



## Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) 2014-2020

### **I. ULS's international strategy.**

The main aim of the international strategy of University of Lower Silesia is enhancing ULS's standing as an international university. The international co-operation has always been an important factor in integrating ULS in EU and non-EU partnerships. ULS has greatly benefited from the LLP-Erasmus Programme by making close relationship with 63 most important HEIs in 23 European countries. Partnerships have also been made through involvement of ULS's academics in international research and scientific and educational networks in Europe and in the world, i.e.: ESREA, EUPRERA, AE-A, IAEVG, ISCAR, iDMAa, AUDEM, TACEUSS, EAIE. The University considers student and faculty participation in wide educational and research structures on the EU and non-EU level to be a crucial part of its strategy. In this strategy also ULS Academic Press plays significant role publishing books in English, participating in the "Index Plus" project ("Internationalization and promotion of the Quarterly <Teraźniejszość-Człowiek-Edukacja> in the English language academic circles") financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. ULS publishes also "Journal of Counselling" an annually published magazine edited by the Association of Counselling Science.

The decisions of participating in EU and non-EU projects / partnerships are taken whenever it guarantees maximizing efficiency and quality in teaching and students' satisfaction. When it comes with the organizational growth, innovation and possibility to realize ULS's full potential – the project / partnership is accepted. Such decision making method will be followed under the Programme 2014-2020.

ULS's international strategic partnerships contribute to a range of academic activities, linking learning and teaching, enterprise, research and knowledge transfer. This process will help ULS to achieve the influential world-leading research profile. Developing and gaining the high quality of international partnerships are the aims of the strategy for the years 2014-2020.

Under the Programme the following activities are planned at ULS: student mobility to and from EU and non-EU countries (studies and traineeships); ULS staff mobility to HEIs or other organizations to and from EU and non-EU countries; creation and establishment of international common teaching programmes (double diploma/multiple/joint degrees). The number of ULS's mobile students from all levels and fields of studies participating in the studies and traineeships abroad should significantly increase. Faculties and central bodies are working on common strategy to make the period of studies a regular part of curriculum. The idea of "exchange window semester" is taken into consideration when building the new syllabuses.

Simultaneously ULS struggles for growing number of foreign students. For the last four years University has developed the number of regular studies in English, from one to four fields of studies. To recruit students from diverse markets to all levels of studies - ULS is involved in the "Ready Study Go! Poland" the promotional campaign of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education and Foundation for the Development of the Education System. Since 2010 it has participated in the programme: "Study in Poland" and its promotional campaigns, has taken part in the international educational fairs on EU and non-EU level. ULS has also participated in Wrocław universities consortium which implemented the project: "Teper Wrocław", organized regionally to attract the students from the newly independent states to study in Wrocław.

The main ULS's partners are: EU institutions, institutions from EFTA member countries, Switzerland, Turkey and Croatia, as well as many American universities (common educational projects on every year basis, i.e.: Experiencing the New Europe, that won the American Award of National Collegiate Honors Council, NCHC, from the best international studies in 2011) and one

Australian university. The University now focuses on wider co-operation with Asian countries, Russia and the newly independent states such as.: Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. Under the Programme 2014-2020 ULS plans to cover a wide geographic scope.

ULS co-operates with a wide range of organizations and educational institutions on the national and regional level. It is HEI with a strong commitment to public service in the city and the region of Lower Silesia, i.e.: ULS has coordinated 6 projects within cohesion policy, funded by structural funds. It participates in the programme “Visiting Professors”, organized by Mayor of the City and Committee of Wrocław and Opole Rectors, where world-wide known scientists come to ULS with lectures or workshops. For years 2014-2020 the main aim of the strategy for the local level is to maximize the University’s cultural, social and intellectual contribution to the quality of life in the city and the region.

## **II. Institution’s strategy for the organization and implementation of international co-operation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.**

International research collaborations are a cornerstone of ULS’s strategy of building and sustaining research capacity at the University. ULS seeks to foster an environment in which research and learning practices mutually inform and strengthen one another.

Having growing number of PhD students and facing the rapid development of Third Level Studies ULS pays its attention to the enrichment of PhD offer, sharing theoretical knowledge and collecting good practices from European perspective. Thanks to ULS’s active involvement in the works of European Network of Education Policies (ENTEP) ULS participates now in European Doctorate in Teacher Education (EDITE) multilateral project under Erasmus. Interdisciplinary joint doctoral curriculum for teacher education with transnational supervisor system will be established at the University as the result of the project.

The other projects ULS is involved following its strategy are:

- European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling (ECADOC). The idea of the project is to develop in Europe doctoral programme in the field of vocational / work psychology (there are no structured doctoral programmes in Europe in this field),
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CDEFOP) - the research project following the invitation from University Network for Innovation and Guidance and Counselling in Europe – NICE. The results of the research will be used to inform CEDEFOP’s research agenda.

ULS as one of the best-known non-public Polish universities in the area of education is focused also on the educational projects that could expand its offerings.

Educational projects with enterprises, SMEs, social partners, local authorities are often implemented into study curriculum, as the optional courses, that students can choose from a wide variety of courses.

Under the Programme all types of co-operation projects are planned at ULS. All strategic partnerships and knowledge alliances will be kept and developed.

### **III. Expected impact of ULS's participation in the Programme on the modernisation of the University in terms of the policy objectives ULS intends to achieve**

ULS as the higher education institution should enable students to make a significant contribution to society by broadening their horizons, by providing them with ability to study abroad and by stimulating them to search for new knowledge.

Following National Framework of Qualifications and the Reforms on Research and Higher Education in Poland implemented in 2011 – the University is obliged to provide students with more opportunities to gain additional skills, especially through studies or traineeship abroad. Moreover, they must be equipped in transferable competences to succeed in the market requirements. All key competences develop easily through international mobility. ULS is seeking to design curricula incorporating the skills employers are looking for. Every year ULS renews its educational offer. This is permanent and dynamic process which involves faculties and central bodies. In the employment situation in Europe it is still the growing factor that HEI should be able to react effectively to the market requirements. When participating in the Programme ULS will develop relations with existing partners to provide meaningful internships and to co-operate more efficiently with business. An important challenge for the University is to develop the internationalization “at home” and to offer similar opportunities for the majority of students, who do not take part in an international experience. Participation in the Programme enables ULS to gain it. Growing number of students' and staff exchange, common projects will link education, research and economy market.

In the situation of a very strong competition between HEIs in Poland, ULS as a non-public HEI is obliged to improve the quality of teaching and to be the most effective and efficient organization. The Quality Management System implemented at ULS in 2010 as the internal procedure with ISO standards helps in it.

Participation in the Programme in the years 2014-2020 guarantees sustainable development of all activities that have been started and implemented within the last eleven years, since ULS joined SOCRATES Programme for the first time. These long-term processes are constant and continually help the University to modernise it. Participation in the Programme will significantly encourage the next stage of modernization processes at ULS (i.e. a variety of technological developments that aim to enrich e-learning tools). Modernising higher education as main point for Europe 2020 strategy needs to be started from each educational institution. Without active co-operation with HEIs on the EU and non-EU level, without learning from each other, without capacity building projects, without co-operation with enterprises – it will not be possible.

The high quality of study programmes and research performance confirmed many times by the State Accreditation Commission (PKA), various national and international scientific awards and research grants, as well as continuously high position in national rankings of HEIs - will be kept by ULS.