

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027

I Internationalisation

The commitment of the Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław to internationalisation and international mobility has been a core part of its mission and strategic plans.

The mission of the Academy is to strengthen its role as the regional and international centre of artistic research and education in the field of fine arts and design. The Academy aims to continually improve the level of research as well as the quality of instruction, to meet the requirements of the national, European and global standards. This aim is realized by, among others, continued participation in the programmes of international exchange.

Based on the above, the draft of "The Strategy for Internationalisation at the E. Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław" outlined at the end of 2019 sets up the specific objectives for activities related to the internationalisation of the Academy as:

- carrying out statutory tasks in close connection with the world-wide research, artistic and educational space to strengthen the Academy's presence in international discourse on contemporary art (by participation and initiating international projects and partnerships);
- internationalisation of education (by widening the offer of educational programmes taught in English, joint degrees);
- broadening the participation of the Academy in mobility and international cooperation projects (by continuing cooperation with existing partner universities as well as a commitment to set up new agreements to increase the mobility of students and staff);
- strengthening of the international prestige and recognition of the Academy (by obtaining international accreditations).

Our participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will facilitate the modernization of our Academy and its responsiveness to the change in the international context. It will help us achieve goals contained in our mission statement.

It will allow us to develop and strengthen artistic and research cooperation with European and non-European countries. We will be able to increase and diversify the number of incoming and outgoing students and staff. By broadening and developing cooperation with renowned academic and artistic institutions in the world, we will have a chance to attract highly qualified international academics and worldwide recognised artists.

The strategic aim of internationalisation of studies and research relates to, among others, encouraging cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance. Our participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will allow us to expand the network of joint programmes and agreements as well as to create cross-disciplinary, cross-boundaries artistic and research teams and projects.

Our goal would be to diversify and continually increase the number of more strategic partnership projects, improving the quality of education, broadening the offer of educational programmes taught in English and exchanging good practices.

Another strategic goal calls for improving the quality of instruction and level of research to meet the requirements of the national, European and global standards. Hence, we would like to cooperate with our partners to create joint, multiple or double degrees in order to compare and synchronise curricula, but also exchange knowledge in support of excellence.

Our Academy strives for becoming a place where various civilizations, visual cultures and artistic views meet. We wish to create friendly conditions for the intercultural dialogue as well as a tolerant community open to the world, a centre of contemporary culture, art and international artistic activity.

We also believe that our experience and expertise in education and research, confirmed by national and international accreditations, can be successfully transferred to potential third-country partners within Key Action 3 projects.

II Actions

The organization and implementation of international cooperation projects arise from the unique character of our Academy and its educational offer, which has been constantly improved. We will strive to encourage and coordinate high quality mobility of staff and students that is relevant, varied and has potential for growth.

By participating in Key Action 1 activities and enhancing learning mobility, inviting students and tutors to join our didactic process and sending members of our community to learn from our partners, we will improve the quality and relevance of teaching and training methods. Therefore, we will be approaching the goal of becoming the elite centre of artistic research and didactic activities in the field of fine arts and design. We expect the number of graduates that have experienced internationalisation in their academic life to retain its growth rate, with the number of traineeships growing more dynamically, as is the case now. The student participation in study periods abroad and international work placements abroad will result in equipping our graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences. Cooperating with well-selected and trusted partners will be a guarantee of the desired outcomes of the mobility. Despite striving for the highest quality of education offered by our Academy, we understand the need to provide the students with additional skills from studying or training abroad.

The selection of partners within and outside Europe is made after careful consideration. The Academy's intention is to cooperate with partners devoted to the idea of internationalisation, with high standards of instruction and common goals. Our intention is to sign agreements that will be active, that is why we systematically revise those that are already signed and constantly look for new partners. International contacts and activeness are necessary for the research activities of especially young staff. We are interested in the possibility of running exchanges on the three cycles of study. The 1st one, in which the students absorb the most from the teaching environment, is connected with the quality of exchange which complements and widens the contents of instruction at the home HEI. The 2nd cycle, in which the student is mature enough to undertake their own development path, is connected with conscious choices, thus exchange introduces a wider international context into individual research. The 3rd one, focused on research but also dissemination of knowledge, can help fully implement the ideals of the Programme, which consist in learning as well as handing down knowledge, competences and skills.

As for the target groups, we would like all members of our academic community to benefit from the European and worldwide mobility programmes. We strictly follow non-discrimination policy, in which no group is underrepresented. To this end, we would like to develop the techniques of blended learning. We are also actively supporting students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds to fully participate in our mobility offer by introducing social grants.

