

## Politechnika Koszalińska - Erasmus Policy Statement 2021--2027

### Overall Strategy

The mission of the University is to educate the society, conduct scientific research, implement research results into economy and participation in social life, ensuring the university a contribution towards the development of the region, the country and the world; as well as ensuring the graduates the ability to perform professional and social functions throughout their active lives.

Koszalin University of Technology (KUT), recognising the basic principles of humanism and ideological tolerance, freedom and independence of conducting scientific research, equal access to education for all social groups, assumes the obligation to constantly adapt and modernise the research, didactic and education offer in accordance with these principles as well as cultural and technical development, needs of the labour market, economy and the principles of regional, national and international cooperation.

The following mission is being implemented, among others, by activities undertaken in terms of internationalisation and modernisation.

As part of internationalisation, Koszalin University of Technology assumes/ intends to:

- modernise study programs and adapt the didactic offer to the current needs of the labour market and global standards;
- develop methods of educating (also in the field of Blended Mobility);
- aim to launch study programs for foreigners and to obtain double/ joint diplomas;
- develop transnational didactic activities (joint courses/ modules);
- enable the development of the academic community by gaining international experience by participating in mobilities and international projects;
- aim to increase the capacity to provide international research services;
- carry out research adapted to the labour market and the needs of the international economy
- develop research and didactic cooperation with foreign partners (both with EU and non-EU countries);
- promote and support the mobility of employees and students (also for people with fewer opportunities);
- use the results of participation in international projects in practice and develop them in subsequent international projects.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme, especially the implementation of international mobility and participation in international projects will both enable and support the implementation of strategic assumptions and will make a significant contribution to improving the quality of education. Erasmus+ Programme would give the opportunity to support international mobility among students and both didactic and administrative staff. KUT would like to constantly increase the number of participant taking part in the mobility. International mobility allows to achieve competitive advantage in gaining skills, experience, leads to better employability and institutional development.

Stimulating and strengthening local and domestic economic development and enhancing the university position would be possible by participation in EU and non-EU partnerships and projects. KUT is aware of the fundamental role of participating in international projects and programmes that have excellent long term influence on discovering and creating European identity of participants. Erasmus exchange brings together and unite mobile students and staff, helping to create their identification as European. As a consequence, international exchange gives the opportunity to gain transnational experience and skills, openness to various cultures, heritages and new perspectives, tolerance towards diversity of various behaviours and values, willingness to take part in new challenges, self-confidence. KUT aims at gaining internationally competent students and staff. Transnational experience and cooperation would create opportunities to gain foreign language proficiency. Modern labor market aims seeks to the students with high language qualifications, which have a great importance during the recruitment process, therefore among KUT tasks is supporting students' development by improving their foreign language skills.

Mobile students have great chance to fit into domestic and global markets by educational development, benefitting linguistically and culturally from the international exchange. Adjusting didactic offer to the labor market would be possible by exchanging experiences and good practices among the mobility participants.

International mobility is essential to modernize research and studies. The university staff plays crucial role in the strategy of internationalization and modernization. Gained experience leads to development and improvement of teaching and administrative staff skills, learning methods and research contacts, broadening knowledge, therefore promoting, enhancing and supporting international cooperation and research activities is significant. International research and lectures, joint high quality publications, the possibility to cooperate in multicultural and high qualified environment are among our objectives and factors in the university international development.

Actions taken under KA1 and KA2 will contribute to raising qualifications, acquiring appropriate professional and language competences. Acquiring international experience will contribute to improving the ability to implement international research and projects, modernising and developing curricula and increasing the quality of education in the long term, which in turn will increase the relations with Higher Education Institutions in the country and abroad. The implementation of international projects and the use of their results by international partnerships will lead to further development of the university as well as to the development of the European Higher Education Area.

By participating in the Erasmus+ Programme, KUT will also implement the objectives of building the European Education Area, which are, among others:

- increasing the mobility of students, researchers, and administrative staff of the university;
- cooperation in providing quality education;
- the European level of higher education (including exchange of students and academic teachers, integrated education and research programs);
- promoting lifelong learning;
- intensification of activities related to the internationalisation of studies;
- increasing employability of graduates and cooperation between universities and employers;
- enabling access to higher education for all social groups.

## **Implementation Strategy**

KUT intends to implement the following activities of the Erasmus + Programme:  
-Key Action 1 Learning Mobility: The mobility of higher education students and staff  
-Key Action 2 Cooperation among organisations and institutions: Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices; Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities; Partnerships for Excellence – Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees; Partnerships for Innovation.

KUT intends to apply for funds for the implementation of the following actions (e.g. mobility with program countries and partner countries) as well as to cooperate in KA2 projects as a partner. KUT will encourage students and staff to participate in these projects, regularly promote the activities of the Erasmus+ Programme and inform about the possibilities of participating in it. It will monitor announcements of calls for proposals for competitions and provide information to students and staff. KUT will support the students and staff from under-represented groups (people with disabilities, from lower socio-economic backgrounds, with family responsibilities, etc.) in participation in Erasmus+ and will try to obtain funds for this purpose (internal and external sources of financing - also from the EU).

To implement KA1, KUT will sign the Inter-Institutional Agreements with partners who have cooperated so far and with new partners depending on the needs. In order to achieve successful and long lasting results, KUT will ensure the high quality of implementation of this action at every stage: before, during and after mobility.

KUT will develop cooperation with foreign partners (e.g. with Ceepus programme partners) to increase the possibilities of participating in joint teaching activities (joint courses / modules / curricula, double / multiple / joint degrees). KUT intends to disseminate the achieved results of participants / projects on

its website. For this purpose, KUT will use its newsletter distribution channels: Facebook, e-mailing, Newsletter and internal Bulletin.

