a part of individual projects, building appropriate partnerships, will be the facilitator supporting the further implementation of the objectives of the internationalization strategy.

The scope of priority actions, whose implementation will be possible thanks to implementation the Erasmus + Program:

- Developing and broadening of the scope of projects with countries with which we have started the cooperation in previous editions of the project;
- Further support for students and staff mobility development which will help to implement best practices and know-how in the internationalization of studies;
- Improving the quality of teaching, qualifications of employees and increasingly better orientation of the university on functioning in an international environment and in accordance with the guidelines of the European Education Area;
- Building a diverse partnership for the implementation of the Erasmus Program;
- Implementation of project activities with partner universities which will help to permanently enhance the quality of education and transferring innovative and transdisciplinary practices in education;
- Increasing inviting experts from abroad to create new attractive learning environments and opportunities for students;
- Further development of the specialization taught in English in cooperation with foreign universities.

### **Participation in the selected Erasmus+ actions and their implementation scheme**

The university intends to participate in the Erasmus Program in actions (KA1) and (KA2). The university will implement actions in KA 1 based on many years of experience to date. In addition, the institution will take care of further improving the organization and will take into account new priorities, such as the promotion of digitization, environmental protection, strengthening civic attitudes and inclusive education. These priorities will be incorporated to achieve appropriate results in the experience and knowledge of students as well as in the development of the university surroundings. As part of the

development of internationalization and thus the impact on the modernization of the university and its innovation, the university intends to implement activities also in action KA2.

- Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices: WSB plans to implement solutions in the field of modernizing the teaching method and increasing its quality and transparency, which will allow students to be better prepared for the needs of the modern economy. Thanks to long-term development of international cooperation, WSB has an extensive university partnership. Involvement in action 2 will help strengthen the network and increase their capacity to operate at transnational level, exchange and develop good practices in the area of current priorities.
- Partnerships for Innovation: The university intends to develop its educational offer based on innovations in this field. To this end, WSB wants to cooperate with universities from partner countries, jointly develop teaching methods that are pre-emptive in relation to the evolution of qualifications. WSB plans to implement projects that will combine the potential of selected universities, seeking synergies between a practical approach to education and research in this field. The example could be the application of transdisciplinary approaches and innovative pedagogical methodologies such as student-oriented teaching, reverse teaching, research-based science, what will help in the acquisition of transferable modern skills.

The implementation of the above plans will be consistent with the WSB strategy, its experience, resources and the current and future network of foreign universities and partner institutions. The potential will be additionally enhanced by the experience and know-how of the new university from Wroclaw, which is currently being taken over by WSB and will be part of WSB from October 2020.

The implementation of projects in KA2 will allow WSB to be closer to the concept of EEA , its shared interest for all EU Member States and use the potential of global education and culture as the foundation for job creation, economic growth and improved social European cohesion and identity.

Individual activities will be implemented and managed in three main stages. In addition, when implementing actions in (KA2), due to the fact of innovatory character of the projects, their concepts, a few additional tasks will be carried out as indicated below at specific stages.

**Stage I** - the preparatory period, before the commencement of activities, including mobilities; updating of interinstitutional agreements; project promotion; qualification of participants; establishing recognition rules; setting dates for implementing mobility; study programs or scope of internship; topics of guest lectures; ensuring proper preparation of beneficiaries, intercultural training; language and technical support.

In addition, at Action 2 (KA2),

Before submitting the grant application:

- Establishing of the project team and definition of responsibilities;
- Studying the needs of universities, students and the environment and appointing them with strategies for internationalization of the university;
- Choosing of partner universities;
- Developing the project concept and consultation of the scope of activities with partner universities. After receiving funding:
- Preparing the implementation schedule and division of responsibilities;
- Defining performance measures, key success factors and planned project results.

## **Stage II – the commencement of activities**

- Ensuring high quality of implemented mobilities so that their periods are implemented as effectively as possible; ongoing monitoring and support of beneficiaries.

### In addition, at Key Action 2 (KA2):

- Conducting monitoring of implementation activities and compliance with project assumptions;
- Extended valuation and reporting of partial effects.

## **Stage III – after the project activities**

WSB in this phase will focus on developing a report on the implementation, sustainable use and dissemination of project results for the purposes of modernizing the university and the implementation of good practices. A detailed project evaluation will take place as well as conclusions and directions of further cooperation will be formulated.

### In addition, at Action 2 (KA2):

Dissemination of project activities and the use of results in a cascade and multiplier form strictly for the functioning of the other individual areas of university.

The Centre for International Cooperation will be the unit for managing and administering the implementation of actions in actions (KA1) and (KA2). In addition, project managers and project team will be selected for KA2 projects. The composition of them will depend on the specifics and scope of the project. Gender equality, equal access principles and an inclusive approach will be used in implementing all planned activities.

## **The impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the institution: qualitative and quantitative targets**

Participation in the Erasmus + Program will strengthen the university potential in international cooperation, acquiring knowledge and skills as well as facing global challenges. Through the implementation of individual projects and activities, the university will be able to provide modern solutions in the education process so that the graduate can cope better in the labor market and education meet the requirements of the modern global economy. The impact on WSB will be reflected through the opportunities that the university will give to students and staff. The university will give students access to high-quality international education.

Administrative staff will analyze good practices and working methods. Teaching staff will enrich the workshop of tools in teaching methodology. The implemented activities will help to promote values such as citizenship, freedom, social inclusion, tolerance, management of sustainable development and the use of new digital tools.

In term of the tasks and timeline in Action KA1, taking into account mobilities with program and partner countries, we plan to send approx. 30-40 students per year for studies and approx. 30-35 students for internships. The number of staff mobilities will fluctuate around 25-30 outgoing persons per year. We will host about 50-60 students and about 20 staff members per year for studies at WSB. As part of the tasks in Action KA2 we initially plan to implement one project per year.

Regarding the monitoring of impact, WSB will apply both qualitative and quantitative indicators, measuring various areas.

1. In terms of mobility targets for student/staff mobility:

- The number of implemented mobilities as well as the grant utilization factor towards the number of places;
- Upward / downward trends of participation and comparison the statistics year to year;
- Proportion of student participation from specific majors;
- Participants' opinions on the benefits of the mobility and their usefulness;
- WSB will also use the results from the final reports of the project to analyze the effects of the Program implementation.

2. In terms of quality of the implementation:

- Informal interviews with students regarding satisfaction with participation in the Program;
- Surveys analysis in mobility tool, the degree of achievement of the learning objectives;
- Grant use management with reference to received funding, occurred expenses;
- The adequacy of human and technical resources, which are necessary assets;
- The effectiveness of communication between partner universities.

3. In terms of support for participants on mobility:

- Percentage of students benefiting from cultural preparation and language support;
- Percentage of students from excluded groups that took part in mobility;
- Percentage of students who participate in our project are interested in re-participation in the Program.

4. In terms of increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action):

- Relating the legitimacy of projects to the assumptions in the internationalization strategy;
- The adequacy of the essential content, the project structure, and relevant methodology;
- The appropriateness of the initiative with the organizational context and the needs.

5. In terms of sustainability/long-term impact of projects:

In this regard, we will relate the implemented activities to the assumptions in the strategy, indicated in five key priorities. In addition, scientific work is carried out at WSB to study the effectiveness and quality of internationalization in the context of needs of the university and the environment. The elaborated tools will allow to measure the adequacy of actions taken in relation to a given period and through a comparative approach it will allow to benchmark the best solutions.