



# **STRATEGY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION**

**University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava**

**for period 2020 – 2023**



## SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

Strategy of internationalization of University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (UCM) is a tool to contribute to the achievement of objectives and to improve the desired results of UCM in an environment of international cooperation in higher education. It is a process that is not an objective, but which serves the objective of fulfilling its defined components and elements, and this process is continually being developed and reviewed, as it should serve as a support mechanism.

The strategy of internationalization constitutes the basic framework for the implementation of the objectives and priorities of UCM, in particular in the field of foreign relations and international cooperation, at all its faculties and institutes, in the period 2020-2023.

The long-term intention of UCM foresees the use of processes within the framework of internationalization for the implementation and strengthening of the effectiveness of the instruments set to meet the main objectives of UCM.

University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava is a modern institution of higher education, which has its place among the top workplaces in research and educational space. It is our interest to follow new trends in science, education and other activities. Opening up space for international cooperation is essential for the progress of our university, in line with current developments in education around the world. The constantly evolving labor market needs at national and international level require qualified university graduates with an international reach. The integration of international elements into higher education, the exchange of experience and the development of language and intercultural skills of students and university staff increase the competitiveness of higher education, raise the level of graduates and strengthen the quality of human resources in higher education.

*The internationalization and improvement of the quality of higher education envisages strengthening the position of our university within Slovak universities, but also in the European area. The strategic goal of UCM in the area of internationalization is to map the current state, define starting points and goals for the future, and in the field of higher education and scientific research. It also aims to support the enhancement of the quality and competitiveness of higher education at UCM by strengthening international cooperation in higher education.*

Internationalization of UCM focuses on two areas:

Internationalization in the field of higher education, where the main objective is to provide higher education in line with international standards, to develop international cooperation in the provision of higher education, and to promote and secure mobility as well as to attract foreign students for full-time study at UCM.

Internationalization in the field of research and development, where the main objective is to support the implementation of research and development activities in all areas of the university's activities at international level, as well as permanent involvement in international cooperation in research and development, international research centers, research teams, projects and institutions in the field of research and development, but also the organization of international research events - conferences, symposia, etc.



## APPLICATION AND INTEGRATION AREA

University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava (UCM) is a young and dynamic university that since its establishment has been constantly expanding international contacts with major world and European educational institutions, organizations and other partners in the field of science, research and education. Internationalization as one of the prerequisites for improving the quality of higher education is perceived by the University as an important tool for exchanging experience, developing language and intercultural skills of students and university staff. The development of international cooperation at UCM is realized mainly in the form of bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at mutual exchange of students, pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff, as well as through the implementation of international scientific projects, organizing joint scientific events and presentation of work results in the form of joint publications.

Our students and employees who are interested in a foreign stay can take advantage of a wide range of mobility through the Erasmus + program, or have a foreign stay based on international bilateral agreements, or take advantage of other mobility and scholarship schemes and programs, also receiving foreign visits, delegations and experts, which enrich the teaching process and contribute to the internationalization of science, research and education at our university.

The field of internationalization is therefore traditional and one of the most important parts of the university. The external relations agenda is managed by the Rector's Office - External Relations Department, which was transformed from the original structure of the Office of Foreign Relations after the new UCM leadership started in 2018. The activities not only in the area of internationalization build on the previous experience and activities of this department.

Especially in the recent period there has been an increase in cooperation between individual rectorate departments together with faculties and institutes in order to:

*- developing and implementing a strategy for the development of international relations, creating conditions for expanding the educational and research space for incoming and outgoing students of UCM, teaching and non-teaching staff, coordinating the preparation and subsequent supply of courses in foreign languages; regular provision and distribution of comprehensive information about the opportunities offered by activities within international projects and national scholarship programs, obtaining funding from foreign grants, coordinating university activities within membership of international associations, etc.*

On the basis of very active cooperation with the Vice-Rector for External Relations, the External Relations Department ensures:

