

Erasmus Policy Statement of Lodz University of Technology

I.

Participation of TUL in the Programme is the key instrument for successful realization of its Internationalization Strategy in the part directly joint to education in all cycles of studies and to staff development.

In particular the Programme supports the following strategic objectives for 2014-2020:

1. Transfer of international experience and new education developments into TUL environment

1.1 Shift towards learning centred system based on learning outcomes and validation of non-formal and informal learning

1.2 Implementation and development of new methods in learning (Problem Based Learning, Project Organized Learning, Research Based Learning)

1.3 Implementation of new technologies in education, including on-line and blended learning

1.4 Development of work based study programmes and internship based learning

1.5 Development of quality systems assuring high quality qualification awards and cost effective education

1.6 Increasing diversity of qualifications profiles with focus on the balance of vocational and academic competences and skills adjusted to the present and future needs of the regional and global labour market and the society

1.7 Development of teaching staff skills and competences including working with students using foreign languages

2. Preparing graduates and young researchers for active participation in the European and global labour markets and international activities by developing:

2.1 Openness for future mobility as employee

2.2 Readiness for international entrepreneurship

2.3 Foreign language skills enabling undertaking professional tasks in international environment

2.4 Awareness of cultural diversity and value of European citizenship

3. Support of research and development of young researchers

3.1 Support of research projects by II cycle and PhD students with international background

3.2 Attracting the best international students for II cycle and PhD programmes to be engaged in TUL research teams.

The realization of the objective 1 is based on cooperation with EU and non-EU partners including international companies with branches in the Lodz region, strategic partnerships developed during long lasting cooperation and within the networks and consortia of which TUL is a member. That includes universities belonging to the European Consortium of Innovative Universities, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, Campus Europae and Baltic University.

Strategic countries and geographical areas are established due to a number of criteria:

- international strategy of the Lodz Region (Finland, Mexico, Georgia, Belarus)
- traditions of research and economic cooperation – the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium
- demand for partners representing high level of research and technology (Germany, Nordic countries)
- historical and cultural links (Central and Eastern Europe)
- degree seeking students from countries with growing economies (Latin America, Maghreb, former Soviet Union, Balkans, Turkey)
- interest of credit mobility seeking students: France, Spain, Portugal.

The objectives 1.6 and 2 are supported mainly by student mobility.

TUL aims to increase the number of students participating in international traineeships, which requires developing contacts with industry and strengthening students proactivity in searching for traineeships. II and III cycle students are underrepresented in the mobile students groups. In particular mobility of doctoral students for traineeships requires reinforcement.

TUL strengthens financial support and guidance for outbound students with disabilities. The outgoing mobility is facilitated by implementation of the mobility window in several I cycle study programmes. With regards to incoming credit and degree seeking students, TUL aims at internationalising studies offer, including double/joint degrees, doctoral studies, summer schools and traineeships. International students are encouraged to get involved in the university and the local community life.

TUL develops its infrastructure and support system for students with disabilities. Thus becoming more friendly for prospective incoming students with various types of disabilities.

The outbound and incoming staff mobility is essential for the realisation of the objective 1. By teaching abroad TUL academics increase their competences and specialist knowledge as well as exchange expertise with their international colleagues. They are encouraged to actively participate in international projects.

Mobility is promoted among the administrative staff, a vital player in Internationalisation at Home. Taking part in trainings and networking abroad, they gain resources to transfer good and innovative practices into their everyday working environment.

TUL participates in double-degree programmes realised in partnership with EU and non-EU universities, under which it receives international students, recognises learning outcomes achieved during studying period abroad, and takes part joint final exams.

II.

Cooperation Projects run by TUL and partner universities play an important role for transfer of international experience in teaching and learning and at the same time support the strategic objective 2. The good example is the European Project Semester developed and run by cooperation of 11 EU universities. It has an impact on the realization of strategic objective 2 as well as on the development of education system at TUL – objective 1. This is supported by the Programme via students and staff mobility. All three strategic objectives will be supported by new initiatives of Joint Master courses. A great potential is perceived by TUL in Joint Master courses and grants for non EU universities/students both in realization of strategic objective 1 and in attracting very best students –

objective 3. The traditional good cooperation with Russian Federation countries, Ukraine and Turkey will help to involve them in Joint Master Courses.

TUL is a member of Campus Europae, a network of universities offering studies in languages other than English. The main component of the cooperation between the partner universities is a student exchange. The mobility among the EU universities engaged in the scheme is realized within the frameworks of Erasmus. However the involved HEIs represent both EU and non-EU countries. Under Campus learning of national languages of participating countries is promoted among students, which is a very important aspect of TUL language policy within the framework of its Internationalization Strategy.

III.

Student and staff exchange results in exchange of good practices between sending and receiving institutions in new ways of delivering education, among others offering tailored guidance to students. Receiving international staff and students induces reforms to make TUL a more friendly and accessible place.

TUL promotes mobility among doctoral students to improve their research skills and transversal competences. It also aims at increasing mobility of students with disabilities, and in consequence at enhancing their representation among the European graduates and researchers to reach the highest leadership positions in industry and academia.

When taking decisions on participation in European and international cooperation projects TUL considers benefits from their realization to students from underprivileged groups and to adults.

The Quality Assurance system of TUL focuses on the relevance of graduates' competences to the needs of Polish and EU economy and society, which requires involving different stakeholders in the processes of modernisation, evaluation and quality assurance of study programmes.

TUL plays an important role participating in integrated local and regional development plans in particular in targeting national and regional support towards university-enterprise collaboration. Cooperation with enterprises and regional industry leaders is used for continuous adjustment of awarded qualifications to their needs. TUL engagement in technology transfer plays an important role in regional development. The university strengthens its engagement in business liaisons, spin-offs, knowledge and technology transfers, regional technology parks as well as hubs of excellence. Start-ups organized by domestic and incoming Erasmus students are a powerful tool for technology transfer. The cooperation of TUL with enterprises in the Region in offering internships for incoming students and developing an offer of internships in their branches abroad is a recognized tool both for technology transfer and quality of education enhancement and in consequence for creating new business opportunities, innovations and competitiveness of the regional economy.

Realizing TUL Lifelong Learning strategy involves development of partial qualifications adjusted to the needs of local enterprises. TUL develops, in cooperation with employers, the validation of non-formal and informal learning. The transfer of international experience plays a significant role in the above.

Another objective is redesigning and rationalization of TUL traditional university functions by incorporating elements of searching for alternate sources of funding and the implementation performance-based steering, quality-oriented internal reallocation of funds and system of incentives, as well as acquiring and managing different income streams and allocating funds for improving productivity and efficiency of teaching and for modernisation of infrastructure.