

## **Internationalization strategy of the Angelus Silesius University of Applied Sciences in Wałbrzych**

The Angelus Silesius University of Applied Sciences in Wałbrzych (hereinafter: PWSZ AS) accepts and develops the internationalization of, first and foremost, teaching, but also research activities, and considers it one of the priorities of its activities in 2021–2027, assuming that further strengthening international cooperation on many levels and promoting mobility, both students and academic teachers - under the Erasmus programme, on the basis of bilateral agreements with universities from countries not yet covered by this programme, and on the basis of other programmes enabling foreign exchange - are extremely important areas for the further development of the University. This is consistent with the assumptions of the “Operation and Development Strategy of PWSZ AS for the years 2016-2025” (attachment to PWSZ AS Senate Resolution No. 76/2016 of October 26, 2016, SR.0002.76.2016).

Strategic goal 1. was defined in this document as follows: "Ensuring high quality and diversity of educational services offered by the university, taking into account the expected changes in the socio-economic environment of the region". At present - in the conditions of universal access to information technologies and internationalization of science and teaching - it is not possible to offer education that would not be based on high quality and diversity, and above all, unless universal contact with foreign academic teachers is ensured. An important issue is to enrich and diversify the didactic offer of PWSZ AS, as well as the possibility of implementing mobility for studying and traineeship placements.

Strategic goal 6., indicated in the operation and development strategy of the university, concerns strictly internationalization. Therefore, this strategy is coherent and specifies the strategic goals of PWSZ AS and serves to achieve them.

PWSZ AS is open to university development for establishing and maintaining cooperation with foreign universities and educational institutions, both from the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) as well as outside of it. Therefore, the university's goal is to intensify activities aimed at activating international partner activities, implementing joint (multilateral) projects, workshops and training with foreign partners (mainly from the European Union), aiming in particular at exchanging knowledge and experience and skills related to practical education.

PWSZ AS considers internationalization necessary to prepare graduates for functioning on the common labour market of the European Union. In addition, the need to consolidate the internationalization of the university is connected with the geographical location of Wałbrzych

- in a straight line the city is 17 km from the Czech border and 120 km from the German border. Therefore, education considering the economic conditions of the cross-border region is an important advantage of PWSZ AS. Internationalization contributes to building a more open society, both at the level of the European Union and within the local community. Thanks to trips as well as contact with foreign students, lecturers and administrative staff coming to PWSZ AS, students of our university get to know different cultures, and thus become open and tolerant people.

The assumptions indicated in this strategy will be achieved through the implementation of the following objectives, which in turn have been divided into tasks:

### **Goal 1: Ensuring international quality and ever higher standards of education**

#### **Task 1: Increasing the number of students going to study at partner universities, as well as traineeships, internships and scholarships to cooperating universities**

PWSZ AS aims to increase the number of students using various forms of mobility available. That is why university employees constantly promote knowledge about the benefits of mobility in the sphere of acquired skills, knowledge (especially practical) as well as language competences and personal development. It is emphasized that the graduate who was the beneficiary of the mobility programme has gained an additional advantage that distinguishes him, in terms of acquired international experience, in the labour market, because it shows potential employers that he has the ability to cope in any environment. Mobility is encouraged both by organizing meetings with the University Erasmus Programme Coordinator and coordinators of the Erasmus Programme for individual fields of study, as well as with students and graduates of universities who have already benefited from mobility. The university conducts open and reliable recruitment and effectively prepares outgoing students and monitors the effects of mobility.

#### **Task 2: Improving the international study system by enhancing the quality of education, introducing flexible study organization and distance learning**

High quality education, flexible study organization and distance learning tools are extremely useful requirements for conducting international studies on a larger scale. Therefore, PWSZ AS constantly cares about the high quality of education, including distance education. In addition, the university implements the curriculum at the request of the person concerned so that it would facilitate the long-term and short-term mobility of students.

### **Task 3: Introduction of modular education in English at each of the faculties of PWSZ AS**

A module of subjects taught in English will be prepared for each field of study. Regardless of the subjects available to international students studying as part of international exchange, modules for foreign-language subjects will be created within two years of the adoption of this strategy, from which all students of PWSZ AS will be able to choose the ones they want to pursue. This will serve to increase the language competences of students of our university, as well as to prepare them for using the forms of mobility offered by PWSZ AS, and for future work in an international environment.

### **Task 4: Increasing the number of PWSZ AS employees who use mobility**

PWSZ AS undertakes activities promoting mobility among academic teachers and administrative staff, seeing in it the benefits for the University as well as the self-development of those outgoing and incoming, as well as the possibility of establishing scientific contacts that play an increasingly important role in their professional careers. PWSZ AS motivates employees to international mobility, because this mobility plays an important role in building the image and promotion of the university and promotes the expansion of cooperation.