*- organization of seminars for outgoing students, incoming students, for non-teaching staff of the University in matters concerning the administration of foreign students, lecturers, pedagogues and researchers from third countries, especially in relation to the foreign police, provides the UCM office for ESN Trnava in English for the needs of foreign regular and mobility students, translates documents for foreign full-time and mobility students in matters relating to study, accommodation, daily life, leisure activities, etc., administers the university's English website, the Erasmus section in Slovak, English and Turkish; promoting mobility and foreign language learning programs, as well as university*



activities, provides space for students to share their mobility - in face-to-face meetings in the form of UCM leadership meetings, as well as through announcements on the University's website and social networks; records bilateral and multilateral agreements, memoranda and cooperation agreements, provides administrative support for incoming and outgoing students, faculty and institute staff in matters of international cooperation, provides promotion of the Erasmus + K103 student and university staff mobility program, K2 projects - Strategic Partnerships, K107 - International Credit Mobility and Jean Monet (University management universally supports the participation of its workplaces in the design and implementation of all types of Erasmus + projects), participation in Erasmus + traineeships through the WorkspaceEurope consortium has started Erasmus self-directed traineeships at proven partner workplaces; UCM students have the opportunity to undertake internships in other programs of their choice, provide collaboration with the Confucius Institute while the Chinese lecturer provides Chinese lessons for UCM students and staff, searches for potential UCM partners, provides university promotions at the international level, etc.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In the University's Long-term Development Plan, the UCM has set out the following objectives for a key area of education:

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIV nr. 1: Expand and improve conditions for academic mobility of students, teachers and non-teaching staff of the university in Slovakia, the European and world academic space**

Tools to achieve of a goal:

- a) Improve the teaching of students' foreign languages and increase the language skills of university staff.
- b) To create conditions for every PhD student in full-time study to be obliged to complete a semester study abroad.
- c) To create conditions so that the university's academic staff can complete at least a week's study stay abroad for a period of 3 years.

Status:

- a) Each faculty and institute has its own language teaching center with a specialization corresponding to the offered study programs.
- b) The obligation to study abroad is enshrined in the UCM Doctoral Study Directive. PhD students have the opportunity to participate in Erasmus + exchange stays as well as other grant schemes, with the support of their home departments and faculties, as well as the External Relations Department.
- c) The External Relations Department also manages employee mobility under the Erasmus + program, and mobility under other grant schemes is handled individually by the grant agency.

Indicators:

- Number of outgoing students for mobility.
- The proportion of outgoing students in mobility out of the total number of students.
- Number of outgoing teachers for mobility.



- The proportion of outgoing teachers in mobility among the total number of teachers.
- Number of outgoing non-teaching staff for mobility.
- The share of outgoing non-teaching staff in mobility out of the total number of employees.
- Number of bilateral agreements with program partner countries and other mobility programs.

***STRATEGIC OBJECTIV nr. 2: Expand and improve the conditions for academic mobility of students, teachers and non-teaching staff coming to universities from partner universities on the basis of bilateral agreements and other mobility programs***

Tools to achieve of a goal:

- a) Extending the offer of subjects of individual faculties and institutes in English.
- b) Create conditions for each incoming student to have the same study options (incl. Accommodation) as a student of home nationality.
- c) To create the conditions to provide teachers and non-teaching staff from abroad with the opportunity and space for their mobility at UCM.

Status:

- a) Each faculty and institute has developed a Catalog of courses for mobility incoming students, which lists the possibilities of their study in English.
- b) The Department of External Relations administers the UCM Mobility Web site with all information, creates brochures for students in English and participates in arranging events for foreign students and their leisure activities.
- c) The Department of External Relations also manages employee mobility under the Erasmus + program in collaboration with UCM faculties and institutes.

Indicators:

- Number of incoming students for mobility.
- The proportion of incoming students in mobility out of the total number of students.
- Number of incoming teachers for mobility.
- The proportion of incoming teachers in mobility out of the total number of teachers.
- Number of incoming non-teaching staff for mobility.
- The share of incoming non-teaching staff in mobility out of the total number of staff.
- Number of bilateral agreements with program partner countries and other mobility programs.

