



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Participation in Erasmus+

Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki i Zarządzania is a university for which one of the key elements of the development policy is the process of internationalization of science and the didactic process. Therefore, WSIZ included activities related to the development of the mobility of students and research and teaching staff in its strategic goals for the coming years. In the new Erasmus + program (2021-2027), WSIZ wants to get involved in the following actions:

- 1) Erasmus Action 1 (KA1 Action) - Learning mobility
- 2) Erasmus Action 2 (KA2 Action) - Cooperation between organizations and institutions
- 3) Erasmus Action 3 (Action KA3) - Support for the development policy and cooperation.

As part of the WSIZ program, it plans to continue cooperation with the University's current partners from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as Austria in the field of jointly implemented research projects, workshops and exchange of students and researchers. In addition, WSIZ intends to acquire new partners from Ukraine and Asian countries, such as Vietnam, China, and undertake joint educational initiatives with them.

Strategy, objectives and impact

WSIZ is a university that attaches great importance to high standards of education in five IT areas, i.e. computer graphics, programming, network administration, web-development, e-marketing, and takes care of the internationalization of students and academic staff. To achieve this goal, it cooperates with external stakeholders, companies and scientific institutions from Poland and abroad, implementing joint projects aimed at the transfer of knowledge and innovation in the field of modern information and telecommunications technologies. University partners help to develop technological facilities of the university, create and modify innovative concepts of effective education, focused on practical skills and gaining key international skills by students on the international job market of professional qualifications. Generally, the IT sector is characterized by a very high dynamic of technology development. A university focused on educating IT specialists must, due to this dynamics, also adapt very quickly to changes in the IT market. All WSIZ specialization subjects are correlated with the current technological trends, not only in terms of current technological trends but also in terms of technologies that IT specialists consider to be the most promising for the next 3 years. In particular, the WSIZ wants the university staff to consist mostly of specialists not only familiar with the relevant technologies, but also working in these technologies in a scientific and commercial nature. A strong emphasis is also put on the development of linguistic competences. For this reason, most of the language classes are



conducted in the form of language courses in order to prepare the student for active use of the language in everyday professional practice. WSIZ, in cooperation with an external company, allows you to obtain the enPro language certificate (www.languagecert.org), with the result expressed according to the standards of the Council of Europe (CEFR) at the level from A1 to C2 which tests the knowledge of English in the world of work in the context of professional work and mobility in an English-speaking environment. The accession of WSIZ to the Erasmus program will contribute to the further development of the educational potential of the university and to the extension of the study program offer for foreign candidates and will enable the current university students to complete part of their studies, including internships and internships in foreign institutions. Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki i Zarządzania is currently applying for the Erasmus Charter for higher education for the period 2021-27 which will allow for further scientific development of its academic staff and promotion of professional internships in foreign companies in the university's student environment. Participation in the Erasmus Program and in particular in the Key Actions related to learning mobility and cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices will contribute to the promotion of Polish science at foreign universities and to the promotion of openness and European integration policy in the Silesia region, in particular among the university's academic community. We are aware that the inability to use European programs significantly reduces the potential of universities in the implementation of student exchange projects which reduces their competitiveness on the international arena. In addition, in the current situation, the inability to participate in the Erasmus program limits the participation of staff in international scientific projects, and thus limits their scientific development, which is a significant problem from the point of view of the future of the university. Participation of the WSIZ academic staff in the Erasmus + program will allow for the exchange of teaching experiences with other European universities and the transfer of knowledge between scientists from European universities and academic staff of universities. The effects of such cooperation will result in joint conferences and scientific publications as well as workshops with the participation of own and foreign students. Trips under the Erasmus+ program will allow for establishing new contacts and deepening the already existing cooperation between WSIZ and academic centers abroad with which the university has been cooperating for years. Therefore, joining the Erasmus+ program is one of the basic priorities of the university's policy for the coming years.

Indicators

- 1) WSIZ as a small university located on the periphery of the main Polish IT industry centers implements a policy focused on creating a modern and competitive center for educating specialists for the IT industry. By participating in the Erasmus+ program, the university expects the following results: The enrollment statistics in recent years show a dynamic growth of candidates for engineering studies. The observed trend may have its source in a modern educational offer focused on the requirements of the labor market, which arouses interest among young people. As it turns out, this is very



often short-term enthusiasm, which in the long run does not result in stable groups of students. We believe that participation in the Erasmus Program and the acquisition and inclusion of foreign field experts in the education process will contribute to a further increase in the attractiveness of the university's educational offer and will reduce the percentage of students dropping out of further education at every stage of their studies. Additionally, the possibility of a student to complete part of the studies or internships abroad may be an important factor in the recruitment process for engineering studies.

- 2) Participation in the mobility programs of the scientific-didactic and scientific staff will ensure the maintenance of the highly qualified and pro-development academic staff whose goal will be to achieve the best possible results of education in the entire area of the study program.
- 3) Including students from our university in mobility programs and admitting students from abroad will allow us to develop relations with universities from partner countries (i.e. the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine or Turkey) and contribute to the promotion of culture of respect for the diversity of customs and lifestyles in the WSIZ academic environment.
- 4) The university is aware that language competences have a huge impact on employability in the IT industry. For this reason, we believe that active participation in the mobility programs of our students and the use of the OLS system (Erasmus Linguistic Support) offered in the Erasmus Program will enable students to overcome language barriers and acquire practical language skills (in the field of technical English), which are extremely important in communication in various professional situations and intercultural dialogue.