**Erasmus Policy Statement**

1. *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. If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degree.*

The University of Rzeszow was established in 2001 on the base of three existing universities with its academic history dated back to 60 and 70 of 20th century and now it is the biggest university in South-East Poland. The whole academic community, about 20,000 students and 2,000 staff, contribute significantly to fulfill the University’s development strategy, accepted by the Senate of UR, in which the main objective is focused on the truth, openness to the knowledge and new ideas, respect for the human dignity and for regions and countries’ historic and culture identity.

The basic priority of the University of Rzeszow is its internationalization, through creating policy, which supports mobility of the students and staff, joining to international research networks, centre of excellence, cooperation with the enterprises, implementing double degree programme of study, preparing more courses taught in foreign languages. Now, Faculty of Physical Education offers full cycle of study in English for to fields of study: physical education and tourism and recreation.

The University of Rzeszow participates actively in European research and educational area. Thanks to its geographical location, since years UR performs a significant a role in the process of intercultural and transborder education, as a link between European Union and its neighbours. Gaining new partner universities the University of Rzeszow pays special attention to the similar profile of the institution, analogous curriculum and engagement in organizing common project and initiatives.

Within the framework of the Programme, UR is going to continue the cooperation with about 40 Ukrainian universities, exchange students and staff, organize mutual the scientific conferences, conduct common research etc. Cooperation, under the bilateral agreement, which UR conducts also with universities from Russia, Kazakhstan, USA, the University intends to extend to preparing mutual curricula, exchange students and teachers.

Together with Slovak, Romanian, Hungarian, Serbian, Polish and Ukrainian universities, UR is one of the member of Association of the Carpathian Region Universities, which gives our third cycle students opportunity to study one or two semesters in one of partner universities.

UR each year invites students from different countries to participate in Summer School of Polish Language and Culture organized by Centre „Polonus”. This Centre offers also Polish language course for the whole academic year, free of charge for exchange students.

Constantly, the University of Rzeszow aims to increase offer of courses taught in English, which results in higher number of incoming students. Each year, UR receives more and more students from Turkey, Spain, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Czech Republic, Great Britain within the framework of Erasmus Programme. In the near future UR plans is exchanging students of B.A., M.A and doctoral studies also from outside Europe i.e. Asia, America etc. UR prepares also students to study in Japanese universities by offering the Japanese course for them.

UR takes the initiatives to provide language comprehensive assistance for teachers conducting classes in English.

UR tries to create circumstances to conduct cycle of lectures, connected strictly to programme of study, by academic teachers invited from partner universities. High quality of teaching, open to new methods and teaching technics, which is the priority, makes our university more attractive on the international arena.

UR tries to gain also new foreign partners, which will be good place for gaining practical skills by UR’s students. Students’ placements in companies play significant role in their future professional career and increase their chance on the labour market. UR would like to make it possible for each student to use this opportunity to go abroad for placement.

One of the most important initiatives of the UR is signing the double degree agreements. Students of first cycle of two fields of study – economics and tourism and recreation has the possibilities of receiving not only UR diploma, but also European university B.A. diploma after one year of study. So well educated graduates are very attractive on labour market in country and abroad. UR will continue this initiative, increasing such possibilities for students of all fields of study.

UR has ambition to prepare joint master degree studies together with foreign universities connected to a consortium, which could attract students from Europe and other countries with its high quality and attractiveness.

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

The University of Rzeszow in its development strategy forecasts also participation in international programmes and projects. A few projects were already completed with a success. The experience gained in those projects (as a coordinator and a partner) lets UR to join to next projects with foreign partners. Wide promotion of international programmes will encourage all faculties to start new innovative projects focused to creating new, mutual curricula with foreign partners, as well as modernisation of didactic and science base.

Participating in projects will be a good opportunity to many meetings of researchers, exchanging of thoughts and experiences. Participation in the projects very often is connected with didactic process and necessity of engagement also students in it, what can be a unique opportunity for personal development and future vocational guidance.

Initiating the cooperation within the projects and gaining new partners will contribute to leading an openness policy for new objectives and ideas and to come into being on international arena.

Thanks to the projects, UR would like to expand didactic offer aimed to foreign students, adjust it to requirements of labour market in country and abroad.

1. *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.*

UR makes an effort to increase number of students through organising information-promotional campaign like “Doors Open Days”. Higher number of people with university’s diploma in the region of South-East Poland, where the unemployment is one of the highest in country, is one of the UR’s priorities.

The University is opened for receiving students from Europe and the other part of the world. UR’s presence on educational fair, wide offer of courses taught in English and high quality of teaching will be very attractive for the future students of the University. UR is going to receive staff of partner universities, businessmen, conducting practical courses and having big impact for preparing curricula, which will raise quality of teaching. In a time of [knowledge-based economy](http://www.translatica.pl/slowniki/po-polsku/knowledge-based%20bio-economy/), graduate of the university should demonstrate high competencies, skills and capabilities to adapt to changing conditions.

UR’s Career Office analyses professional career of its graduates in order to have opportunity to change teaching programmes and adjust it to the demand of labour market. Academic staff improves their skills during traineeships, study visits at the universities in Europe, America, Australia or Japan. They use this knowledge, new, innovative methods during their classes with students or research.

Thanks to the participation in the Programme, graduates leaving the University can be boast of wide theoretical and practical knowledge, which they gained abroad, advanced knowledge of foreign languages and having the skills of functioning in multicultural community, and opened for new challenges. It is predicted that all students will be one of the participants of the Programme. One or two semester study abroad or double degree diploma study will be very valuable for UR’s graduates in their future professional career.

UR’s cooperation with EU and non-EU partner universities is a great chance to integrate students and staff from different environment, to break stereotypes and improve their own skills.

UR will continue cooperation with regional, social and cultural institutions. UR intends to strengthen connection between business and research centre in the fields of modern technologies and trends of economy development

UR will try to gain funds from sources for realization of post-graduates studies and specialist courses for people outside the academic community, who has problems with employment.

Participation in the Programme, will enlarge the possibilities of motivation the employees to science development, raising funds from outside budget, extend the scholarship offer for students.