

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Univerzita J. Selyeho (hereinafter called UJS) was founded through the passing of the law No. 465/2003 on its establishment by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. It is the only public university in Slovakia that provides education in the Hungarian ethnic minority's mother language at all three levels. UJS is an open type of Higher Education establishment applying modern multicultural principles of education and supporting research and development in the fields of economics and informatics, pedagogy, human, natural, social sciences. It creates conditions and forms of studying for everyone respecting the diversity of each individual, regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic or other conditions.

Internationalisation in the activities of UJS represents the key area of the institution's development in the fields of foreign relations, international cooperation and the implementation of the global dimension into Higher Education and Research. The strategic goals of UJS's internationalisation stand on the mission and values of the university, which were laid down by the university's Long-term Development Plan following internal, national and European documents.

The aim of UJS in the area of international cooperation and foreign relations is to support and intensify internationalisation of the institution's activity with the intention of development in education, science and research and thus strengthening the university's position in the European and global space.

Strategic goals of UJS in the area of internationalisation:

1. Objectives in the field of international cooperation development:

- Evolving and strengthening contractual and non-contractual relationships with European and non-European universities that have strategic meaning for UJS. The interest of cooperation with international research institutions, organisations, and associations in the academic and economic areas as well as project multilateral cooperation's in the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 – Mobility of Individuals (KA1) and Key Action 2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices (KA2) programs' principal activities.
- Increasing the support and intensity of students and staff two-way mobility (both outgoing and incoming) within mobility programs
- Ensuring the growth of the number of all student mobilities for study mobility and international internship, teacher and staff mobility for international mobility purposes.
- Supporting the abilities of international students, academic and non-academic employees at UJS as well.
- Creating conditions for international project participation aimed at the capacity building within higher education program KA2 Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices of the Erasmus+ in order to obtain new information on trends in education and research.
- Improving position and image in an international context, increasing visibility of UJS.

2. Goals in the area of internationalisation and modernisation of higher education:

- Improving the position of UJS within the European and global educational area is essential. The main intention is to ensure qualitative environment and attractive offer and support for international students and employees.
- Focusing on supporting and expanding the teaching offer of selected courses or parts of study programs taught in English within individual student mobilities.
- Attracting students from abroad to study Slovak and Hungarian as foreign languages.
- Improving linguistic and intercultural competencies of students, teachers and staff members of UJS.
- Improving the availability of UJS information for individual target group.
- Working on engagement in programs that provide double and joint degrees.

3. Goals in the area of research internationalisation:

- Improving the position of UJS within the European and global research area;
- Increasing the degree of involvement of UJS researchers in research activities and the solution of international scientific research projects, increasing the success of UJS in obtaining international research projects and increasing revenues from foreign sources for research.

In order to fulfil the individual points of the internationalisation strategy UJS chooses the following principles:

- The most important goal in this area, in line with the European Union's strategic documents, is to support and increase the number and quality of international mobility of students at all levels, graduates, teachers, staff and those with social or health disadvantages in order to improve their personal (knowledge, skills and competences) and professional development, involvement and employability in the European labour market and beyond.

- Focusing on the development of activities with the countries of the European Union, with which the Slovak Republic has geographic and cultural proximity, deepening and supporting cooperation with Eastern European partner countries (Ukraine) and Asian countries (South Korea, the Philippine Island, the Republic of Azerbaijan).
- When selecting foreign partners, the priority interest is to cooperate with qualitative foreign higher education institutions that have a similar professional profile as UJS, with institutions of economic practice which activities connect to the UJS study programs.
- Expanding cooperation in European Union projects, e.g. Key Action 2 of the Erasmus + program with international collaborating institutions; participate in other European Union projects.
- Increasing capacity, attractiveness and the international dimension in the fields of education in order to take an active part in society.
- Improving the understanding and information of mobility participants about other cultures and Christians in order to develop a sense of European citizenship and identity.

Implementation of international projects within the Erasmus+ program

UJS plans to fulfil this intention by implementing several strategies through participation in scientific research and educational programs of the European Union, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation with European and non-European educational and scientific research institutions and economic organisations.

Other activities to the intention of realising the implementation of international projects for higher education and international cooperation:

- actively engaging in calls within European projects;
- creating and strengthening strategic partnerships with domestic and foreign institutions;
- deepening cooperation with existing partners and developing collaboration with institutions from partner countries, ensuring quality of concluded contracts, while increasing their quantity
- developing activities to support an increase in the number of outgoing and admitted students, graduates, teachers and staff members involved in international projects and mobility (information seminars, UJS web presentations, information materials on study programs);
- creation of preconditions (language, multicultural, professional training) for successful completion of foreign student, teacher and staff mobility of UJS at European and non-European universities;
- monitoring the quality and effectiveness of academic mobility, promoting mobility, number of mobilities,
- expanding cooperation in European Union projects, e.g. Key Action 2 of the Erasmus + program with international collaborating institutions;
- participating in other European Union projects;
- support of social, cultural, civic engagement and entrepreneurial thinking of UJS students;
- involving in international university associations and professional academic associations;
- creating conditions for increasing the quality of education by ensuring the modernisation of the academic environment, teaching aids, laboratories, intelligent robotic centre of sports facilities.

