

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) joined the Erasmus Programme in the academic year 1998/1999 as three independent schools: the University of Agriculture and Technology, Higher Pedagogical School and Warmian Theological Institute. After the merger, in 1999, as the largest academic institution in North-Eastern Poland it applied as the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. International cooperation within educational programmes, which enable our students to study abroad and our academics to teach at foreign universities as well as to exchange experience or design joint curricula, has always been a part of our university's mission. Since the beginning of the Erasmus Programme the amount of our outgoing students has increased tenfold, and the amount of incoming students has increase almost fifty times. Also the number of outgoing and incoming academic staff has significantly risen since the beginning of University participation in the Erasmus Programme. Polish language courses within Erasmus EILC have been organized for over five years by the Center of Culture and Polish Language for Foreigners at the UWM. In 2011 EILC course have been awarded by the National Agency as the example of good practice. UWM in Olsztyn intends to continue mobility projects with the institutions we have cooperated for over 15 years, improve their quality and increase the number of outgoing students and incoming students by extending the educational offer in foreign languages. Almost 60 bilateral agreements have been signed with the HEI's from non-participating countries (mostly from the Third Countries). Thanks to the Programme for the years 2014-2020 UWM intends to strengthen the cooperation with its partners countries, mostly in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees as well as the increasing the credit mobility. The objective is to enhance the cooperation with the neighboring countries (Kaliningrad Region, Russian Federation) and with the countries of Latin America, with whom UWM formally cooperated since 2009. Alongside the existing contacts, also the new ones are and will be established due to the mobility of University employees within the Erasmus Programme as well within the Programme for the years 2014-2020.

UWM constantly develops and updates research programmes and curricula content, increasing the level of internationalization and the interdisciplinary character of all scientific disciplines and fields. It actively participates in national and international programmes, as well as, scientific and didactic undertakings to strengthen its relationships with the academic centers both in the European Union and the World. Good access to knowledge, high quality education and high living conditions in dormitories have been twice appreciated by the Student Parliament of the Republic of Poland awarding to UWM the title of a student-friendly university.

UWM has for years cooperated with many business enterprises, arranging training placements for students and staff. By participating in the Programme at the three levels: student mobility, academic staff mobility and administrative staff mobility, our students and employees have a chance to learn practical elements of business and to exchange innovative solutions between the University and enterprises.

The region of the Warmia and Mazury is the homeland of a number of nationalities: German, Russian, Belarusian and Lithuanian. Society of the City and also University is a mixture of people, ideas, cultures, religions and is opened for all students from the Europe and the World.

Ones of the strategic goals of the UWM are to implement and observe high standards of education, suited to the needs of society, taking into special account the region of Warmia and Mazury and to allow the University to pursue its educational and research activities on an international scale. In order to implement international cooperation projects in teaching and training, according to the high demands of the Programme, UWM will

take intensive pro-quality actions, which involve: developing the principles and criteria for evaluation and improving the effectiveness of the Internal System of Education Quality Assurance, supporting education quality, improving the quality of the teaching process by: pursuing excellence in teaching competence by the academic teachers, implementation of international standards in terms of the teaching quality as well as of forms and innovative methods of education (problem-solving education, e-learning), enhancing the quality of foreign language teaching, improvement of the teaching process management, for example, by computerisation of different actions related to the course of studies (e.g. e-indeks [electronic course credit book], electronic ECTS information catalogue), popularisation of UWM in international circles of science, education and art, creating the image of UWM as a modern, thriving university, with a high level of education and supporting entrepreneurship and the national economy, creating and consolidating the opinions about the University as an excellent academic centre. In order to properly organize international cooperation projects in teaching and training, UWM will set up the selection of mobile staff and students in a fair, transparent, coherent and document way. All the individuals and groups will be treated equally, and for those with disabilities UWM will provide an appropriate assistance. Students' participation in the Programme projects will be confirmed by suitable certificate with the ECTS credits and will be recorded in the Diploma Supplement. The knowledgeable staff of the University, for many years involved in the Erasmus Programme, will be assigned to support projects. All the activities in projects' realization will be monitored and reported. Information about projects will be published at the University media (newspapers, website).

The Development Programme for the UWM for the years 2012-2020 fits perfectly with the five priorities of the Higher Education Modernisation Agenda. UWM is going to increase the number of higher education graduates and to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations by the educating students, taking into account the needs of the labour market. UWM will make the education process more practical, by expanding cooperation with the socioeconomic environment as well as by developing educational programs and by implementing projects which enhance the graduates' chances on the labour market mainly through: linking the areas of education with the socioeconomic needs of the country and the region, using opinions of external stakeholders, for example by developing an educational offer "on request", developing educational syllabuses with a practical profile, ones which extend beyond the structure of a single-field major education, while improving the quality of graduates' education, filing applications for projects which enable students and doctoral students to participate in internships in leading centres and enterprises in Poland and abroad. Improving the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training will be reached by the implementation of a new system of remuneration depending on the scientific achievements and educational activity, developing and implementation of the modified criteria of employment and promotion of academic teachers, supporting the participation of the academic staff in internships in Poland and abroad and improving the system of doctoral studies. In order to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance UWM will make the educational process international by: enhancing the attractiveness and competitiveness of the University on the domestic and international education market (developing teaching syllabuses in foreign languages, developing teaching syllabuses to be implemented in collaboration with foreign academic centres in key areas of education, in line with the "Strategy Europe 2020", taking actions aimed at achieving certificates and honourable mentions by the accrediting institutions of the European Commission (e.g. the ECTS Label), supporting and propagating domestic and foreign mobility programmes for both under-graduates and graduate students. UWM will develop the priority fields of research, in line with the national research programme and the research programmes of the European Union in order to strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business. The interdisciplinary research teams as well as consortia and scientific centres with domestic and foreign units will be established. Cooperation with business entities and local governments in the planning of research and the commercialisation of results will be also strengthened. In order to create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence UWM will support application

procedures for funds from the National and EU programmes, ministerial funds and will develop a programme to support innovative solutions and commercialisation of research results.