

## **Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027 (Overall Strategy)**

UTP University of Science and Technology in Bydgoszcz (UTP) is a multi-profile university with 70 years of experience. It has more than 50 fields of study at three levels of education and it is very active both in technical and natural sciences. It works in the frames of 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, Horizon 2020, LdV, Tempus and CEEPUS.

UTP strategy prepared for the years 2021-2030 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 within the framework of 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 agreements 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 cooperated within joint programs such as Erasmus+, LLP, LdV and the Structural Funds. It is a natural course of development, which continues to be developed. Moreover, we are 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, Kazakhstan with whom we already cooperate within the Erasmus + program.
- UTP is also interested in cooperation with China and India, because there we see great potential and opportunities to attract students, teaching staff as well as to conduct joint research. For accomplishing the preliminaries of the task we already organized a course of Chinese language and set up seminars with a permanent participation of Indian researchers. We also sent to our partners advertisements on dual studies of materials processing realized partly in academia and partly in industry. We will pursue this activity furthermore.

- we are going to continue cooperation with universities from United States, we have there a few universities that are strategic partners for us, we also want to establish new contacts.

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 take part in internships, especially for individuals with fewer opportunities,
- developing non-discrimination policies,
- developing blended mobility as a key concept in ensuring the flexibility of and better access to the Erasmus+ Programme. Any mobility activity can be carried out as blended mobility, including student mobilities for studies and traineeships. Blended mobility is a combination of a short term physical mobility with a virtual component.
- increasing the internationalization of education by launching as many courses in English as feasible,
- continuation a clear policy towards the development of integrated, transnational teaching activities (joint courses / modules / curricula, double / multiple / joint degrees);
- increasing the number of incoming students arriving for both part-time study and full study,
- 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,
- implementing digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative
- promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Erasmus+ Programme, especially when cooperating with Baltic University Programme (BUP) and Visegrad University Association (VUA), while being an associate member of both networks since many years.

- promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility or project.

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 is also appreciated by the university. Moreover, by employing and implementing the media and qualified internet tools we are able to build our partnership's networks and keep them alive.

We are going to organize a series of e-lectures and seminars with webinar parts included (the so-called Skype lectures or short addresses to the UTP community or the interested audience, for example given by one of the Nobel Prize Winners who visited the university for a purpose of creating an innovation-and-technology space named after one of famous domestic worldwide known inventors and researchers). By employing Skype talks or similar media assisted talks we strive to foster the ongoing cooperation with the visiting scholars and cooperation partners.

A relevant part of the UTP strategy is also keeping active track on developing joint/ double/ multiple degrees with foreign universities. We believe that both real but also virtual mobility of students and academic staff is a key part of its internationalization, while the participation in the Erasmus program gives us the opportunity to implement and achieve the planned ambitious 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 actions in these directions. When it comes to research projects UTP mainly supports the actions taken in order to obtain projects under Horizon Europe.

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,
- projects implementing digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.
- multilateral projects aimed at creating new mechanisms, tools and educational techniques,

- projects promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility,
- projects intended to link the university with local labor markets and industrial clusters, 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, and also within the administration staff. 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 it could devote time to the project activities. Administrative and financial support is ensured. The project are set up and then formulated in terms of cooperativity. The cooperativity also concerns selection of topics from certain priority topical domains such as the sustainable development (for example, going in parallel with the BUP) and climate changes and the associated project management (such as pursuing toward the route of the VUA). Also space on the UTP website is increasingly ensured to support dissemination and exploitation project results. Participation in such projects is seen as an key 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 ought to accelerate considerably the process of substantial internationalization and vastly developed modernization (also toward superior digitalization) 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 an appreciable number of students in spite of unfavorable demographic trends. Increasing the number of people with higher education is of particular relevance in technical sciences as it is necessary for the fairly unperturbed functioning of the economy.

UTP participation in the Program will make it possible to achieve the objectives set in the strategy, to augment the attractiveness of the university and to encourage young people to take up higher education.

UTP participation in the program will significantly improve the quality of education. The possibility for students to participate in internships at selected high-rank companies will equip them with the skills needed to succeed in the labor market. Exchange of students under the internship's flagship will allow to verify both curricula and teaching methods, and at the same time will prepare the graduates to enter the international job market.

The possibility of the exchange of students and staff between foreign universities and companies will give them the opportunity to obtain additional skills, knowledge and competences particularly in an international context such as the ability to work competitively in an international team capable of cooperating with its external economic surroundings. Mobility is one of the chief elements of the internationalization of both teaching and learning processes as seen in a synergistic context. It also contributes to meeting in a better way the expectations set by the global networking market and the worldwide economy.

The opportunities offered by the program provide nowadays huge opportunities for strengthening and fostering the synergistic cooperation between education, science and business. Many of the actions envisaged in the program can be implemented with the innovative cooperation between the university and companies. Companies can be partners in international projects and their employees may be involved in the teaching process. Also the organization of internships for students and training for employees contribute to the cooperation, dialogue and better understanding of both contemporary needs and recent times' expectations of business and science. The implementation of international projects, especially those towards cybersecurity, nanotechnologies, digital solutions and biotechnology, leading to cooperation with other universities and companies under the program will also improve the mechanisms of action, (project) management and financing (also, fundraising) of functioning of the university. Exchange of experience, good practice and taking the benefits of the projects are an invaluable impact on the smooth functioning of the entire university and contributes substantially to improving the quality of education.

  
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