

## **The declaration of Erasmus politics**

*Turība University* (TU) is one of the biggest universities in Latvia, with clearly defined future vision – the leading Business Education Center in the Baltic. TU offers 23 study programmes in 4 faculties, among these are college programmes, bachelor, master and doctor study programmes in social sciences. About 5000 students from 27 countries study at the university. Considering, that TU is a new university, the international exchange programmes contribute to the improvement of academic quality. One of the priority directions of the development of TU is international recognition and participation in the development of international education and in the attraction of foreign students. Now, the cooperation in different projects and programmes is developed with 100 different higher education institutions and universities in 33 countries in Europe, America, Asia and Africa. The cooperation covers the fields of students and lecturers' mobility and research programmes - Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Jean Monet, Mundus, there are also developed 9 programmes of double diploma, the exchange of students takes place on the basis of bipartite cooperation.

At present, *Turība University* chooses its cooperation partners in several ways – the most widespread is in scientific conferences and exhibitions, as well as by introductory visits. These ways are used, because they correspond also with the main internationalization aims of the university, that are connected both with students and lecturers' mobility and with the attraction of new fulltime students. The afore-mentioned ways of the selection of partners help to evaluate them according to the academic quality (in conferences), and according to the possibilities offered for students and lectures (in preparatory visits); those are very important factors when selecting the institution for sending students and lecturers, as well as considering their strategic aims, that concur with those of TU (in exhibitions). Now, the main regions, where we plan expanding of the range of partners, are these European countries, where we don't have partners now and which are required among the students for the mobility, as well as the countries outside Europe, that give the students and the lecturers wider insight into global processes. The new programme of the EU for education, practice, youth and sport will give definitely the possibility to extend the cooperation of TU with the partners from the third countries within different mobility projects, as well as providing the programmes for internship.

In the next period within the programme we plan to intensify several ways of mobility identifying them as the priority. These are the possibilities for internship for business management and public relations students, as well as to intensify the mobility of master and doctor programmes students. Using the possibility to provide the mobility of the exchange of the experience for academic and administrative staff, we intend to develop the management of TU in cooperation with partnership higher education institutions.

Now *Turība University* implements 9 programmes of double diploma in all faculties with partners in Great Britain, France, Spain, Turkey and Taiwan. The most intensive cooperation has developed with the partners in France, where we realize also two programmes of double diploma on master level. Using the new programme, we plan

to expand the number of the programmes of double diploma directly on master's level, as well as with the partners from the third countries.

Using the new programme, we anticipate the possibility to expand geographically the possibilities for our students and lecturers to have internship and lectures and to have the practice outside the EU countries. Considering the programmes offered by our university and compulsory internship, that they contain, as well as the growing number of not-EU students, we plan to pay much more attention to the possibility to use the practice within the programmes both in EU and outside it, emphasizing the places of internship, that are seen for business management and public relation students at all study levels. We plan also to use more the possibilities for the lecturers to have internship and lectures to the third countries. We have already successfully started this kind of practice this year within Mundus project.

Taking part in the new programme we hope to reach a higher number of students from the third countries, because these students are one of the most interested ones in these programmes, as well as considering the demographic situation in Latvia. Our strategy is based now on the internationalization of the university and on qualitative, growing attraction of students from the third countries for fulltime studies. The internationalization includes also the broadening of the range of partners as well as in the EU and outside it, and the offered possibilities of the new programme will extend these possibilities. Attraction of new students, as well as the attraction of visiting lecturers from other countries helps definitely not only to increase the number of university graduates, but also increases the quality, because the university, its staff and lecturers are forced to adapt to the changing circumstances, because these people come with their study experience, work experience, that gives new insight into the methodology, study materials, and forces to improve also their quality. The possibilities of the new programme expand the possibilities of the mobility also outside the European Union.

It is planned to use the mobility of the staff to make the management of the university more effective, sharing experience and gaining new experience from partners, developing new study methods and forms. While establishing the Business Incubator in the university it is anticipated to connect the studies more effectively with real business, as well as the university as the member of the Chamber of Commerce is anticipated to use effective international contacts of this partnership for strengthening of education and business.