***STRATEGIC OBJECTIV nr. 3: Increase the proportion of regular foreign students studying at the University, in particular by accrediting foreign language study programs***

Tools to achieve of a goal:

- a) Expand participation in European education programs, develop the European dimension in education, in particular by teaching and disseminating the languages of the Member States of the European Union.
- b) Identify potential partners outside the European area and create the preconditions for strengthening cooperation.



- c) By accreditation of study programs in foreign languages to create conditions for attracting more students from abroad who come to UCM not only for mobility but also for full-time study primarily in full-time form of study.
- d) Increasing the effectiveness of university-wide marketing abroad and expanding the provision of foreign language learning to make study abroad more attractive.
- e) Completion of new accommodation capacities and their offer to foreign students to ensure the conditions for studying from abroad.
- f) Creation of joint study programs with foreign universities.

Status:

- a) Participation of staff of the External Relations Department, representatives of faculties and institutes at international fairs and conferences, international symposia and the like, with the aim of presenting UCM and reaching potential candidates for study at UCM.
- b) Acquisition of UCM partners by the Department of External Relations, Faculties and Institutes in terms of their geographical origin, with particular reference to emerging markets in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as well as Eastern, South and Central Asia.
- c) Improving the availability of information on study opportunities, subject syllabuses for individual target groups in the relevant language mutations.
- d) Increasing the number of UCM participation in presentation events, creating information materials in a foreign language, improving the university's web presentation for those interested in studying from abroad, intensive contact with the embassies of individual countries with competence for Slovakia.
- e) Accommodation offers for those interested in studying from abroad, UCM internal regulations governing this issue, availability of all accommodation documents for foreign students in a foreign language.
- f) There is already a double degree at UCM (faculty level) with a partner university in Belgorod.

Indicators:

- Number of accredited degree programs provided in a foreign language at all three levels of study.
- Number of foreign students enrolled at UCM.
- The share of foreign students in the total number of UCM students.
- Geographical structure of foreign students enrolled according to their countries of origin.
- Index of diversification of foreign students enrolled at UCM by country of origin.
- Number of UCM participation in fairs and other presentation events abroad.
- Number of UCM information publications issued in a foreign language.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIV nr. 4: UCM International Strategic Partnerships**

Tools to achieve of a goal:

- a) Optimization of management of bilateral agreements, memorandum of cooperation, UCM membership in various international alliances, event. consortia, etc.



Status:

- a) Cooperation with high quality foreign universities with similar UCM profile at the level of UCM faculties and departments and institutes, interest of the university in joining the international university consortium, which will cooperate in the field of education, science and research.

Indicators:

- Number of bilateral agreements.
- Number of memorandum of cooperation.
- Geographical structure of bilateral agreements and memorandum of cooperation.
- Number of UCM memberships in international alliances, consortia or other cooperation networks, etc.

In a key area: Internationalization in research and education:

***STRATEGIC OBJECTIV nr. 1: The university's priority in this area is openness and further qualitative shift in the university's international cooperation, especially in the field of science and research, as well as education***

Tools to achieve of a goal:

- a) Develop international cooperation and participation in projects of the European Union, the countries of the European Economic Area and Switzerland in the field of scientific research by applying for joint research projects on the basis of multilateral or bilateral inter-university contracts.
- b) Develop a concept for the direction of the University's foreign activities and review the effectiveness of the use of bilateral and multilateral inter-university contracts every four years.
- c) Identify and remove obstacles to the recognition of mobility at universities and partner universities abroad.
- d) Organize joint training programs with foreign universities and their faculties.
- e) Increase the participation of the University in projects included in the Erasmus + joint program and others, in order to ensure the quality and sustainable mobility of students and teachers, in the context of contacts with European Union projects.
- f) Ensure and develop participation in joint projects under framework projects as well as international mobility, with an emphasis on PhD students, young academics and researchers.
- g) To prepare conditions for students to complete shorter intensive internships abroad.
- h) Provide feedback focusing on the benefits and practical outcomes of mobility and foreign stays.
- i) Support short-term stays of visiting professors from abroad.