The implementation of the project will lead to the achievement of the following measurable indicators:

- the number of bilateral agreements and memoranda of cooperation;
- the number of partner institutions;
- the number of contracts of double and joint between UJS and the partner institution;
- the number of departed students for mobility, the proportion of outgoing students in mobility out of the total number of students;
- the number of outgoing teachers, the proportion of outgoing teachers in mobility out of the total number of teachers;
- the number of outgoing staff, the proportion of outgoing staff in mobility out of the total number of staff;
- the proportion of students, teachers and staff of UJS who improved their language skills;
- the number of Erasmus+ Key Action 2 projects won by UJS;
- the number of UJS participations abroad at trade fairs, number of UJS participations on presentation events abroad;
- the number of official visits to UJS, number of official visits of UJS representatives to foreign institutions;
- the number of released informing publications on UJS;
- the number of study subjects provided in a language other than Slovak or Hungarian;
- the number of international students enrolled at UJS according to their country;
- the number of university teachers from abroad;
- the number of foreign research projects acquired at UJS;
- the proportion of researchers involved in the solution of international projects out of the total number of creative workers, the share of researchers from abroad in the total number of UJS researchers.

Expected impact of UJS participation in the Erasmus + program in the area of the institution's modernisation:

UJS has been involved in the European Union's programs for many years to create a basis for the implementation of international projects. The Erasmus + program will contribute to the internationalisation and modernisation of university education through the application of international mobility and the development of contractual and non-contractual relations with foreign partners. By adhering to the stated objectives of the European Education Area policy, participation in mobility projects within the ERASMUS + program will have a positive impact on the university's modernisation in the area of internationalisation of education, scientific and research activities.

1. Strengthening international cooperation:

- by deepening cooperation with major foreign institutions in the field of science, research, education in the framework of multilateral educational and scientific research projects;
- by deepening and supporting cooperation with Eastern European partner countries (Ukraine) and Asian countries (South Korea, the Philippine Island, the Republic of Azerbaijan).
- by supporting students, teachers, staff and researchers mobilitites of UJS and incoming international participants from European and non-European areas developing and enhancing skills and competencies;
- by strengthening activities with foreign, resp. international research institutions, organisations and associations in both academic and other fields; co-operation with institutions on organizing the international conference, sharing of common research, joint publications;
- by joining international university associations;
- by creating a basis for further common goals and preconditions for the creation of joint projects of Higher Education in the Erasmus+ program within the framework of KA2 projects and joint scientific researching projects in cooperation with foreign institutions;
- by effective recognition of competencies acquired during the period of studying abroad - the priority interest is to cooperate with qualitative international Higher Education institutions that have a similar professional profile as UJS. The impact of the completed mobilities will be reflected in the effective recognition of the obtained credits, which will support further cooperation;
- by strengthening cultural diversity and developing a collective European identity and integration by building a network of international contacts.

2. Improving the quality of higher education:

- by taking over new information and communication technologies, e-learning tools, creating new joint study programs, the joint educational materials, the joint degrees the program will contribute to the modernisation of education;
- by completing student mobility, participants will be able to gain knowledge and expand competencies. They will strengthen their knowledge of foreign languages, improve digital and business skills that will help them in further education, and improve their position in the labour market at home and abroad. Mobility activities for the internship will support the connection of the university with the internship also in connection with the placement of UJS graduates on the labour market. The competitiveness of UJS students will increase, by gaining experience abroad, they will be a more attractive workforce for employers in the region
- the quality of teaching will increase and innovate with improved language, intercultural and professional teacher competencies, and thus the university will support the professional and career development of its staff. The gained experiences will contribute to better involvement in the preparation and implementation of developmental plans at local, regional, national and transnational levels.
- by strengthening the synergies between education, training, employment and entrepreneur.

3. Increasing attractiveness of the university:

- by contributing to internationalization, to increasing the attractiveness, quality and modernization of Higher Education in Europe and beyond;
- the possibility of realising foreign mobilities for potential students increases the attractiveness of university studies at UJS;
- the chance of realising staff mobilities increases the attractiveness of working positions for potential academic workers at UJS with which will also improve the quality of education.

Expected impact at local/regional/national level: at the local level increase of the competitiveness of our employees, giving more attractive workforce to employers in the region; as a result of organized conferences tourism would strengthen. At the regional and national level KA1 mobility will increase awareness of the benefits of mobility, enhance the scope of mobility, support the entrepreneurial spirit of many people, and contribute to the development of employability factors. Our goal is to make internationalization at Slovakian universities more strategically-oriented and initiate future activities and cooperation with regional or national companies and possible cooperation within the KA2 action.

Expected impact at European level: By implementing the program, we would fulfill the main objectives of the European Commission's strategy, contribute to the dissemination of the idea of European partnership and mutual assistance and promote the development of international cooperation in Higher Education with partner countries.

Sustainability:

The program supports the creation and development of international networks by providing opportunities for cooperation with individual stakeholders through mobility projects and joint capacity-building projects under Key Action 2. Expanding international cooperation outside the European area, enabling the development of academic mobility activities, transfer of new knowledge in the field of education, science and research, thus contributing to increasing transparency. The results achieved within the solution of Erasmus + educational projects are implemented in the educational process at UJS and will contribute to the improvement of the quality of higher education at UJS. Learning outcomes for mobility participants will guarantee personal development and professional growth, the ability to creatively adapt to changing external conditions, improving language skills and the ability to work in different work cultures. Practical experience will enable them to develop entrepreneurial thinking and the ability to enter the labour market in business or the liberal profession. Involving students in other forms of civic and cultural life supports the building of regional and European identity and civic engagement of participants. The experience gained from the implementation of mobility programs has an impact on strengthening the competitiveness of UJS, on the internationalization of education and modernization of the university infrastructure.