

Erasmus Policy Statement

The Institute has a long history of international cooperation and staff mobility, usually realized through conducting research projects in cooperation with EU and non-EU institutions. Our partners are chosen based on the commonality of research interests, mainly issues related to broadly-understood Slavic Studies. As a result, our cooperation is focused on institutions in the Central and Eastern Europe and Slavic Studies institutes in other countries. Further, our partners are institutions with the highest record of excellence in research, typically Academies of Sciences in other countries.

Results of this cooperation include common research projects, publications in prestigious journals and publishing houses abroad, co-publishing papers with colleagues from abroad, as well as inviting researchers from partner institutions to publish in our own prestigious journals. Staff mobility is also an occasion for a didactic exchange as outbound and incoming staff members are invited to give guest lectures.

The Institute supports short- and long-term staff mobility by providing financial support for participation in conferences in Poland and abroad, which gives our researchers an opportunity to meet and begin cooperation with top academics. As this can be especially difficult for the junior staff, the Institute organizes an annual grant competition in which they are able to obtain funds necessary to carry out their research or travel to a conference.

The main target group of the Institute's mobility program have been the staff, who are able to participate in independent research projects co-planned and implemented with partner institutions. The junior staff can count on some additional support in terms of funding for research trips, conferences and workshops whose aim is to help them establish their academic networks and continue their education. As the Institute only has a doctoral program, the number of students participating in mobility is not high and we intend to raise this number by promoting mobility among students and providing administrative and academic support for planning and organizing outbound and incoming mobility. International students are also interested in participating in the doctoral program and they usually enroll in the full cycle rather than come for an exchange.

In order to promote equal hiring and advancement opportunities the Institute has begun to implement the European Charter for Researchers.

The most important objectives of the Institute's mobility program focus on promoting and improving academic excellence among the staff and students. The opportunity to cooperate with colleagues from other institutions is invaluable in the field of Slavic Studies, which often includes a strong comparative element in the research conducted. Working closely with EU and non-EU academic institutions and research centers enables our staff to stay involved in current trends in science and consequently also produce high-quality research. Our outbound staff also appreciates the importance of exploring solutions introduced in our partner

institutions in order to improve their quality of teaching and research. Similarly, consulting with incoming colleagues from abroad on research projects and general research interests is an important element of continuous education for our staff. We aim to increase participation of our PhD students in mobility programs as we believe they would receive similar benefits as our staff.

In addition, we believe that part of the purpose of the existence of the Institute is sharing our own academic and research experience with institutions abroad, including non-EU countries. We believe that Slavic Studies centers all over the world can and should improve their cooperation in the interest of research excellence in this field of study.

International cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program will be organised and implemented on the basis of the existing administrative and academic structure, which currently supports other types of international cooperation. In addition, a Specialist will be hired, whose responsibilities will include promotion, planning, organisation and implementation of staff and student mobility in Erasmus+ Program. Participating in the Erasmus+ Program will provide an opportunity to strengthen the International Cooperation Team.

The Institute has been involved in some mobility and international cooperation activities described above, but participation in the Erasmus+ Program would be an important step towards further modernization of this institution in reference to the 5 priorities of the modernization Agenda:

1 - Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

The didactic efforts of the Institute are concentrated on educating and training PhD students, who often go on to continue their career in the academia and become successful researchers in the field of Slavic Studies. Exchanges within the Erasmus+ Program would give our participants the opportunity to have direct contact with the current research trends in their fields and to share their own high-quality research with specialists in other countries.

2 - Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

With the creation of its PhD program the Institute intended to promote Slavic Studies among potential future researchers as a modern field of study. In order to improve attaining this objective we need to enable the students and academic teachers to explore institutions of similar character abroad and encourage them to implement successful solutions found elsewhere.

We believe that our own staff would also be able to share useful insight into teaching and research in the field of Slavic Studies, thus contributing to the growth in excellence and relevance of higher education.

3 - Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

Free and easy exchange of ideas is crucial in contemporary academia. Especially in the field such as Slavic Studies, which involves a lot of cross-border and international research, being in touch with research topics explored in other institutions is invaluable. Participating in the Erasmus+ Program would allow us to develop such cooperation and achieve even better results by being able to increase mobility of all levels of staff and students.

4 - Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

The Institute is working on research projects that involve not only humanities academics, but also IT specialists working alongside linguists in order to create high quality digital tools that will be used both in the scientific community and in business. Thanks to increased mobility within the Erasmus+ Program our staff would be able to cooperate closer with business partners interested in implementing the results of our research as well as begin cooperation with regards to other ongoing and future projects.

5 - Improving governance and funding

Receiving the Erasmus Charter would enable the Institute to hire a Specialist who would be solely responsible for coordinating staff and student mobility and providing support for the participants. Our staff and students' mobility opportunities would increase significantly thanks to the financial and organizational support of the Erasmus+ Program.