

The long-term aim of the modernisation strategy of the University of Lodz is to educate the citizens of Europe that are skilled and live in an inclusive, democratic and responsible European society, as well as to maintain the unity of science, teaching and upbringing in the spirit of the European academic tradition. In the globalisation era, the development of university-level education and the implementation of scientific research requires cooperation going beyond the borders of individual universities and countries, in which these universities operate. The University of Lodz strongly supports the European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport, and the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is integral to the realisation of the university strategies and aspirations.

The values underlying the mission of the University of Lodz relate to community, innovation for development, openness and unity in diversity. They represent the attitude of European citizenship and responsibilities, fostering social and research innovation, as well as expanding regional cooperation across the clusters of local government, civil society actors and cultural life. The community of the UL believe that higher education has a power to make a significant intellectual, cultural and economic contribution to the world and is committed to international excellence through mobility and creation of world-changing projects within research and inspirational teaching.

The reflection on deep internationalization, the value of the united diversity of European languages and cultures and cross-border cooperation for a more inclusive and digitally enhanced academic experience have allowed to formulate the primary goals for the participation in the Erasmus Programme. These goals are interlinked, complement each other and rely on one another in many ways.

1. Extended Cooperation – cooperation is the foundation of the internationalisation strategy and is reflected in:

- Participation in European University initiative to provide a pan-European space for the mobility of people and ideas to integrate the new generation of creative Europeans collaborating in different languages, across the borders of states and disciplines, in order to rise to major social challenges and address the shortages of qualified staff in Europe.
- Forming consortia and networks with international partners to boost mobility and implement projects that develop innovation and improve the quality of education and research.
- Collaboration with other sectors of education, reaching out to schools, institutions of vocational training, as well as providing lifelong learning opportunities for the community.

- Setting alliances with business and local industry to better adjust the study offer to the changing requirements of the labour market, as well as transfer to academia the best practices from the world of work.
- Partnership with the city of Lodz, local NGOs, associations and groups to work jointly for the development of the region, fostering social projects, charity work, volunteering initiatives, as well as to develop the social innovation projects.

2. Quality of Education:

- Development and modernisation of educational offer by the introduction of new study programmes on Bachelor and Master level instructed in foreign languages on the basis of a thorough market research and in response to the global challenges.
- Continuous training of academic staff in teaching methodologies, with particular focus on the creation of online courses.
- Expanded offer of elective subjects in foreign languages (also online) to provide international exchange students with greater flexibility in designing their study plans. They will be able to better match the subjects they attend to their personal interests, future career choices, as well as the requirements of the home institution, which will support recognition.
- Establishment of international joint degree programmes and double diploma programmes with international partners.
- Elaboration of new teaching formats and methodologies, as well as online and blended pedagogies, also in cooperation with the partners universities to benefit from a combined potential of academic expertise and offer didactics of high quality.
- Provision of knowledge based on the cutting-edge research that is fostered by the development of personal skills and attitudes much sought on the labour market but also stimulate social sensitivity, active engagement with community and environmental awareness.
- Create conditions for the acquisition of two languages except for the mother tongue among students and staff by offering language courses and developing language teaching pedagogies.
- Personalisation of students' and doctoral students' training, understood in terms of an individual approach, is a core objective of the university. It is intended to identify and foster their potential and develop academic passions from the very beginning of studies.

3. Digital Transformation:

- Digitisation of a mobility process starting from the application, through selection and contractual procedures, as well as during mobility and after mobility, including the process of recognition.
- Implementation of Erasmus Without Paper initiative to simplify the procedures related with mobility of students and staff.
- Adaptation of administrative processes to the requirements of a digital era.
- Provision of tool and methodologies for the elaboration of e-learning and blended learning courses, also in different languages.

4. Mobility for All:

- Active advocating for University employees to undergo mobility periods abroad, especially the academic and administrative staff that haven't benefited from Erasmus+ mobility so far.
- Simplification of procedures connected with the mobility.
- Organisation of international staff weeks to maintain relations, establish new partnerships and form networks across borders.
- Establishment of new directions for mobility to offer more diverse mobility opportunities to students and staff members.
- Design and implementation of a targeted promotional campaign to attract more students to undertake a semester period abroad, with a particular focus on faculties and programmes underrepresented in mobility.
- Full recognition of learning outcomes attained abroad.
- Support for the students and staff in less favourable conditions and coming from vulnerable backgrounds to undergo mobility, also in a virtual form, introduction of more flexible mobility formats, such as shorter forms of mobility, making additional grants available and provision of individualised institutional support for these students, active promotion of mobility opportunities, improvement of digital skills of students and staff through trainings and provision of tools that support remote work and virtual mobility.

5. Community Outreach:

- Engagement of students, also incoming ones with charity work, volunteering for the community, gaining experience in non-governmental sector.
- Promotion of social and civic engagement of outgoing students during their mobility and recognition of their involvement as examples of best practice.

- Organisation of events that promote engagement and bring together students across disciplines and from various faculties to work jointly in order to generate a social impact.
- Cooperation with Erasmus Student Network and support for their social projects.
- Advocating for the environmental issues, engagement in projects that foster the environmental awareness, provide tools helpful in mitigating the negative side of mobility, as well as abiding green practices when it comes to the marketing efforts of the University.

The above mentioned goals are aligned with the institutional strategy and are supported by the relevant objectives and activities to stimulate a process of a meaningful change in accordance with the “Free your mind” motto of the University of Lodz. They also respond to the objectives set by the challenges outlined in the strategic EU documents, such as the renewed agenda for HE that are faced by broadly understood education in Europe. They are meant to foster job creation, economic growth and improved social cohesion and respect for the European identity in its entire diversity. Tackling skills mismatches for better employability, building inclusive and connected higher education systems for equity and solidarity, fostering innovation and the reform for more effective and efficient higher education systems the University of Lodz will contribute to the development of a stable and competitive European Education Area in relation to the rest of the world.