Status:

- a) The faculties and the Institutes of UCM regularly participate in joint research projects, particularly in the framework of INTERREG, ESIF, APVV, KEGA, VEGA projects, inclusion in the SCOPUS database, International VisegradFund, Worlds of Journalism Study (WJS) and WJS Association, 9th Framework Program EC for Research, Development and Innovation "HorizonEurope", Operational Program Research Development, etc.





- b) In preparation for the next phase of the Erasmus + program, as in other universities, a review of Erasmus + cooperation contracts is under preparation. The Department of External Relations requested from the faculties their report on foreign activities and on the basis of their reports it will prepare a concept of the direction of foreign activities.
- c) As a result of the requirements of the Erasmus program, obstacles to the recognition of mobility have been gradually eliminated and it can be said that the results of mobility are recognized to the full extent by students. Both coordinators and students are aware of the importance of the composition of mobility subjects precisely in order to recognize the outcomes and approach this role responsibly.
- d) Currently, UCM is working at the faculty level with the University of Belgorod on a double diploma program, and the program is planned to be extended to other partner universities in Asia in the future.
- e) Increase the participation of the University in projects included in the Erasmus + and other projects in order to ensure quality and sustainable mobility of students and teachers in the context of contacts with European Union projects. Since r. In 2016, universities regularly apply for grants in other Erasmus + lines. K2 - Strategic Partnerships, K107 - International Credit Mobility and Jean Monet have been and are being solved at UCM. The university management broadly supports the participation of its workplaces in the creation and implementation of all types of Erasmus + projects.
- f) UCM will continue to organize international scientific conferences, including an international conference for PhD students and young researchers in a foreign language called Language Competence as a Part of Lifelong Learning, Science and Technology Days, Applied Natural Sciences, Megatrends and Media, and so on.
- g) In addition to allowing its students to participate in Erasmus + traineeships through the WorkspaceEurope consortium, UCM has started to implement Erasmus traineeships in its own direction at proven partner workplaces. UCM students have the opportunity to participate in other programs of their choice. The UCM faculties have elaborated systems for the recognition of traineeships and participation in the traineeship is also stated in the Diploma Supplement.
- h) The Department of External Relations and the faculties of UCM regularly organize meetings at the University, where students and educators have the opportunity to present their knowledge of completed mobility.
- i) UCM and its faculties and institutes welcome the possibility of participating professors and, within their capabilities, provide them with facilities at faculties and institutes. University management supports these activities, as evidenced by the award of the Dr. h. c. to visiting professor from Japan in the academic year 2019/2020.

Indicators:

- Number of foreign research projects obtained at UCM.
- Share of researchers involved in international projects.
- Share of researchers from abroad in the total number of UCM researchers.
- Numbers of activities based on bilateral and multilateral agreements.
- Numbers of visiting professors from abroad.
- Outputs of student and teacher mobility - numbers within faculties and rectorate.
- Number of completed internships of UCM students.





### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

The implementation of the Internationalization Strategy (UCM) is managed and coordinated by the Vice-Rector for External Relations and the relevant External Relations Department. The submitted document was discussed by the management of UCM at the meeting on 09 January 2020 and at the UCM Rector's Meeting on 14 January 2020.

### REVISION OF THE STRATEGY

The implementation of the submitted document is set out in the Action Plan for individual academic years, which contains tasks and their fulfillment, deadlines and responsible persons for their fulfillment. At the end of the academic year, the Action Plan monitors the fulfillment of the set tasks in accordance with the principles, structures and internal processes of the quality assurance system of higher education.

In order to support the strategy and fulfill its goals, the UCM management also adopts the UCM internal directives, which oblige the individual departments of the Rectorate, faculties and institutes to fulfill their content.

The Internationalization Strategy of UCM also includes outputs of individual faculties and institutes for the strategy's goals, published on the university website together with the submitted document.

In Trnava, on 09th of January, 2020

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prof. Ing. Roman Boča, DrSc.

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