

APPROVED BY

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Head of Academic Council

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*Concept for the Development of International
Cooperation
at the National Metallurgical Academy of Ukraine*



Tempus



PICASA

Promoting Internationalization of HEIs in Eastern Neighborhood Countries through Cultural and Structural Adaptations

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1. Strategic directions for the development of international cooperation at the NMAU

Development of internationalisation in the field of higher education covers two aspects:

- internal change involving the creation of a new academic culture within the HEI that promotes and supports the international and intercultural understanding. This implies implementation of internationally recognised approaches and procedures to all internal activities related to education and research.
- external activities comprising the educational and research activities, performed in cooperation with international partners, and education of international students provided in line with high international standards, including content, communication technologies and administration.

Vision

Coordinated work of all NMAU structures aimed at ensuring the integration of academy into the international academic community, enhancing the position and role of the National Metallurgical Academy of Ukraine on the international market of education and research.

Objective

Ensuring the adhesion of the NMAU to international education and research area through cooperation with foreign universities and organizations, bringing the content and methodologies of education, research activities in line with modern international principles and standards.

Specific objectives

- strengthening the role of the National Metallurgical Academy of Ukraine as an international centre of education and research;

- introduction of the advanced international experience in education, research, management and student's self-governance;
- improvement of the competitiveness on the international market of educational services;
- integration into the global educational community;
- international recognition of educational programmes and diplomas;
- providing of education in accordance with best international standards in order to achieve success in the competitive world;
- intensification of academic exchanges;
- increasing the number of foreign students.

Principles

Further development of international cooperation requires coordinated work of NMAU units with taking into account the following fundamental principles:

1. Recognition of international activities as an important component for the successful development of NMAU;
2. Domination of the national priorities of Ukraine;
3. Respect of the national, European and international fundamental humanitarian values;
4. Impartiality and transparency;
5. Tolerance in the assessment and perception of the foreign education systems;
6. Involvement of all NMAU departments into the international cooperation;
7. Compliance with the general requirements and policy of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine;
8. Implementation of the international dimensions in the context of local and regional development;
9. Efficient application of the advanced international experience with consideration of the academic traditions and achievements of scientific schools of NMAU.

SWOT- analysis of NMAU activities in the field of international cooperation

SWOT – analysis is applied with the purpose to evaluate the international activities of NMAU, to identify the strengths and weaknesses, to assess existing difficulties in internationalized processes, to define priorities and to develop the plan for sustainable development of internationalisation at the academy.

<p style="text-align: center;">STRENGTHS</p> <p>Awareness of the European practice in internalization of higher education.</p> <p>Experience of participation in European projects.</p> <p>Experience of collaboration with HEIs and non-educational organizations in both Ukraine and Europe.</p> <p>Experience of international communication.</p> <p>Professional development of academy’s staff and student’s training in frames of international projects.</p> <p>Active international academic mobility of students and staff.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WEAKNESSES</p> <p>Weak linguistic skills of staff and students.</p> <p>Insufficient governmental support in implementation of international projects.</p> <p>Difficulties in management of finances within international projects.</p> <p>Insufficient practical experience of the academy’s staff in the implementation of international academic collaboration and intercultural communication.</p> <p>Insufficient number of staff directly involved in the development of international cooperation.</p> <p>Low financial motivation for staff to be involved in the international activities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>Development of academy’s infrastructure in line with best international practices.</p> <p>Improving of linguistic skills of staff and students.</p> <p>New possibilities for international cooperation in education and research.</p> <p>Extension of the network of international partners.</p> <p>Attraction of international funds for development of educational and research activities.</p> <p>Participation in the new international projects.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THREATS</p> <p>Incompliance of domestic financial system with international standards hinders the international fund raising.</p> <p>Low motivation for young people for choosing of academic career may hamper the development of international cooperation.</p> <p>Insufficient financial support of IRO prevents the attracting of qualified staff.</p>

The performed SWOT-analysis reveals a need to develop the effective strategy for further development of international cooperation, calls attention to the most threatening areas and to discover the potential opportunities for development.

Strategic tasks for internationalisation

1. Ensuring the wide access to the global market of educational services and technology transfer.
2. Cooperation with international organizations and foundations in order to obtain the financial, technical and professional assistance.
3. Strengthening cooperation with leading foreign universities and research centres.
4. Ensuring the efficient involvement of teachers and researchers in international projects, participation in joint research projects with foreign companies and professionals.
5. Application of international marketing for commercialisation of technologies and knowledge created in the academy.
6. Intensification of participation in international conferences and symposia.
7. Participation in the educational and scientific exchanges programmes, motivation of teachers, researches and students for taking the internships and practical training abroad.
8. Ensuring the adaptation of the educational system to the needs of a market economy with respect to international experience.
9. Increasing the number of foreign students.
10. Increasing the number of publications in leading international journals, joint textbooks and monographs.
11. Establishing the representative offices of foreign enterprises and companies on the academy's premises.
12. Creation of favourable conditions for active learning and application of the languages of international communication by students, graduates, and teachers.
13. Implementation of the best practices of European universities learnt within the participation in international projects.
14. Encouragement of students, teachers and researchers to learn the best international experiences in education and research.
15. Providing assistance for students and teachers in the issues of participation in the international grant programmes.

