

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

### I. PWSZ in Koszalin`s International (EU and non-EU) Strategy

*Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)*

The State School of Higher Vocational Education in Koszalin (hereinafter: PWSZ in Koszalin) founded in 2009 aims at developing and disseminating knowledge, creating the best possible learning, training and self-development conditions, for both the students and the teaching staff. Located in West Pomeranian Voivodship, where the unemployment rate is one of the highest in Poland (22,3% by the end of February 2013) PWSZ in Koszalin aims at giving young people the opportunity to start a career by gaining education on a higher level, professional experience, as well as inter-cultural skills. In regard to this, PWSZ in Koszalin strives to:

- ensure that the students are prepared for global working environment;
- provide them with an international experience of studying and working abroad;
- provide opportunities to improve their linguistic skills;
- provide opportunities for home students to study alongside international students from different countries and encourage academic and social interaction;
- provide opportunities to benefit from the experience and knowledge of international teachers visiting PWSZ in Koszalin as well as from those of Polish teachers who gained an international perspective through teaching abroad.

Taking part in the 2014 – 2020 EU Programme for education, training, youth and sport is therefore a crucial step towards the internationalisation of PWSZ in Koszalin and the realisation of its mission. According to its statute, PWSZ in Koszalin “accomplishes its tasks by maintaining ties with domestic and international higher education, artistic and medical institutions, as well as takes part in the creation of European Higher Education Area.”

PWSZ in Koszalin aims to develop the cooperation with HEIs and business partners in EU and worldwide, and thus to enhance mobility opportunities for students and staff, to internationalise the curricula and to create a multicultural study environment being home to a diverse student community. The student and staff exchange within the Programme is one of the first and most important steps towards this end. A cross-border cooperation with EU neighbouring countries is a part of this strategy. A regional dimension, with EU and non-EU countries, has already been incorporated by providing opportunities to study in Koszalin for students from Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Latvia.

In order to achieve these objectives, PWSZ in Koszalin aims to set up a cooperation with international institutions, EU and non-EU. Partner institutions will be selected on the basis of quality, experience as well as whether their curricula can guarantee that the required learning outcomes will be achieved by the student. All the subject areas taught at PWSZ in Koszalin will be represented in signed agreements in order to enable all the students and academics to apply for the Programme's activities. The partnerships will be reviewed annually, with a view to consolidating and strengthening each relationship. New partnerships will be established with the aim of bringing long-term benefits for partner institutions. The key objective consists in maximising the mobility of outgoing students and staff, as well as in attracting the largest possible number of incoming students. With regard to this, PWSZ in Koszalin will be raising its international profile through continuing the internationalisation of its curricula, expanding the number of courses taught in foreign languages and offering the highest quality in the implementation of the Programme and the organisation of mobility. Equal academic treatment and services will be offered to home and international students. To achieve this, each incoming student will be matriculated and will become a fully integrated member of PWSZ in Koszalin's community.

The most important objectives and target groups of mobility activities are:

- to develop student credit international mobility for studies and/or traineeships,
- to develop staff international mobility for teaching and/or training within HEIs or enterprises,
- to develop the process of internationalisation of studies (through internationalised curricula, continuing education and e-learning),
- to build PWSZ in Koszalin international reputation in knowledge transfer,
- to develop effective transnational partnerships and cooperation projects with HEIs, business, regional authorities and other relevant organisations.

The partnerships to be set aim at implementation of joint educational activities to support PWSZ in Koszalin's strategy and mission.

## **II. PWSZ in Koszalin`s strategy for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme**

*If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)*

Since PWSZ in Koszalin was established during the academic year 2009/2010, one of the first and crucial points of its internationalisation and modernisation strategy consists in setting up an international cooperation within the Programme. Therefore, PWSZ in Koszalin plans to develop cooperation projects in the key actions within the Programme in order to implement and enhance innovative education and training, with partners from EU and non-EU countries. To achieve these objectives, PWSZ in Koszalin intends to:

- build a solid network of international partnerships and develop a transnational cooperation with HEIs from EU and other countries that offer high-quality programmes,
- set up a student and staff exchange within the Programme,
- implement educational and training projects relying on strategic partnerships with business, regional authorities, social partners and other relevant organisations,
- cooperate with international partners in sharing knowledge and know-how and in designing new, modernised curricula,
- promote creativity and entrepreneurship among its students and staff through new learning and self-development opportunities,
- develop and promote the idea of cross-cultural education.

## **III. Impact of the participation in the Programme on the modernisation of PWSZ in Koszalin**

*Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)*

Participation in the Programme is essential for further development and modernisation of PWSZ in Koszalin. One of the aims of the institution is to offer the opportunity of international educational experience to young people from the region, essentially those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The internationalisation of PWSZ in Koszalin will allow them to benefit educationally, culturally and linguistically from the experience of studying in another country and become well-qualified, open-minded professionals in the future.

In accord with the Modernisation Agenda PWSZ in Koszalin intends:

- *In order to increase the number of graduates, attract a broader cross-section of society into higher education, and reduce the numbers who drop out without completing their courses:*

- to benefit from the best international practices to develop modern study programmes and attract both national and international students,
  - to develop distance learning activities to enable students from different social and disadvantaged backgrounds to continue their education,
  - to consult corporate partners to design courses which are attractive and relevant to the market needs,
  - develop a wider offer of continuing education and extra-mural study programmes adapted to students with a job or with family responsibilities;
- *In order to improve the quality and relevance of teaching, to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations:*
    - to offer the possibility to both students and staff to get an international, cross-cultural experience,
    - to prepare students to work in a modern, international working environment,
    - to promote higher education opportunities among young people from the region and behind;
- *In order to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance:*
    - to set up a cooperation with international HEIs within the Programme in order to offer to PWSZ students different opportunities to spend a study period or to realise a traineeship in a partner institution,
    - to encourage staff mobility as well as cross-border cooperation to enhance the quality of teaching, innovate the curricula and achieve the international quality standards;
- *In order to strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business:*
    - to intensify the participation of corporate partners in design and delivery of courses and practical trainings in order to make them modern and relevant to market's needs,
    - to develop activities within the career office;
- *In order to create effective governance and funding mechanisms:*
    - to adapt the governance structure to the needs of the educational process in terms of improving the quality of teaching as well as studying and working conditions,
    - to improve the cost effectiveness in terms of supporting the activities matching labour market needs and making the programmes accessible to students of different social backgrounds.