

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

of the Warsaw School of Information Technology (WIT)

under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Sciences

The Warsaw School of Information Technology under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Sciences, pursuing the objectives defined in the Bologna Declaration, wishes to continue the activities according to the strategy of creation the European Higher Education Area in the global environment in the context of the developed by the OECD/UNESCO „Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border High Education”.

The Warsaw School of Information Technology (WIT) was founded in 1996 upon the initiative of the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) represented by the Foundation of System Sciences Propagation. The support of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), which means close cooperation between WIT and the Systems Research Institute as well as with other units of the Division IV Technical Sciences PAN determines its mission and goals – furtherance, promotion and dissemination of systems research like system analysis, operational research, computer science, quantitative methods and their applications in science, technics and economics as well as in the environmental protection and medicine. The Foundation pursues its statutory goals, inter alia, through the School activity, which offers education to students based on the advanced, interdisciplinary curriculum.

The Warsaw School of Information Technology has been established to carry out the mission, which covers the following tasks:

- ensuring the high level of teaching through inter alia the employment of highly-qualified scientific staff of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- educating students according to the needs and requirements of the labour market through the flexible curriculum of the offered specialties;
- providing talented young people, also those less wealthy ones, with an access to knowledge by keeping tuition fees (tuition) low;
- carrying out research in cooperation with the best national and international scientific institutions.

Two degree courses, introducing the diploma supplement and the ECTS grading scale as well as some classes conducted in English create the opportunity for a further increase in students' and academics' mobility.

We undertake the activities aimed at expanding our institutional cooperation. Choosing our partner Universities we pay special attention to their curricula, because the choice of the partner University is matched to our educational programs. Similar curricula simplify the process of recognizing the mobility achievements. During the previous Erasmus program our cooperation with the European partners was based on bilateral agreements with 10 universities from Denmark, France, Spain, Germany, Portugal and Italy.

The curriculum at WIT is modified according to the current labour market analysis and reports delivered by consulting companies. It meets the contemporary and future needs of employers. It is also compatible with the trends occurring in the higher education in the EU countries, formulated under the Bologna and Lisbon Strategies. Thanks to this our School educates its students in such a way that after the graduation they can be effective participants of the information society fully understanding the processes of the European integration. And we assume that our graduates are open-minded and very persevering in their efforts to gain knowledge.

Like our foreign partners we follow the policy of continuing improvement of quality in education through students' and teachers' exchange in order to strengthen the European higher education as well as transparency and full recognition of qualifications and study duration periods in the whole Europe.

We also take measures to draw the foreigners' attention to studies carried out by WIT – computer science, management and graphics, with some courses taught in English. At the moment we consider the amount of classes taught in English at WIT to be insufficient and we plan to expand the program after joining the ERASMUS Plus Program.

According to the modern management strategy the WIT has got the IT system – the so-called campus-wide information system (CWIS) – Virtual Dean's Office, accessible for all students having a valid CWIS account. After signing in to the SWIS account students have the access to the list of subjects, the obtained grades, awarded scholarships and other study-related information. In addition, it contains information about the Erasmus program,

constantly updated list of the signed bilateral agreements as well as all the exchange application forms with the instructions.

After obtaining the new Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) it will also be updated on publicly available WIT website.

Any kind of discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnic origin or disability has no place at our School. Cases of xenophobia and racism are currently unknown. We declare ourselves a tolerant University and we treat every student fairly and equally.

Our all delegated academics are highly-qualified specialists. We endeavor to create the conditions required to welcoming academics from reputable European universities. In addition to classes with students, we also organize workshops in Poland and abroad. Departing students are expected to achieve excellent scores and demonstrate proficiency in language of welcoming country or the language in which the classes are conducted. Before going on the planned Erasmus exchange the curricula of the host university, possibilities of accommodation etc. are accessible to students. After accepting the Learning Agreement, confirming the possibility and conditions of accommodation and signing the agreement with the host college, a student goes to the partner university. Visits of foreign students at WIT are organized in the same way.

For foreign students interested in learning Polish language, special Polish language courses are organized. In some cases, especially for students going to Scandinavian countries, in which the living costs are relatively higher compared to other European countries, our School can give additional financial support. We encourage our professors to broaden their experience abroad by offering them the financial support, because we think that the exchange of experiences will contribute to the improvement of the quality of teaching as well as to the development of scientific activities.

Close cooperation with the Institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and lectures delivered by outstanding visiting specialists and professors from overseas universities have the fundamental influence on the scientific research and development at our School. We have already had some achievements in this area – since 2008 we have been the co-organizer of the Summer Research Internships. The subjects of the internships are related to mathematics, computer science and Research & Development. The Summer Research

Internships resulted in participation of WIT in the Science Festival. Therefore, we are convinced that the experience gained by our students at the European universities will have a significant impact not only on their professional and scientific training, making them the global employees, but also on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All this will also enable them to contribute to the development of the European culture and science.