

In the period from 1 June 2018 to 30 September 2019, the Wroclaw University of Economics carried out the Erasmus+ Project under Key Action 107 – Mobility Project for Higher Education Students and Staff with Partner Countries. The project was effected with the following countries: Belarus (one university), Russia (four universities), Ukraine (three universities), Bosnia and Herzegovina (one university), Serbia (one university) and Canada (one university). In cooperation with partner universities, the Wroclaw University of Economics implemented the project for the following types of mobility: SMS – four participants, including four incoming students; STA – 21 participants, including twelve incoming participants and nine outgoing participants; STT – 14 participants, including six incoming participants and eight outgoing participants. The selection of countries and partner institutions was based on the existing scientific, research and educational cooperation between the universities which applied for participation in the project and the Wroclaw University of Economics and on the drive for diversification through cooperation with new countries. All selected universities fit the profile of the Wroclaw University of Economics, which takes actions promoting sustainable development not only together with the EU Member States, but also with partner countries. The Wroclaw University of Economics was the project coordinator at all stages of implementation (application, implementation, ongoing monitoring, recording in the Mobility Tool, financial service, reporting, and dissemination of results). The aim of the project was to provide incoming students with access to international mobility and enable them to complete a part of their studies abroad, which has translated directly into the students' more thorough preparation to tackle the challenges posed by socio-economic changes in contemporary Europe, taking account of social justice and respect for the cultural distinctiveness of the partner countries, while at the same time maintaining their own sense of identity and strengthening the skill of active functioning in the European social and economic space. The goal of the project for outgoing and incoming academic staff was to enable them to become acquainted with the academic environment at the partner universities, gain new experience of teaching, develop their own skills and make better use of their scientific and educational potential and foster the European dimension in their work with students. The objective of the project for staff making use of training mobility was to help them become familiar with best practices in place in the partner universities, exchange experience and work using the human potential effectively, implement the message of Lifelong Learning, get to know the process of developing own skills, and transfer the acquired experience to their home institution. The implementation of the project was in line with the key foundations of the internationalisation strategy of the Wroclaw University of Economics, which includes promoting the international activity consisting in the exchange of students and academic staff, stimulating international activity and achievements of research and teaching staff, creating the image of the Wroclaw University of Economics as a modern higher education institution functioning within the European scientific and educational space. The project implementation was also fully compliant with the internationalisation policy of universities from the partner countries, permanently inscribed in their visions, missions and development strategies. The project was carried out in accordance with the basic assumptions described in the ECHE Charter, including the principle of equal treatment for all project participants, clear recruitment rules, ongoing mobility monitoring and constant communication between all institutions taking part in the project. The direct effects of the project implementation comprise the intensification of international exchange of students and staff from all participating institutions and development of the educational offer in English at all levels of education and in various forms of studies. The project implementation has also resulted in an increase in international activity in the area of research, including greater participation of universities from the partner countries in European research projects and programs, expansion of international cooperation in the field of exchange of scientific staff as well as promotion of international activity and achievements of the universities' students and staff. The implementation of other European projects, similar to the one described herein, enhances the image of the participating universities as modern higher education institutions strongly embedded in the European research and educational space, which affects the quality of their cooperation not only with the closest economic and social environment, but also with universities and research centres around the world.