



INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

OF UNIVERSITY OF PREŠOV

**for 2019-2023
with a view to 2030**



INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY of the University of Prešov for the years

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

The internationalisation strategy creates the basic framework for the implementation of the strategic priorities of the University of Prešov in Prešov (hereinafter referred to as the University of Prešov, or PU) in the field of foreign relations, international cooperation and bringing the international dimension to key activities at all its faculties and other components in the period 2019-2023 with a view to 2030.

OPERATIONAL ENVIROMENT

Default State

The area of internationalization is a traditional and extremely dynamically developing part of the management of the University of Prešov. The International Relations Office has been part of the Rectorate structure since its inception in 1997. This means that the internationalisation strategy can build on experience and results to date. In the past more than two decades, the activity has focused on coordinating activities related to the creation and application of a strategy for the development of international relations as part of long-term plans for the development of PU, creating conditions for the expansion of the educational and research space for incoming and outgoing students, teachers and non-pedagogical staff, coordinating the preparation of the offer of study courses in foreign languages, creating a space for the admission of foreign students, coordinating activities related to obtaining funds from foreign grants, obtaining and regularly providing and distributing information on the offered opportunities for foreign activities as part of international projects and national scholarship programs aimed at the mobility of students, university teachers, researchers and other employees, coordinating the activities of the University within the framework of memberships in international associations, etc. From this brief overview, it is clear that the international relations agenda has a vertical and a horizontal dimension.

The vertical dimension consists in the requirement for coordinated cooperation of actors from the university level through the levels of faculties, university institutes and centres under the Rectorate, departments, institutes and other departments established at the faculties to the level of individual requirements and needs of employees and students in accordance with the internal quality assurance system of higher education. This requires a thorough analysis of the process set-up and, in cooperation with stakeholders, preparation of a possible optimisation of this set-up, which should aim at streamlining and improving the provision of services to domestic and foreign workers and students.

The horizontal dimension lies in the fact that internationalisation is a cross-cutting agenda and concerns all key segments of the university's mission as an institution, i.e.



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education, science, research, art, sport and, last but not least, cooperation with practice. All these activities have an undisputed international dimension and require the gradual building of bilateral and multilateral links with partner institutions abroad. It means, therefore, that all activities of the University are to be 'soaked' into the international dimension. All stakeholders should take this perspective into account and take into account the international context in their role within the structures of the University and its internal quality assurance system for higher education.

The agenda for the internationalisation of PU has so far been addressed only fragmentarily within the relevant parts of other strategic documents, in particular in the PU's long-term plan for 2014-2020 with a view to 2022. The need for a separate planning document reflects ongoing changes and requirements in higher education, science and research. The PU Internationalisation Strategy for 2019-2023 with a view to 2030 is based on current European and national planning documents: Vision and Strategy for the Development of Slovakia to 2030, Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015), Incheon Declaration for Education to 2030, objectives of the European Commission for Sustainable Development of the European Union defined in the discussion paper: Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030 of 30.1.2019 (Youth on the Move initiative) conceived on the basis of the ending Europe 2020 strategy (from 2010) revising the original Lisbon strategy (2000 and 2005). The content of the Strategy is in line with the conclusions of the Gothenburg Summit (Gothenburg Social Summit of 17 November 2017), where the European Commission presented a proposal for targets for the development of the European Education Area by 2025.

Internal dimension - mission, values and key competences

In terms of the internal dimension, the internationalisation strategy is based on the mission and values of the University of Prešov, which are set out in the Long-term Plan for the Development of the University of Prešov and other strategic documents. Based on the irreplaceable place of higher education in the field of education, research and cooperation between individual educational and research institutions as well as with other social organizations and bodies of state administration and self-government, the mission of the PU is to:

- produce new knowledge and develop innovative thinking with an international dimension;
- provide and involve all parties, in accordance with the internal quality assurance system for higher education, with continuous improvement in the quality of training of competent graduates in study programmes of all three levels, whose learning outcomes will guarantee them harmonious personal development, employability in the labour market, in business or in the liberal professions, the ability to adapt creatively to changing external conditions and the international credibility of the diplomas and qualifications obtained,
- initiate and accelerate the interaction and cooperation between the various involved parties of domestic and international provenance (university,



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business, public administration, civil society, church, nature) in accordance with the internal system of quality assurance of higher education with a view to achieving sustainable and inclusive development and improving the quality of life within the region in which it operates.

The internal dimension of the operational environment of the strategy includes values that form the basis for fulfilling the mission of the University. The PU has the ambition to fulfil its mission based on the preservation and development of national, Christian and academic heritage and respecting and applying the moral principles and values of democracy, humanity, human dignity, academic ethics and etiquette, moral rights, justice, responsibility and tolerance, so that the University becomes an area of academic freedom, creativity, critical thinking and discovery.

These value principles also determine the requirements for key skills and competences of university teachers and other university staff in the context of internationalisation in accordance with the internal quality assurance system of higher education. This reflects the growing need to work with target groups from different cultural backgrounds. These requirements translate not only into the need to improve language skills, but also the ability to work in different work cultures, which in synergy creates the preconditions for strengthening the university's competitiveness.

External dimension – trends and challenges

The external dimension of the operational environment is represented by current developments, in particular European policies for the internationalisation of education (the strategic objective of the EU for university education, aimed at creating a common European education area based on the principles of open international and inclusive education linked to science, research and innovation), the globalisation of the research and education area of universities, the consequences of climate change, demographic imbalances in different parts of the world, increasing migration and changes in the labour market due to technological developments, are particularly topical in this context.

