

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT OF JESUIT UNIVERSITY IGNATIANUM IN KRAKOW FOR THE YEARS 2021-2027

### General mission and international and developmental strategy of Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow

1. Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow (AIK), one of almost 200 Jesuit universities worldwide, continues the over 450 years of educational tradition of the Society of Jesus. The beginnings of AIK go back to the 1930s. Since then, it has been constantly developing its teaching and research activity within humanities and social sciences, both locally and internationally.
2. The mission of AIK is deriving inspiration from the Christian way of life, serving the family of humankind in the spirit of the Gospel, engaging in the struggle for faith and justice, and striving to be a place of dialogue between the Gospel and the culture at large. The main goal of AIK is to provide the students with an education of the highest possible level, one that will empower them, through the knowledge and competence they acquire, not only to strive toward their own fruitful professional development and self-fulfilment, but also, thanks to *Ignatian pedagogy*, which is one of many characteristics of the Jesuit education, to facilitate their spiritual, moral and social growth as human beings.
3. The participation of AIK in the Erasmus+ Programme corresponds with the mission as well as with the international and developmental strategy of the University, which the main goals are as following:
  - a) development of academic and educational cooperation with the foreign universities on the basis of equality and reciprocity and the promotion of relations and mutual understanding,
  - b) increasing the numbers of reciprocal exchanges of students, faculty members, specialist staff members and researchers with the partner universities in order to develop academic and scientific integrated activities,
  - c) development of strong partnerships with the new universities with common fields and values in education and research, considering geographical and subject area balance,
  - d) increasing the faculty members' participation in European and international cooperation projects, to the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience,
  - e) the development of the participation of the scientific and educational/didactic staff of Ignatianum in international research and expertise teams in the field of research into cultural and religious relations between the East and the West and socio-cultural processes in Europe and the world,
  - f) increasing and developing the participation of AIK in the Erasmus+ Programme as well as in other international exchange programmes.
4. International programmes are among priorities in the scientific and educational activity of AIK. This has been indicated by the participation in the Erasmus+ Programme, as part of the Lifelong Learning Programme as well as the former Socrates Programme. AIK has established close cooperation with numerous prestigious universities worldwide in the frame of Erasmus+ Programme (both with Programme and Partner countries). Moreover, AIK launched a lot of partnerships outside of the Erasmus+ Programme, based on scientific and exchange Bilateral Agreements with some of renowned Jesuit, catholic, ecclesiastical as well as lay universities with long-lasting tradition from all of the world.

### Strategy for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme

1. The International Relations Office (IRO) of AIK, as an administrative unit, in terms of its actions, cooperates with Academic Coordinators for International Relations and Erasmus+ Programme. One of the most important tasks of the IRO is the coordination of activities in the frame of the Erasmus+ Programme by managing it on the level of the university and offering relevant

administrative support to all participants. Among others, the main support given to all participants corresponds with:

- a) adaptation and integration of incoming students to the local environment (through organizing events, like Welcome Days as well as various social, cultural, sport activities and trips),
  - b) finding the accommodation, with the process of obtaining a visa and insurance, when required,
  - c) undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of linguistic proficiency and development of intercultural competences of outgoing students and staff,
  - d) guiding through application procedures, while ensuring that mobility for study and teaching are carried out within the framework of prior agreements between institutions, and that student and staff mobility is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants,
  - e) undertaking the necessary steps to use Erasmus Without Paper network to transfer data of Erasmus+ mobile students by managing the mobilities and the bilateral agreements in Erasmus Dashboard platform and adapting in-house system in regards to the process of nomination and issuing Transcript of records, containing a full, accurate and timely record of student's achievements at the end of the mobility period.
2. Throughout participation in the Erasmus+ Programme, AIK intends to be integrated into the European Education Area and the European Research Area by:
- a) promoting the internationalization of higher education and ensuring access to quality higher education and professional development for the individual and the improvement of employment,
  - b) supporting the participants and helping them to effectively exploit their potential,
  - c) promoting the idea of lifelong learning and spending time abroad to study and learn, which should become the norm,
  - d) promoting social equality, integration and linguistic development at once, believing that everyone should be able to access high-quality education, irrespective of their socio-economic background,
  - e) encouraging the participants to adapt and develop sensitivity to mental and cultural differences as well as be aware of their identity as a European, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity.
3. By agreeing to the principles of the Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education, AIK accepts to work towards achieving these objectives by participating in the following activities:
- a) Key Action 1 "Learning Mobility": The mobility of higher education students (study, traineeship, and blended mobility) and staff (teachers and administrative staff),
  - b) Key Action 2 "Cooperation among organisations and institutions",
- where the priority is given to: the mobility of higher education students and staff within Action 1 and partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices within Action 2.
- These activities shall be underpinned by high-quality mobility of participants and cooperation with the partner institutions.

