

# **INSTYTUT NAUK PRAWNYCH PAN – THE INSTITUTE OF LAW STUDIES, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT**

The Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ILS PAS - Instytut Nauk Prawnych Polskiej Akademii Nauk – ILS PAS) is one of the most prominent scientific research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences within the area of social sciences. The Institute, established in 1956, has been also one of the leading scientific centers in the field of legal studies for over 60 years. The role of the ILS PAS is to initiate, promote, conduct and coordinate the research concerning the theoretical and practical aspects of the law in the context of dynamic changes of the contemporary world.

The Institute also offers 3<sup>rd</sup> degree education. The doctoral studies offered by the ILS PAS gather together the PhD candidates with the researchers of the highest knowledge and research skills.

The research of the scientific staff of the ILS PAS is often conducted within the framework of international cooperation with foreign counterparts. In the framework of the formal cooperation, the ILS PAS is a member of three international multi-partner projects consortia and has further signed ten bilateral agreements. The ILS PAS collaborates mostly with partners from European Union, such as United Kingdom, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Netherlands, France, Slovenia, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Romania, Croatia, Czech Republic, but also outside EU – with Taiwan. In addition, the ILS PAS has a considerable number of informal relations based on researchers' individual contacts and previous experience in field of joint research and mobility. This type of cooperation is very strong and well-developed, even if not institutionalised yet. Such an informal cooperation is in particular realised with scientists from Finland, Greece, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States, Israel and Australia.

The choice of the collaborating partners in the framework of Erasmus+ Programme will be made on the basis of existing agreements and informal international cooperation. Still, the ILS PAS will comply with the requirement that international cooperation in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme between HEI of Member States should be implemented uniquely between ECHE holders. Many institutions which are already partners of the ILS PAS are holders of the Erasmus Charter of Higher Education. Holding ECHE will further enable the ILS PAS to fully benefit from the European cooperation and mobility opportunities suited for the Institute's researchers.

The ILS PAS does not foresee any particular geographical criterion as to the choice of the collaborating partners. The partners for cooperation will be chosen (as it was so far) according to the objective criterion of the scientific excellence of partner, as well as analysis of the common interests, potential benefits and perspectives of collaboration on a long-term basis. For that reason the ILS PAS does not intend to limit its international cooperation only to the existing partners, but is open to establish such cooperation with new scientific partners in the future.

The most important objective for the ILS PAS is to strengthen European cooperation and staff mobility. Thus the mobility activities will enable the ILS PAS researchers, namely professors and assistant professors, short-term stays (from 2 days up to 2 months) for teaching and training in the partner organisation as well as to enable the researchers and lecturers from partner establishments short-term stays for teaching and training in the ILS PAS.

Therefore the main objectives for the ILS PAS are:

- 1) to strengthen the scientific and teaching potential of its researchers in order to improve the quality of teaching and research for the doctoral students at the Institute;
- 2) to support scientific development of the Institute's staff;

3) to enhance and increase the possibility of establishing scientific consortia.

The exchange of researchers has a great added value for the scientific careers and for the adaptation to work in the framework of international cooperation. The mobility activities will allow the Institute to strengthen international cooperation in the field of research, to establish closer international links in the framework of bilateral cooperation and the exchange of the research staff (and consequently the exchange of research results). Short visits for the administrative staff of the ILS PAS will also be beneficial from the point of view of their international experience, improvement of language skills and implementation of the highest possible standards of mobility support.

In addition the ILS PAS has also long tradition in the research in the field of EU law (dating back long before the Poland's accession to the EU). An important objective of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is to expand the PhD curriculum at the Institute and include more courses on EU law in general and some dedicated courses for the PhD students, which will promote excellence in teaching and research in EU studies.

The strategy of the ILS PAS is to intensify the exchange of researchers who are also tutors for the Ph.D. Students at the Institute, which will allow the supervisors to acquire additional teaching and tutoring skills, with the positive impact for the quality of teaching. The aim of the doctoral studies at the ILS PAS is to provide students with knowledge and competencies to conduct scientific work in law within current modern complex and polycentric legal environment.