We have strongly supported participation in traineeships, promoting close connections between business and practical implementation of knowledge and skills. Similarly, young tutors, who are at the same time researchers, have been encouraged by the Academy to test their discoveries in the international context, to exchange ideas and build up a network of partners.

On the other hand, professors with established reputation can promote their knowledge, skills and experience, reinforcing the impact of the disciplines which they are teaching.

Having succeeded in submitting joint applications within Strategic Partnerships or developing a new curricula for joint Master degree programmes, we feel confident in broadening our scope by participation in Key Action 2 activities - Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices; Partnerships for Excellence – Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees, Partnerships for Innovation. The Academy conducts a wide range of didactic, scientific and artistic activities. We organize collaborative exhibitions taking place in our own galleries and the museum or in other public spaces. We are involved in publishing and promoting art and research which are conducted at the Academy.

The Academy organizes a wide range of national and international festivals such as The Festival of High Temperatures, The Festival of Paining, The Contemporary Polish Print Exhibition, The Best Diploma in Media Art within the international Media Art Biennale, co-organized with WRO Art Center, etc.

Moreover, the Academy is running collaborative, artistic, research projects and workshops which utilize our exceptional facilities and location e.g. the Glass Factory or Tangkama and Blaauw gas furnace.

We intend for these initiatives, which serve also as a platform for interaction with international professionals in the field, to be the starting points for making use of the cooperation projects announced under Key Action 2. We believe that our involvement in organizing international projects will work towards the goal of running activities open to realisation of creative and research activities of students and staff. The Programme's activities will allow us to build up strategic partnership with higher education institutions and with enterprises or regional authorities, as well as to create knowledge alliances and to build international capacity.

III Impact

In relation to targets for the student/staff mobility, we observe a steady increase in the number of international students who are studying at our Academy on the Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. Comparing the last decade, the number of incoming students has doubled. More and more students who study at our Academy within the Erasmus+ Programme after completing the exchange are either willing to prolong their mobility within the Programme or enrol for the regular studies with English as the language of instruction. Therefore, the academic environment becomes more international and diversified and the local students and professors have the opportunity to get familiar with the outside perspective on many issues, including the teaching methodology, the art and the culture. Moreover, thanks to the increasing number of international students interested in studying at our Academy, we have succeeded in opening the studies with English as a language of instruction, such as MA in Visual Arts, Interdisciplinary Printmaking or the Doctoral School.

The number of outgoing students has remained at the similar, high level which indicates that the students are as interested in studying abroad as they were a few years ago and the Programme is still very important for them. We will aim to increase the number of Bachelor, Master and PhD students participating in mobility with programme and partner countries and we envisage a steady growth of these numbers by 5% every year. Nonetheless, we aim to keep balance and proportions between the incoming and outgoing students.

What is more, we have observed a growing tendency with regard to traineeships (by 100% compared to the last decade) which is the result of dynamically changing market requirements, but also many

promotional campaigns organized by the International Relations and Promotion units. By participating in the traineeships, students and graduates are offered the opportunity to gain practical experience abroad and for students of art and design nothing should be more significant than acquiring and improving their skills and talent in international confrontation. The Programme frequently impacts their choice of the career, the next field of study, the place of living or working, so we will aim at 10% yearly increase of this type of mobility.

Staff mobility has been steadily growing for the last 10 years. Again, our aim would be to increase it by 10% every year, in order to make sure that all of the Academy's employees have equal chances to enhance their skills and improve their competences by exchanging ideas and good practices with our foreign partners. We believe that international staff mobility should be an integral part of professional development.

There is a very strong growing tendency in the number of staff members coming to the Academy in the recent years (by 100%) and we envisage this to continue, to achieve a growth by 10% per year. In our opinion, these numbers (especially of incoming students and staff) represent the qualitative benefits of the Academy's participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and its impact on the Academy. The Academy has become a diverse place, a platform for research, education and exchange of ideas. Its prestige is definitely a driving force for the incoming students and faculties.

In relation to Key Action 2, we predict the growth of numbers of international students and professors at the Academy as well as improvement and synchronisation of curricula. These will contribute to internationalisation of our institution. As a result, the Academy's prestige and recognition in the art world will rise.

Participation in Key Action 3 will allow us to become active members of the international art and education debate and community. We trust that our unique experience and knowledge will become a valuable voice in the dispute on the art and education, and it will also strengthen our position as the regional and international centre of artistic research and education in the field of fine arts and design.

REKTOR
Szkoły Sztuk Pięknych
im. Eugeniusza Gepperta
we Wrocławiu
prof. Piotr Kielan