LONG-TERM VISION

In 2030, the University of Prešov will be perceived as a respected institution abroad, open and ready to satisfy the interest of domestic students in studying abroad and to offer adequate conditions for foreign students studying at PU. It will be ready to develop multicultural institutional cooperation thanks to intensive two-way mobility of students and staff, the work of a group of university teachers and researchers from abroad, a joint study program with foreign universities and joint research and other projects in international consortia.



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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: PU's international strategic partnerships

This objective pursues the optimisation of the management of bilateral and multilateral agreements, memoranda of cooperation and PU memberships in various international alliances, consortia and other cooperation networks. Cooperation with quality foreign universities with a similar professional profile as PU will be a priority interest. This objective includes the interest of PU in the project of European university alliances, or an attempt to join another, similar international consortium of universities, which will cooperate in the field of education, science and research.

Indicators:

- Number of bilateral cooperation agreements and memoranda
- Geographical structure of bilateral cooperation agreements and memoranda by country of the world
- Number of multilateral cooperation agreements and memoranda
- Share of contracts and memoranda where at least one activity was implemented in the reporting period
- Number of PU memberships in international alliances, consortia or other cooperative networks and professional associations

Objective 2: International mobilities at PU

This objective aims at increasing the support and intensity of two-way mobility of students and staff (both incoming and outgoing) across all mobility schemes, grant programmes and inter-university partnerships.

Indicators:

- Number of incoming students
- Number of outgoing students
- Share of outgoing students out of the total number of students
- Number of incoming teachers
- Number of outgoing teachers
- Share of outgoing teachers out of the total number of teachers
- Number of other incoming staff
- Number of other outgoing staff
- Share of other outgoing employees out of the total number of other employees
- Number of bilateral agreements per mobility programme



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Objective 3: PU's Internationalisation of education

This objective aims to improve the position of PU within the European and global education area. In this case, the main objective is to ensure a quality environment, development of a quality culture and an attractive offer and support for foreign students and employees that will meet their expectations in accordance with the internal quality assurance system of higher education.

These are the following partial objectives:

- a) expanding the offer of study programs in English and other world languages for foreign students, including joint study programs with foreign universities,
- b) increasing the number and share of foreign students in the total number of students,
- c) increasing the diversity of international students in terms of their geographical origin, with particular reference to emerging markets in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central, South and East Asia,
- d) increasing the number and share of university teachers from abroad,
- e) increasing the language and intercultural competences of teachers and other employees of PU,
- g) improving the availability of information for individual target groups in the relevant language versions.

Indicators:

- Number of accredited and implemented study programmes provided in a language other than Slovak according to degrees
- Number of study courses provided in a language other than Slovak
- Number of accredited and implemented joint study programmes with foreign universities
- Total number of foreign students enrolled in studies at PU
- Number of foreign students enrolled in study programmes with tuition fees
- Share of foreign students in the total number of PU students
- Geographical structure of foreign students enrolled in PU by country of origin
- Diversification index of foreign students enrolled at PU according to their countries of origin
- Number of university teachers from abroad
- Share of higher education teachers from abroad in the total number of higher education teachers
- Percentage of teachers and other staff who increased their language competences during the reporting period
- Percentage of teachers and other staff who increased their intercultural competences during the reporting period



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- Volume of tuition income for study programmes provided in a language other than Slovak

Objective 4: Internationalisation of research and other creative activities at PU

Within this objective, the improvement of the position of PU within the European and global research area and the achievement of an internationally excellent or internationally significant level of results of creative activities are pursued. The aim is to increase the level of involvement of creative PU workers in solving international research projects and other projects of creative activity, increase the success of PU in acquiring international research projects and increase the income of PU from foreign sources for research and other creative activities.

Indicators:

- Number of foreign research projects acquired at PU
- Number of other foreign creative projects acquired at PU
- Share of creative workers involved in solving international projects out of the total number of creative workers
- Share of researchers from abroad in the total number of PU researchers
- Income from foreign research projects
- Income from other foreign projects

Objective 5: The international dimension of PU branding

This objective pursues the improvement of the position and image of the PU brand in an international context. In this context, attention will be paid to increasing the visibility of PU by improving the university's web presentation in relevant languages, preparing information materials on study programmes and the PU's cooperation profile in individual creative activities in several language versions, supporting the increase of PU participation in foreign educational fairs or other events, and intensifying contacts with representative offices of individual countries with competence for Slovakia.

Indicators:

- Number of PU participation in trade fairs abroad
- Number of PU attendance at other presentation events abroad
- Number of official foreign visits to PU
- Number of official visits of PU representatives to foreign institutions
- Number of informational publications at PU published in foreign languages



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Implementation and revision of the strategy

The implementation of the strategy is methodically managed and coordinated by the rectorate's International Relations Office under the leadership of the relevant Vice-Rector. To this end, an International Relations Council is established as an advisory body to the Vice-Rector. The implementation team includes relevant vice-deans at the faculties and employees of relevant departments at the dean's offices, as well as relevant managers and coordinators of mobility in the departments and other parts of the University. Ultimately, each staff member is responsible for the international dimension of the activities they carry out in accordance with their responsibilities within the university.

The proposal of the Strategy for the Internationalization of the University of Prešov for the years 2019-2023, with a view to 2030, underwent a general commentary procedure, in the period from 23.9.2019 to 21.10.2019, during which all PU employees had the opportunity to comment on it. The document was discussed by the management of the PU at the meeting on 21 October 2019 and by the Rector's College at the meeting on 4 November 2019.

The implementation of the strategy for individual academic years is specified in an action plan that defines the tasks, deadlines for their implementation and the persons responsible for their implementation. The implementation of the action plans shall be evaluated annually and, on that occasion, the strategy may be updated or revised in accordance with the principles, structures and processes of the internal quality assurance system for higher education.

In Prešov, 4 November 2019

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