Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

In order to complete this section, please refer to the instructions given below. Please note that your EPS shall be given wide visibility in your institution and must be published on the web page of your institution. The EPS should set out the overall Erasmus co-operation strategy of your institution in relation with its mission statement, underlying its Erasmus cooperation plan as well as any other activities to be proposed in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

a) Please describe briefly your institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007–2013).

b) Please also provide information on the following points:
What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what type of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS?
What kind of arrangements, if any, does the Institution ensure to comply with non-discrimination objectives (e.g. actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism)?

Wide participation in Erasmus activities is one of the most important elements of the development strategy of Silesian University of Technology (SUT), Gliwice, Poland. The authorities of SUT decided to actively involve the university in Erasmus from the very beginning of Poland’s association with this programme. The policy concerning participation in Erasmus based mobility schemes, projects and networks has been included in SUT’s mission and strategic development plan, and university’s international relations offices and procedures have been substantially modernised for better serving Erasmus objectives.

SUT authorities are continually involved in promoting the possibly widest participation of SUT’s students and staff in Erasmus based cooperation. The mobility of students and teachers has been one of the most important priorities of Erasmus participation, aiming at substantially increasing the number of incoming and outgoing students as well as enhancement of mobility organisation. The mobility of individuals is going to be the priority also in the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013. The university is going to continue its participation in several Thematic Networks projects and invest in such international cooperation platforms in future. SUT staff and students have been very successfully involved in the ODL and Minerva based projects and the university plans to continue its activeness and utilize strength in the information and communication technologies area in the Virtual Campuses initiatives.

The information on possible participation in Erasmus activities will be distributed among all 12 faculties of the university and all students, teachers and non-teaching staff, in the form of university web-pages, university press, bulletin boards, information days and lectures, etc. The Erasmus University Charter is going to be exposed in the Main Building of SUT and its contents – including the Erasmus Policy Statement – are going to be publicly available for students, teachers and non-teaching staff. The university will aim at continual increasing the number of Erasmus partners by means of including the information of SUT’s involvement in Erasmus activities in all electronic, printed and personally presented materials on SUT.

SUT policy is in full accordance with Erasmus non-discrimination objectives. Throughout its more than 60 years history the university never faced any problems possibly raised by gender or nationality unequal treatment. The university is also continually involved in the adaptation of its buildings and facilities towards better access for disabled students as well as implementing schemes enabling studying and participation in mobility schemes with respect to economically less favoured students.

Quality of academic mobility activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities?
Details should be provided on: recognition and credit systems, the provision of information on curricula, information and counselling of outgoing students, tutoring and integration of incoming students, provision of student services (in
particular accommodation), preparatory and refresher language courses, support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.

The high quality of academic mobility activities is one of the priorities at Silesian University of Technology. There exists large and strong group of staff members directly responsible for the planning and implementation of academic mobility at SUT, including Rector and vice-Rectors, Rector’s Representative for International Cooperation, Erasmus Coordinators at university and faculty levels, Deans’ representatives and commissions and International Relations Office. Previous participation in academic mobility schemes by SUT resulted in the development and successful implementation of ECTS. Currently the credit system is fully implemented in SUT and the information on all curricula, courses and credits schemes and details is widely available for home and incoming students. As part of the university involvement in Erasmus mobility several faculties started delivering chosen lectures and courses in other languages, what led to the development of full curricula with teaching in English language with respect to four – at present – out of twelve SUT’s faculties. The English language based curricula and full credit system implementation greatly increase the number of incoming students and help them in composing their learning agreements.

There exist Deans’ representatives and commissions at all faculties dealing with outgoing students qualification, counselling with respect to learning agreement preparation and full recognition based on successfully completed activities. International Relations Office staff is prepared to help outgoing students with respect to subsistence, accommodation and all other contacts with receiving institutions. IRO staff is also taking care of incoming students with respect to accommodation, integration, language preparation courses and other. Academic treatment and services are the same with respect to home as well as incoming students. Teacher’s mobility is supported by the university and recognised as element of professional achievements.

Quality of student placement activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in student placements? Give details on how the work-programme and the placement agreement are prepared and implemented. Please describe the practical arrangements agreed between the parties. Please specify also the monitoring and evaluation of the placement period as well as its recognition in the curriculum.

The student placements are important part of Silesian University of Technology involvement in Erasmus mobility scheme. The university is going to organize placements by means of individual initiatives as well as on the basis of sending consortium involvement. All faculties have appointed Deans’ representatives for students practical placements – faculty placement coordinators – whose responsibility includes overall supervising of the placement period, including maintaining contacts with placement target enterprises and helping students in finding appropriate placement institution, preparing the Training Agreement and programme of work during placement period as well as formal arrangement concerning the placement. Typically the work-programme and Training Agreement will be prepared with the participation of student’s academic supervisor, especially if the placement is connected with the project or final-thesis work – in this case such supervisor will monitor the progress and results of the placement. The International Relations Office staff will be involved in the placement period organisation, e.g. with respect to accommodation and in maintaining contacts with receiving institutions – including the placement contract preparation.

The student will be obliged to prepare regular reports concerning the activities performed during the placement period, typically on weekly basis. The reports will be monitored by the student’s placement supervisor. After completing the placement the student will have to prepare the overall report which will be reviewed by the placement supervisor and evaluated formally by faculty placement coordinator, which would deliver the basis for recognition of placement period.

Starting from 2002 SUT has successfully implemented 3 mobility projects for practical placement for students within Leonardo da Vinci program (coordinated by International Relations Office), and thus is perfectly prepared for the Erasmus student placements organisation.