

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

The Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences 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 mostly 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.

In 2014 we received the ECHE 2014-2020 and since then we have been successfully promoting Key Action 1 – Learning mobility: The mobility of higher education students and staff. Our staff and students have had the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus Programme since the academic year 2016/2017.

After the award of the ECHE, we intended to establish new contacts with foreign institutions, which has been possible thanks to our staff mobility and visits of colleagues from abroad in order to give guest lectures, conduct research, exchange research ideas, as well as academic experience. Our students have also been encouraged to take part in the Programme, as it gives them opportunities to study abroad and gain professional experience during internships in foreign institutions. The Programme has been promoted in the Institute in many ways, including publishing all necessary information on the Institute's official website, in social media, sharing them during seminars and other meetings. Our former participants of the Programme have become great "ambassadors" of Erasmus, eagerly sharing their experience and knowledge with staff / students and encouraging them to take part in the Programme. Attention has also been paid to the equal access to the Programme and equal opportunities for our staff and students. The satisfactory results we have achieved are the main reason to apply for the ECHE 2021-2027.

In the future we aim to maintain our cooperation with foreign institutions, as well as find new Programme partners and increase our staff and student mobility. Results of the cooperation will 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 will also be an occasion for a didactic exchange as outbound and incoming staff members are invited to give guest lectures. Thus, the Erasmus Programme will be an important step towards further internationalization and modernisation of our Institute, as well as a contribution to the goals of a European Education Area. We would like to enhance the attractiveness and accessibility of higher education in Europe, offering our staff and students opportunities to undertake a learning and professional experience in foreign countries, promote language learning, innovation and exchange of experience in cooperation with Programme Countries.

The main target group of the Institute's mobility programme 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 programme, 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 programme, but 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 programme 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 centres 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 programmes as we believe they would receive similar benefits as our staff. We would also like to enhance the participants' foreign languages competence (the knowledge of at least two foreign languages), raise their awareness and understanding of other cultures and countries, promote inclusive education with common values and ensure a better recognition of competences gained through the training periods abroad. Finally, we aim to promote environmentally friendly practices and we assume that the participants' digital competences and skills will be developed through the Programme.

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 centres in Europe and all over the world can and should improve their cooperation in the interest of research excellence in this field of study.

By signing and agreeing on the principles of the ECHE 2021-2027 we will achieve the objectives mentioned above participating in the Key Action 1 – Learning mobility: The mobility of higher education students and staff.

International cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus Programme have been 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 was hired, whose responsibilities include promotion, planning, organisation and implementation of staff and student mobility in the Erasmus Programme. Participating in the Programme have provided 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 Programme has also been an important step towards further internationalisation and modernization of this institution in reference to the priorities of the higher education modernisation Agenda:

- Increasing attainment levels and the number of higher education graduates 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+ Programme 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.

- Improving the quality and relevance of higher education, teaching and researcher training, equipping graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations

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 is also 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.

- Providing more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and encouraging cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance

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 Programme has allowed us to develop such cooperation and achieve even better results by being able to increase mobility of all levels of students and staff.

- Strengthening the "knowledge triangle", 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 Programme our staff is 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.

- Creating effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence

Receiving the ECHE enabled the Institute to hire a specialist who is 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 further financial and organizational support of the Erasmus Programme.