

## Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

University of Technology and Life Sciences in Bydgoszcz (UTP) is a multi-profile university with over 60 years of experience. It has more than 50 fields of study at three levels of education and is very active both in technical and natural sciences. It works in the Bologna system and meets all the requirements to actively participate in educational and research projects of the European Union. UTP also has many years of experience in international cooperation, which has always been a very important part of the development of the university and has been developed over the years by participating in many international projects and programs such as Erasmus, LdV, Tempus and CEEPUS.

UTP strategy has been developed for the years 2011 - 2020 and approved by the Senate of the University as a major goal of development is committed to the internationalization of the university. The strategy is to increase the internationalization of the university by building strong partnerships with foreign institutions. Natural partners for UTP are institutions with whom we worked on earlier international projects (both EU and non-EU). They are so called Strategic Partners, on the basis of which we can plan and develop further cooperation. Natural partners for UTP are also universities we work with in the framework of LLP / Erasmus program since it is known that they have a similar profile, similar courses of study as well as the cooperation with them is supported by bilateral long-term contracts that guarantee compliance with certain rules. UTP also aims at searching for new partnerships, especially with institutions in Eastern Europe and the Far East because there we see an opportunity to attract students and staff. As far as the geographic approach is concerned UTP strategy sets out the following development directions:

- EU countries we cooperate with in joint programs such as LLP, LdV and the Structural Funds. It is a natural course of development, which continues to be developed. We are also very much interested in cooperation with Turkey, because there we see great economic and demographic potential.
- another important direction for us is Eastern Europe particularly Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, with whom we already work for example in the Tempus program.
- UTP is also interested in cooperation with China, because there we see great potential and opportunities to attract students, teaching staff as well as to conduct joint research.

The main objectives that UTP included in the strategy of university internationalization:

- increasing the mobility of students in all fields and levels of education, both to study and to practice,
- increasing the internationalization of education by launching as many courses in English as possible,
- increasing the number of incoming students arriving for both part study and full study,
- launching joint study programs with foreign universities ending with the double / multi diploma,
- implementation of joint educational and research projects with foreign partners, also with non-EU partners,
- increasing the students mobility, so that students are better prepared to enter the labor market and meet the expectations of employers,
- increasing the mobility of both teaching and administration staff in order to broaden their horizons, gain and exchange experience, establish contacts,
- increasing the number of incoming personnel, the so-called Visiting professors, to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of the university,
- establishing cooperation with foreign companies, so that students can take part in their practice but also to conduct joint research or participate in international projects. Cooperation with companies will also contribute to improving the practical aspects of education and adapting the university to labor market needs.

UTP would focus primarily on the students mobility at all three levels of education. We especially want to encourage students to participate in internship because it is extremely important to gather experience they need in their future work.

Increasing the mobility of students is our priority. We also want to continue to develop the mobility of academic staff at all levels as well as administrative staff. The experience gained during the mobility periods is invaluable to their professional development and are also appreciated by the university.

An important part of the UTP strategy is also developing joint study programs with foreign universities, which could finish in the issuing of double diplomas.

We believe that the mobility of students and academic staff is a key part of its internationalization, while the participation in the LLP / Erasmus program gives us the opportunity to implement and achieve the planned goals.

UTP is aware of the benefits of the implementation of and participation in international research and education projects, and therefore an important element of UTP strategy is to encourage and support the staff and students to take action in this direction. When it comes to research projects UTP mainly supports the actions taken in order to obtain projects under FP7.

When it comes to educational and training projects the University supports initiatives involving:

- projects aimed at setting up joint study programs with universities from EU and non-EU,
- multilateral projects aimed at creating new mechanisms, tools and educational techniques,
- projects intended to link the university with local labor markets, so that the offer of UTP best suited the needs of employers,
- projects that increase the mobility of students and staff,
- projects providing apprenticeship opportunities in domestic and foreign companies and institutions,
- projects that support intensive courses and summer schools.

In order to encourage staff and students to participate in project activities, UTP provides full support both on the institutional and departmental level. Working schedule is adapted to project needs and additional resources are allocated to support the project. Rector has allocated additional funds to support the project preparing and implementation. Personnel involved into project has reduced the range of activities, so that he could devote time to the project activities. Administrative and financial support is ensured. Also space on the UTP website is ensured to support dissemination and exploitation project results.

Participation in such projects is seen as an important aspect of the professional development and is considered during evaluation process.

The participation of the university in the program will contribute significantly to realizing the objectives set in the UTP strategy and accelerate the process of internationalization and modernization of the university. Maintaining good development tendencies of the university by attracting European funds for the development and promotion of mobility and the realization of other teaching goals will allow for maintaining a constant number of students in spite of unfavorable demographic trends. Increasing the number of people with higher education is particularly important in technical sciences as it is necessary for the functioning of the economy.

