

Erasmus Policy Statement

Since former application The College of Tourism and Language Studies (CTLS) in Warsaw has done a few steps ahead.

First, our College has modernized study programs to give students better possibility of participation in international education and a better adjustment for employment market. Two foreign languages are taught within the program structure. A total of 450 hours are provided in full-time courses. While English is given priority (three levels of proficiency), and students may select other language – Spanish, French or Italian. To create our own milieu of professional teachers and researchers Faculty of Philology and Languages has been established. The English Philology was opened a two years ago, and in coming new academic year students may also choose Spanish Philology. Learning large aspects of cultures and belles letters of given area of the world, goes together with practical skill of language speaking. Now CTLS stands on two solid pillars – tourism and languages.

The second innovation relates to the new hotel management undergraduate study program. New specialty is opening in October 2013, comprises following assets – six month practice in international network hotels, teaching by prominent businessmen from hotel industry and intensive practical languages learning. There is the first innovative professional study program in Poland meeting the expectation of hotel branch.

The following innovation relates to postgraduate studies in leisure and tourism ending with MA degree opened two years ago in CTLS. Here also the great attention is focused on the teaching of languages, strictly connected with particular branches of tourism. Students may take following majors in: Tourism Economy in Regions, International Tourism, Management in Hotels and Gastronomy, Social Communication and Journalism in Tourism. A year ago, we also successfully started one year post-graduate education in tourism for secondary schools teachers. Received certificate permit them teaching and field activities in tourism area. The Sociology unit has already started with two attractive majors: management of fashion and new in coming year – social welfare.

We have established research links with universities, organizations and institutes in Poland and abroad. Our partners are: Carnegie College in Scotland, Goethe Institute in Ankara and Berlin City Council. We take part in students exchange programs under the European educational schemes – Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Pilot Project Trialog. CTLS runs professional training courses such as ECDL (IT and microcomputer usage areas, website design, designing application for tourism business, and courses for leader candidates. The College in cooperation with Accueil Languages Centre from Thun and University of Lodz – Test Centre Koordinationsstelle, each year provides for all of Polish students ACCUEIL language exams.

The college organizes study tours and bonding events, and attend tourism business fairs organized in Poland and abroad, whereby our students acquire knowledge and experience of working in the tourist industry.

Our research program continued last five years comprise cultural tourism in regions of Poland and regions of the world, attracted researchers from Lithuania, Ukraine and Nigeria, as well as many Polish specialists having long experience of field study research in different places abroad: Indonesia, Mexico, Egypt, China and many other. They participated in our conferences and took part as coauthors in our monograph publications “Multiculturalism and Tourism”, “Cultural tourism in regions in Poland”, “Heritage tourism in Poland”,

Heritage tourism in Regions of World". The authors represent Polish Academy of Science, University of Warsaw, Jagiellonian University, Ukrainian Universities, Lithuanian University in Vilnius. The College is mainly involved in exchange of visits among Central and Eastern European Countries. The Ukraine is our main interest, and the agreement on university schools cooperation is under preparation. In perspective we are interested in cooperation with HEI from Belarus.

It is very logical and necessary direction of cooperation, as each year more students from Ukraine and Belarus choose our College as a place to study. Newly opened Faculty of Philology initiates cooperation with British HEI institutions.

Our students can improve their professional skill and enlarge their knowledge on culture and societies, strengthen a consciousness on European Identity and enjoy free time activities participating in adventure camps, special interest tours, extra-curricular classes and knowledge clubs, foreign language conversation groups, training in sports, practical training at travel offices and hotels in Warsaw, where they may choose between 100 placements. CTLS introduced the good practices for adopting foreign students to Polish every day conditions, culture and language.

Our implementation of international cooperation is less formalized than it would be required as listed agreements, and official documents exchanged. We keep non formalized cooperation with representatives of many Polish and foreign research and educational institutions. As it was stated in EPS they attend our conferences and take part in research programs. Foreign students, especially from Ukraine and Belarus are and should be in the future the great ambassadors of EU and non-EU cooperation lead in CTLS Western European tourist market requires qualified specialists speaking Russian, on the other hand non-European countries students may gain and bring back home new experience and working skill. We work on the opening the door for their training possibility abroad. The chance to it grows, while in the following academic year we start with hotel management undergraduate study program which comprises six month practice in international network hotels (described in EPS). Following the great number of appearance in our College we have prepared research cooperation with Eastern European countries. There is good climate and acceptance to develop scientific relations especially with Ukraine. During the coming College international conference "Development of sustainable tourism in Poland" in 22 of May, representative of Lvov University of Ivan Franco comes to finalize agreement of bilateral scientific cooperation, students and staff exchange.

The College appeared in the educational market in time when orientation into modernization of education system in a sense to create new fields of studies and to develop new ways to deliver education became one of basic principle of education principles.

From the beginning our College is determined to follow a great modern changes and to face this changes a few policy objectives were formulated. Our education offer is aimed to requirements of new challenges of free market economy, especially needs of tourist services. College works on guarantee of good preparation for the future professional work, able to self-contained functioning in a social milieu, and taking responsibility for a new shape of economic and social life. To stimulate our research progress in 2008 we started edition of our own scientific journal "Research Bulletin" Tourism and Leisure". RBTL is published

twice a year and in present is recognized by influential research centres. The published articles are written by researches from University of Warsaw, Jagiellonian University, Vilnius University, academies of physical education in Warsaw and Krakow, universities of life sciences in Lublin and Poznan and many other. First of all it serves to publish the research result of CTLS research.

College fulfills the mission to create a good relations with academic community to maintain good relations and cooperative network with domestic research centres. Our conferences are attended by representatives of tourist organizations and business, who share their knowledge on practical resolutions and services expectations regarding education and research sector.

The cooperation with international institutions is carried out in different forms through international conferences and publications, attendance in EU programs (described in EPS), and education proposal for foreign students. CTLS Students make use of special preparatory courses for ACCUEIL language exam which are included into College education process without an additional cost. This way each students get a chance to complete his study and receive diploma with European Certificate as the added value for employment market. TRIALOG (mentioned in EPS) brought in effect for conferences on new methods of teaching and learning languages and a unique program for teaching languages. The College cooperates with embassies representatives, who attend all our conferences, school ceremonies, special days and meet our students to promote achievements of economy and culture of their countries.

After a few years of our efforts the College of Tourism and Language Studies is recognized as place in the landscape of Universities Schools in Poland. Each year we are on the first places on the list of Tourist High Schools ranked by renowned tourist magazine "Wiadomości Turystyczne" (Tourist News) in the category of non-public schools. It is one of good measure of effectiveness of modernization and meeting a new European challenges.