



Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

2021 – 2027

The herein released Erasmus Policy Statement is the commitment of Lazarski University (LU) to its academic community as well as to external beneficiaries engaged in LU policies, and monitoring institutions to respect and carefully adopt Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021 – 2027 principles. We believe the long-term goals of LU go in line with the ECHE priority areas and hence a real possibility of a strengthened impact on the identified areas for the further LU development is created. LU declares its devotion to undertake expected steps to participate fully in the European Educational Area and contribute to it in the form of dissemination of good practices.

LU has adopted a plan for internationalization in which goals arise out of the LU development strategy. It defines the main areas and directions of internationalization as well as specifies the main methods of achieving expected outcomes. The strategic goals imply activities that support the idea of LU as a dynamic research and teaching center effectively acting for the sake of building its position and competitive advantage through a sustainable increase in the quality of resources and skills of its stakeholders. The aim of LU is to undertake activities that stimulate international awareness, desire and development among students, academics and administrative staff.

The areas assumed by LU to be predestined for the main internationalization processes are: study programs and learning abilities, teaching and research activities, and organizational capacity of the university. The areas are interconnected and tools adopted for one goal are expected to have a positive effect on others.

LU concentrates its long term internationalization efforts on the following issues:

1. The increase in the exposition of all LU community members on international experience. LU uses Erasmus student, and staff mobility schemes as the main tool in this regard. LU undertakes means to develop mobilities and to measure progress in terms of numbers and quality. It provides fair, and transparent procedures before, during, and after the mobility and demonstrates a high awareness of queries, complaints, suggestions from mobile students and staff. Equal and equitable access to international mobility to current and prospective participants is created. To ensure the high impact of the mobility schemes on students, academic and administrative staff, LU introduces and monitors policies and processes aimed at promoting and supporting individuals with fewer opportunities.

LU's involvement in the Erasmus Programme so far has resulted in numerous benefits in at least three areas: education, enriching the didactic benefits extending the methodological tools of academic teachers and building contacts in other university institutions resulting in joint international researches.

In terms of educational benefits for students, LU ensures that all ECTS credits gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study or training abroad are fully recognized as agreed in the learning agreement and confirmed by the transcript of records or traineeship certificate. Moreover the process of recognition will turn into more automatic - thus easier, faster, and more transparent. Mobility records are immediately traceable in a student's degree and the Diploma Supplement.

The visibility of results achieved and recognition of teaching and training activities during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement and in line with the institutional strategy is imposed.

LU takes measures for the inclusion of incoming mobility beneficiaries to the LU community. It recognizes the importance of the international impact of mobility students and staff on the LU community. The participation in the Erasmus Programme is also expected to contribute to inter-

institutional cooperation in the area of education and research. The prospective target is to learn good practices and develop research cooperation between educational partners, and finally, join international research teams involving international research projects and resulting in impact factor publications.

In regards of the benefits of enhancing faculty's teaching tools, that participation in the programme creates access to the necessary exchange of skills, methods and experiences used in the teaching process in other centres. Rapid progress in such areas as teaching methodology, changing student expectations, availability of new teaching tools and the possibility of unrestricted use of the knowledge resources available on the Internet pose completely new challenges for academic teachers. One of the answers to these challenges is the exchange of knowledge, observations and experience possible thanks to direct relations built under the Programme.

In the field of academic research exchange. The programme has proved to be indispensable and the best way to create, maintain and develop direct contacts possible through study visits. Numerous research streams created so far by LU researchers have been created under the Programme. Thanks to the participation in the Programme, it has also become possible to develop, publish and popularise the existing research.

2. The increase in the quality of LU study programs. LU recognizes the value of integrated and transnational teaching and research activities together with blended learning opportunities so that it puts in life incentives with the aim of intensification of the use of international components and elements in study programs. LU also admires and recognizes different integrated and transnational components realized by LU students during exchange periods as well as a contribution of mobile staff and students, to the quality of study programs. LU creates an internal monitoring system of international mobility and cooperation activities and takes into account the results of it for further improving its international performance.

3. The increase in the quality of supportive processes and activities performed by LU. LU put in life an action plan for the implementation of digital mobility management and participation in the European Student Card Initiative. It enables automatic recognition of credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study or training abroad, including blended mobility. LU ensures that students receive transparent information on recognition and grade conversion procedures so that it publishes and regularly updates the course catalog and information on the grading system used on the website of LU and initiates a process of implementing grade distribution tables for LU study programs. LU provides organizational structures and processes for active support to incoming mobile participants in the process of finding accommodation, obtaining visas, and insurance. Language support and mentoring activities are organized. Moreover, LU uses the results of LU staff mobility as a support for the reform processes and involves various LU units to boost the operational capacity for performing appropriate quality of supportive services.

The digitalization of the Erasmus program processes contributes to the LU activities aimed at expanding the scope of services, supporting administrative processes, and improving the inter-operational character of LU information systems. It also aims at making the university offer more accessible to people from disfavoured backgrounds, including people with disabilities (in December 2019 LU finalized the project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund resulting in the implementation of the platform for 18 public e-services aimed at supporting e-administration and e-education processes).

4. Building civic, social, cultural, environmental awareness of the LU community. LU works out measures to ensure that any individual or group will be treated equally and equitably, under Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. LU ensures equal academic treatment and the quality of services for incoming students. It also promotes civic engagement of students and staff who take advantage of mobility and encourages them to act as ambassadors of the Erasmus program and share their mobility experience. The mobility participants will be encouraged to engage in creating the alumni communities and spread out environmentally responsible behaviours and initiatives.

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