Participation in these actions will contribute to increasing the mobility of students and staff, gaining international experience and increasing didactic and scientific competences, developing and modernizing the didactic offer and better adaptation to the needs of society and the economy. Cooperation with enterprises which is being implemented within the program will allow to acquire knowledge in the field of innovation, creativity as well as multidisciplinary support and learning. All the above mentioned will support the strategic assumptions of KUT in internationalization and will contribute to improving the quality of education.

## **Implementation of the Fundamental Principles**

KUT provides full and fair access to the implementation of the Erasmus + Programme for all persons regardless of their gender, age, disability, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation. They all have the same rights and obligations and have equal access to the opportunities offered by KUT under projects being implemented.

KUT pays special attention to the inclusion of people with fewer opportunities. To support participants with special needs, KUT raises funds for this purpose from internal and external sources (also from the EU), implements projects (national projects) that particularly address the issue of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including accessibility for people with disabilities, and gender equality.

KUT will enable the implementation of some courses by the method of remote teaching with short-term physical mobility, i.e. the "Blended Mobility" system. Learning outcomes obtained as part of the virtual component will be recorded in Transcript of Records. Students will receive ECTS points for courses completed remotely. During the period of virtual mobility as part of a blended mobility, we will offer participants the same services and opportunities as students and employees of KUT and participants of long-term physical mobility.

KUT will take action ensuring the use and promotion of digital mobility management tools.

KUT intends to use the tools available under the European Student Card Initiative and Erasmus Without Paper Network, which will help to simplify administrative procedures and to provide information necessary to implement mobility as much as possible.

KUT intends to implement activities for the initiative in accordance with the assumed timetable:

2021 - to manage inter-institutional agreements and online learning agreements

2022 - to send and receive student nominations and acceptances

2023 - to exchange transcripts of records related to student mobility

KUT will promote and implement environmentally friendly practices in the context of the Erasmus+ Programme as well as promote active citizenship with civic engagement among outgoing and incoming people.

KUT will undertake all efforts to recognize all credits gained during the period of study/training abroad – as agreed in the Learning Agreement and confirmed by the Transcript of Records transfer without delay and counted towards the student's degree without any additional work or assessment of the student (also in case of the blended mobility). All achievements will be traceable in the student's Transcript of Records and the Diploma Supplement.

## **Envisaged impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme**

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will contribute to the acquisition of new professional and linguistic competences and will enable building positive intercultural relations and establishing new scientific and didactic contacts. The experience gained by employees will contribute to undertaking and developing cooperation with non-EU countries, and to the implementation of projects under other programs financed from international and national funds. The implementation of the Erasmus+

Programme will also contribute to the organisation of international scientific meetings important for KUT and will increase the possibilities of writing joint international publications.

Participation in mobility will contribute to the acquisition of teamwork skills, analytical and creative thinking skills as well as planning and problem solving. Mobility participants will improve their digital skills in terms of using information and communication tools and technologies as well as social media, and will become open to international cooperation. Employees will acquire didactic competences and develop skills regarding curriculum development.

Participation in international projects will contribute to the modernisation of study programs and adaptation of the didactic offer to the current needs of the labour market. To achieve the measured goals, KUT will ensure high quality implementation and support for project/mobility participants in accordance with the requirements of the Erasmus University Charter.

KUT assumes to maintain the number of staff mobilities and pursues to increase it as well as to strengthen the involvement in cooperation projects (KA2).

In order to achieve the expected results, KUT will encourage students to take part in mobility, to complete over 100 student mobility by the end of 2027. KUT will provide support and mentoring so to achieve at least 60% of the participants' satisfaction and that after completing the mobility the participants will be convinced of their abilities, self-confidence, more open to new challenges, aware of European social and political concepts, their strengths and weaknesses, tolerant of other people and their behavior, well-skilled in using the Internet, social media and computers for educational, professional and personal purposes, and that they acquire good analytical competences.

KUT also intends to host foreign students and staff, trying to integrate them best with the academic and local community. We plan to host over 200 students and about 80 employees by the end of 2027.

KUT intends to intensify international staff mobility, targeting on acquiring by the mobile staff participants qualifications and practical skills relevant to their working positions, improving teaching quality, increasing social, cultural and linguistic competences, improving skills in using IT tools and technologies, establishing cooperation with civil society entities, strengthening cooperation with partner institutions and increasing job satisfaction. KUT will make every effort to ensure that by the end of 2027 at least 70% of employees participating in mobility improve their competences and qualifications, and achieve the highest possible satisfaction from the mobility.

International mobility and cooperation are considered as part of the staff development, which is why KUT intends to increase the quantitative mobility indicator and carry out around 200 staff mobilities by the end of 2027.

To monitor the accomplishment of the assumed results, its analysis and continuous improvement of the quality of support and mentoring as well as the impact of the implementation of the Erasmus program on its participants, KUT will use participant surveys submitted in the Mobility Tool system and the Online Linguistic Support (Erasmus+ OLS) language support system. KUT also intends to conduct internal questionnaires and individual interviews with participants of the Erasmus+ Programme (among others regarding the course catalogue, availability and quality of accommodation, as well as mentoring support and actions concerning integration and interculturalism).

To assess quality, KUT will also use the available tools in terms of digitalisation: ECHE Self-Assessment and eQuAtic Tool.

KUT has also introduced the Management Control System as a tool to achieve the set goals and tasks as well as to monitor and assess their achievement.