



Erasmus Policy Statement of Maritime University of Szczecin for 2014-2020

The internalization strategy of Maritime University of Szczecin assumes improvement of the attractiveness of our University through widening of the mobility offer both for incoming and outgoing students and staff as well as close cooperation with the maritime industry. The policy has been elaborated in accordance to the Maritime University of Szczecin Strategy for the years 2011-2020 (www.am.szczecin.pl). The main strategy for mobility partnerships in years 2014–2020 is to depart from purely exchange oriented alliances in favour of broader strategic partnerships between the MUS and HEI/enterprises/institutions. Each mobility agreement with HEI will be preceded by an analysis of possible cooperation on both educational and research fields, as well as transfer of good practices between partners. By analogy the partnerships with companies and institutions will be focused on developing the finest practical training expertise for both MUS students and staff. Maritime University will continue cooperation with Partners acquired through participation in the Programme until now and will monitor those partnerships to make sure that different options of cooperation are being advantageous to the institution.

As a result of participation in Programme the Maritime University of Szczecin has acquired several partners from the Baltic Sea region. This cooperation will be continued and developed because of many common areas of interests. In the upcoming Programme the University will be also interested in developing strong partnerships with other institutions (academic and industrial) from the participating Countries – with the emphasis on these regions that have well developed maritime, transport and IT industry. The most popular language during the mobility actions for students and staff is English but with the aim to facilitate participation in mobility actions it is important that mobility would be also available to those who prefer studying/teaching/training in other European languages. That is why partnerships will not be limited only to study programs delivered in English but will also include degrees in other popular European languages such as German, French, Spanish or Italian. With the same reason the partners from countries with different subsistence costs will be selected to enable participation in the Programme also to those with smaller income.

Maritime University of Szczecin is also interested in establishing the cooperation with non - participating countries. The University has drawn contracts with several HEI partners from the neighborhood countries as well as Asia and is interested in developing mobility actions

with those Institutions under the Programme as well as acquiring new partners from those regions.

The student mobility under the Programme in 2014 – 2020 at MUS will be aimed into students from 1st, 2nd, 3rd level of studies, both incoming and outgoing. To ensure mobility quality Partner HEI's and MUS study programs/training programs would need to be continually checked for compliance. But it is also important to offer students added value in comparison to studying only at home institution. To assure the highest quality and allow the full recognition of results nautical and marine engineering programs will be verified whether they are in accordance to the STCW 95 IMO convention. The outgoing mobility will be realized with aim to increase the attractiveness of studying in the Maritime University of Szczecin.

Cooperation in exchanging staff from MUS and partner institutions will let employees to raise their competences and exchange experiences in the areas that are especially interesting for MUS (e.g. developing innovative educational areas, introducing e-learning, integration of foreign students). The development of academic offer in English will also allow for the visiting academic staff activity to be easily integrated into regular classes. Those actions will facilitate the MUS international cooperation both with and within the Programme. The important reason for participation in mobility actions under the Program is the opportunity to prepare for launching full degrees conducted in English. According to The University strategy by 2020 the degrees will be available at all faculties, which will be additionally fostered by MUS mobility actions. Accepting incoming mobility is also important because it allows MUS students and staff to benefit from the international study environment, without actual going abroad themselves. This way the impact of the Programme exceeds greatly the number of actual number of mobility participants.

Launching double or multiple degree is an important part of MUS strategy under the Programme. The MUS main interest is developing multiple master degrees. The criterion for choosing the partners is their complementarity. The aim of joining partners is to develop the study programs that would exceed programme value of a single degree.

Under the Programme Maritime University of Szczecin intends to engage in international projects regarding strategic partnerships on adult training and knowledge alliances. The strategic partnerships will be focused on maritime industry including maritime HEIs, companies, vocational training institutions, authorities, training institutions and centres of excellence with an aim to cooperate in improving and integrating the maritime education system at all levels. Fostering the transfer of innovation and cooperation between higher education and enterprises will be with aim to focus on innovations in Maritime/Transport/IT sector. This collaboration with other institutions will also help to reshape and optimise educational and research profiles.

Key actors regarding international projects under the Programme in the Maritime University of Szczecin will be Centre for Maritime Technology Transfer (www.cttm.am.szczecin.pl) and International Mobility Office (www.international.am.szczecin.pl), a specialized units dealing with academia- industry cooperation and transfer of knowledge and innovation. These units also provides comprehensive support to MUS employees and students in the process of submitting applications, grant agreement signing, implementation and reporting of European and international project. Specialised unit with the Accountancy Department is set up with the sole purpose of handling projects' expenditure. MUS provides also full support in terms of project promotion facilities. All employees and students are free to take part in project related events (e.g. seminars, meetings, conferences) and freely exploit project results. Student participation in training projects is on non-compulsory, non-discriminatory basis. Web resources produced by project consortia are made available to general public on non discriminatory basis (unless agreed otherwise with regard to IPR). Involvement in international projects constitutes an important factor in periodic academic staff evaluation and in applying for yearly Rector Awards.

Participation in the Programme will give the Maritime University of Szczecin an opportunity to increase academic offer aimed to regular and incoming international students. By doing so the University prepares for launching international degrees conducted entirely in English and in result enriching the study programs and giving students the opportunity to study in international environment as well as attracting the international students from participating and nonparticipating countries to studying at MUS. The second and third level study programs delivered in English will also attract the graduates from HEI's where those levels are not available which will directly increase graduate number on master and doctoral levels.

Each international project MUS is planning to engage in is preceded by a careful needs and capacity analysis – the projects will be always selected with a clear view of attainable results all of which are to contribute directly to institutional development of MUS, to increase teaching quality, to strengthen/broaden links of MUS in relation to its partners and other contracting parties. Through exchange of knowledge and best practices with its international partners, MUS increases its overall staff expertise in the field of maritime education. This also directly translates into its students being provided with more up-to-date information and being better adjusted to current and future labour market needs. Training projects frequently provide students with skills and competences that are left out by the formal system of education, thus filling an important gap.

At present, MUS has been complying with the recommendation that projects should engage also the business sector which ensures the University stays au courant with industrial and technological challenges, discoveries and obstacles. The cooperation between MUS academic staff and the companies will provide the MUS employees to constantly update their knowledge and combine their theoretical expertise with practical skills. It also provides MUS students with still more opportunities for putting their theoretical background into

practice as partner companies are willing to accommodate student placements. Holding work placements with real companies gives the students a better insight into their potential career paths, often preventing them from making wrong choices or expanding their awareness of the whole spectrum of career options.

The involvement in the projects with international partners will also help in comparing the different mechanisms in education, training, labour market management or the national policy as well as creating alliances to promote good practice or effective governance examples in the maritime sector. Those mechanism can be also transferred and adapted to the needs of participating and non - participating countries to support of excellence.