## **Goal 2: Development of forms of cooperation**

### **Task 1: Establishing, maintaining and increasing the quality of international cooperation under the Erasmus programme**

PWSZ AS not only seeks to increase the number of bilateral cooperation agreements, but also carries out activities to maintain and strengthen contacts with universities with which this cooperation is closer. This means greater than ever emphasis on the quality of cooperation. Therefore, a periodic review of the implementation of existing contracts will be carried out and those contracts which for a long time did not bring real results, measured by the number of incoming or outgoing students and employees of partner universities or the results of research cooperation, will be eliminated.

### **Task 2: Increasing the number of classes taught by Visiting Professors**

PWSZ AS recognizes the great benefits arising from conducting classes in a foreign language by foreign lecturers. This contributes to the consolidation of terminology and ensuring higher quality teaching at the university. Therefore, the university strives to increase the number of foreign lecturers coming within the Erasmus + programme (action KA103), as well as other

available mobility programmes, in particular, it attempts to launch exchange by the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA).

### **Task 3: Development of research cooperation**

PWSZ AS will intensify activities aimed at developing research cooperation with foreign partners in the form of joint research projects, publications and conferences (including conferences held via electronic means of communication). Such activity contributes to the permanent development of the quality of the university's teaching staff. Due to the nature of the university, research cooperation of an application nature will be particularly supported, consisting in mutual presentation of achievements.

### **Goal 3: Building an international image and European brand of PWSZ AS**

#### **Task 1: Strengthening the image of a university friendly to students and researchers coming from all over the world**

PWSZ AS is and will be a friendly university for incoming students and lecturers. However, this feature has to be emphasized more strongly while building the international university image. The implementation of this task is to ensure the availability of documentation related to studies, work, traineeships, internships in English, as well as internationalization of the campus by introducing descriptions, instructions and direction indicators both in Polish and English.

#### **Task 2: Promoting the image of a university with modern lecture halls and laboratories, equipped with the latest equipment, which provides excellent conditions for the development of world-class research and education**

PWSZ AS has an excellent didactic infrastructure, including equipped with the latest equipment dental technician laboratories, chemical and biochemical laboratory, computer, nursing, cosmetology, physiotherapy, makeup and visage, modelling, decorating and logistics laboratories, as well as a modern laboratory for learning foreign languages. This rich technical equipment is and will be used to build the image of the university ensuring the conditions of practical training at the highest level.

#### **Task 3: Effective dissemination of information and promotional materials prepared in Polish and English, as well as in other languages if necessary**

Building an international image requires effective dissemination of university's informational and promotional materials, with PWSZ AS putting more and more emphasis on modern communication tools, including social media.

#### **Task 4: Increased participation in international educational fairs**

Reaching potential university students with information about the university requires an increase in the university's participation in international education fairs. Ultimately, these fairs are intended to recruit a group of foreign students pursuing the full education cycle at PWSZ AS.

#### **Objective 4: Strengthening advisory institutions and assistance provided to incoming students**

##### **Task 1: Strengthening the role of the guardian of international students, both for lecturers and students**

The care provided to foreign students - on the part of both lecturers and students - is of fundamental importance for the course of mobility, as it allows students to acclimatize in a new environment and proceed to the objectives of stay related to acquiring knowledge and skills. That is why PWSZ AS is making efforts to strengthen the role of guardians, thanks to which incoming students will not feel lonely and left alone. Activities in this area will also contribute to building a positive image of the international university.

##### **Task 2: Developing cooperation between Polish and foreign students**

On the one hand, this task serves the exchange of experience between incoming and local students, on the other hand, it contributes to shaping attitudes based on tolerance and openness, which in turn, without prejudice to the local cultural heritage, contributes to building a modern open society. That is why PWSZ AS actively supports deepening international student cooperation, which will be reinforced, among other things, by mentoring programmes and integration events. In addition, the university encourages the inclusion of foreign students in the activities of scientific circles, as well as conducting joint research with Polish students.

##### **Task 3: Maintaining contact with students returning from international trips**

PWSZ AS recognizes the importance of keeping in touch with students from partner universities who have taken part in international exchange. Foreign students who positively

assessed their stay at PWSZ AS contribute to building its international image and reputation. On the other hand, graduates and students of PWSZ AS who have benefited from international trips may encourage mobility and share their experience with those who are just going to leave. Therefore, the university will strengthen activities involving the activation of former Erasmus scholarship holders to, among other things, act as university ambassadors.

### **Strategy implementation**

The provisions of this strategy are and will be implemented by the community of PWSZ AS. The university Senate oversees the implementation of this document. Evaluation of strategy implementation is carried out systematically and once every two years the degree of implementation of the objectives and tasks specified in it will be assessed.