### The main goals of AIK in reference to the Erasmus+ Programme

1. Increasing the mobility of students of all levels and fields of study and staff mobility by:
  - a) maintaining existing educational cooperation and developing a new number of bilateral agreements. The prospective partner universities are chosen based on related fields of study and geographical balance. Throughout checking the possibilities and academic interests, AIK tries to avoid signing agreements which are not going to be active,
  - b) introduction of blended mobility as a key concept in ensuring the flexibility of and better access to the Erasmus+ Programme,
  - c) providing easy access to information about the study programmes; publishing and regularly updating the course catalogue as well as information on the grading system and academic calendar on the website of AIK well in advance of the mobility periods,

- d) including teacher mobility as a factor in the staff periodic evaluation system,
  - e) improving qualifications of administrative staff by participation in international training and multivariate projects as a way to improve the functioning of the AIK's administration,
  - f) boosting employment opportunities for students through their participation in international internships and by giving them professional experience and through developing the quality and quantity of cooperation with foreign companies and institutions to open the access to the European labour market for students,
2. Raising the level of study through:
    - a) providing a high level of education for the graduates and researchers, in compliance with European needs,
    - b) improving the quality and extent of higher education by enriching the educational offer in foreign languages,
    - c) extending the range of teaching by using e-learning,
    - d) increasing mobility and international cooperation,
    - e) adapting the curriculum to the needs of the labour market,
    - f) developing the training standards following the guidelines of the Bologna Declaration and the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS),
    - g) linking higher education, researches and business excellence with regional development,
    - h) improving teaching skills of the academic staff by introducing innovative teaching tools and techniques, adapting good practices gained during the mobility,
  3. Promoting and disseminating the actions that are taken within the Erasmus+ Programme as well as environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme in order to raise the number of students and teachers involved in participation in mobility as well as in work with international groups.
  4. Promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in mobility or project. This has been realizing by e.g. encouraging incoming/outgoing participants upon return to promote the benefits of mobility and share their experiences with potential applicants or target groups with fewer opportunities during events organised by IRO such as Erasmus Day or International Day, or by the involvement of students in being Erasmus Buddy.
  5. Promoting social equality and integration at once, respecting in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Erasmus+ programme and providing equal and equitable access and opportunities for all participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities; ensuring that selection procedures for mobility activities are fair, transparent, coherent and documented.
  6. Ensuring that cooperation activities and their outcomes are sustainable and that their impact benefits all partners, when participating in European and International Cooperation Projects.

### Expected impact of the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation

The project plays a key role in the effective functioning of the university. The program has a positive impact on its participants by increasing their confidence in pursuing to get to know different cultures. The participation in the project brings long term benefits to the University in terms of the growth in its internationalisation, recognition in the local and international environment, common international publications, common academic conferences, an increase in the quality of education thanks to the lessons conducted by foreign academics, increased professionalism amongst the academic staff, the development of the educational offer in foreign languages (part of the internationalization of the study programmes), improving linguistic competencies of students as well as academic teachers and administrative staff of the university, boosting employment opportunities for students through their participation in international internships and by giving them professional experience, inspiring new academic projects and having a positive influence on group activities. The implementation of the project will have a considerable long-term effect on the modernisation and development of the university and forming the basis for its process of internationalization.

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