The ILS PAS will aim at reframing its existing international scientific cooperation within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme, through the bilateral agreements with the ECHE holders. Other partners based in the EU will be encouraged to obtain the Erasmus Charter of Higher Education in order to establish more efficient relations between partners and to benefit from the mobility options offered in the Erasmus+ Programme.

In the selection of academic institutions to further cooperation in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme the ILS PAS will take into account the convergence of scientific and research purposes, the opportunity to acquire additional skills and education (including language skills) and the political situation (in order to ensure safe residence for scholars abroad). The Institute will aim at increasing the number of partners, as well as the number of professors/tutors participating in the mobility activities. Administrative staff will have opportunities to participate in Staff Training Weeks or Job Shadowing partner institutions. We believe that Erasmus+ Programme will enable participants to exchange the ideas in the field of science and administration (know-how). The Institute also aims at the Jean Monnet Programme options in order to enhance the studies in European Union law, as well as to enhance the dialog between the researchers and the practitioners of law.

The ILS PAS is committed to development of its current international network of cooperation within the Erasmus+ Programme, since the Erasmus+ Programme provides a unique institutionalised opportunity to make this cooperation systematic, methodical and permanent. The Erasmus+ Programme also constitutes a great chance to further develop scientific research within a stable institutional background.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will contribute to the development of pedagogical skills of scientific staff. The ILS PAS appreciates that good teachers are crucial. The Institute's ambition is to support its doctoral students with the best guidance possible. For this reason the professors of the Institute should be able to provide the young researchers (PhD candidates and doctoral students) with knowledge and - even more importantly - skills necessary for the research. Therefore the

researchers of the ILS PAS should have an opportunity to teach abroad and to learn how to teach effectively, responding to the dynamically changing needs of Ph.D. Students and young researchers. It is necessary to support teaching skills of the ILS PAS tutors, but also to invite visiting professors to teach the ILS PAS Ph.D.

Moreover participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will have a very positive impact on building modern curriculum of doctoral studies. The PhD course has already been updated and modernised in order to better fit the evolution of law in the changing national, international and European context linking science and business. Now the ILS PAS aims at further developing the teaching offer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of studies in law, which necessitates also developing the teaching skills. This will help to provide young researchers with the best tools to conduct their own research, develop their civic and social competences, build critical and independent thinking and research, as well as to contribute to innovation.

The Erasmus+ Programme will give the ILS PAS possibility to build new opportunities of integration between lawyers. The ILS PAS needs new opportunities to connect researchers and practitioners in law in order to make the mutual relations more effective. Such a dialog and exchange of knowledge and experience is important to combine even more closely the theory of law with the practice of its application. The participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is expected to be an important contribution to establishing such links and exchange, in particular in the field of European law.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will enable to further develop the Institute's mission, which is to join tradition of research in such fields as civil, criminal and administrative law with innovative research approaches. We believe the legal research nowadays should be designed in a way to face the challenges of modernity, of current complicated social economic relations and technological revolution. For that reason the research activities at the ILS PAS cover also new social and economic aspects of current life, in recently established departments, such as the Centre for New Technologies Law. We believe that the doctoral training is crucial for the development of young researchers' careers. The Institute already implements idea that PhD studies are the way for excellence in professional life. The doctoral studies conducted at the ILS PAS and the PhD thesis refer to the most actual important issues, rooted in the practical application of law in national, international and European context. Obtaining PhD at the ILS PAS, which is perceived as centre of excellence renowned for high scientific values, constitutes a proof of professional knowledge, skills and social competences. This in turn is an important additional value for potential employers and clients.

The ILS PAS mission is based on a very strong relation between the research conducted by professors and assistant professors and the knowledge and skills that they share with the PhD students. The better knowledge and skills (including pedagogical and tutoring skills) of the ILS PAS professors, the higher level of teaching and professional formation of its doctoral students. The ILS PAS aims at strengthening this relation. It will also improve its internal organisation in order to encourage the researchers of the ILS PAS to participate in mobility and to open up for international cooperation.