2. Instruments for implementation of the internationalisation policy

2.1. International Relations Office

Vision

To become the efficient unit that strengthens the role of the National Metallurgical Academy of Ukraine in the international higher education and research area.

Mission

To ensure the application of international dimensions in education and research through active involvement of academics, researches and students in various international projects and initiatives.

Strategy

- increasing the awareness of the possibilities of international cooperation among staff and students;
- support of international initiatives of staff and students;
- intensification of international mobility staff and students;
- promotion of the research and educational NMAU potential internationally;
- search of international funds for support of educational and research projects;
- extension of the network of international partners of the NMAU;
- intensification of existing international cooperation with partner organizations, initiation of the new forms of partnership;
- implementation of internationalisation policy in education;
- support of the socialization of foreign students enrolled to NMAU.

Legal status

International Relations Office shall be an independent administrative unit (centralized/integrated model). Within the frames of TEMPUS project “Promoting Internationalisation of HEIs in Eastern Neighbourhood Countries through Cultural

and Structural Adaptations” 544125-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AM-TEMPUS-SMGRS (PICASA) IRO was detached as a separate administrative unit of the academy with the defined directions of activities.

Organizational Structure

IRO is subordinated to Vice Rector responsible for international relations at the academy. IRO is the the academy’s administrative unit with the following staffing:

- Head;
- Senior Project Manager;
- Senior Project Manager;
- Senior Project Manager;
- Interpreter.

Staff positions and required skills

- Head (higher education , good communication skills, experience of teamwork, fluent English);
- Senior Project Manager (higher education, good knowledge of English);
- Interpreter (specialist with excellent knowledge of English, knowledge of other languages is much appreciated).

Description of tasks for IRO staff

- Head – general coordination of IRO activities, assignment of tasks for IRO staff, management of projects, initiation and development of the new projects;
- Senior Project Manager – management and administration of international projects, providing consultancy services for academy staff and students;
- Interpreter – translation, technical support within implementation of international projects.

Support of students mobility

IRO supports the following types of student’s mobility:

- double degree and double diploma programmes;
- exchange programmes with international partners;

- study foreign languages abroad;
- summer schools;
- research projects performed within international partnerships;
- individual initiatives of students.

Support of staff mobility

IRO supports the following types of staff mobility:

- research activities within the international partnerships;
- trainings and retrainings of staff in frames of international projects;
- staff exchange programmes;
- individual initiatives of staff.

Funding of international activities

In most cases the international activities are financed through international or national grants. In specific cases mobility in the context of the most promising directions of research and educational activities may be financed by the academy.

Services

IRO shall provide the following services:

- providing consultancy for staff and students;
- organisation of informational events for staff and students;
- assistance in the development of cooperation agreements;
- management of international projects.

Primary directions of IRO work

- Planning and organisation of international cooperation at the NMAU, arrangement of international in frames of cooperation agreements;
- development of contracts with international and domestic partners (universities, foundations, associations, governmental organisations, private enterprises, etc.) in the framework of international activities;

- coordination of the work of NMAU departments, assistance in planning and organisation of events in the framework of international cooperation;
- support of international research activities performed by academy's departments, support in communications with foreign partners, organisation and documentary supply of academic exchanges and internships, participation in the international research programmes, conferences, seminars, etc.;
- organisation of meetings with foreign experts and delegations;
- gathering of international consortiums for the joint preparation of project applications to international funds and programmes;
- providing informational support for NMAU departments in the issues of internationalisation;
- providing regular distribution of information and consultancy for students and staff on the opportunities for participation in international programmes;
- support of joint publications with international partners;
- improvement of the English version of the NMAU website;
- support of international research projects;
- development of infrastructure for implementation of academic mobility.

Special attention shall be given to the development and implementation of programmes for language training and further use of foreign languages in the academic activities.

2.2 Elements of the internationalisation processes

Internationalisation processes affects the basic quality components of education: the quality of educational programmes, the quality of training and the knowledge and skills of graduates. The approaches to internationalisation and related IRO tasks on different levels are seen as follows:

<i>Administration</i>	
Policy and strategy	Necessity to work with faculties and staff, explaining the priorities of internationalisation as factors for improving the quality of education. Internationalisation policy has an impact on the quality of the educational processes and is associated with the European standards requiring from universities to have policy and procedures to ensure the quality and standards of educational programmes and certificates.
Leadership	The top management should initiate the development of international educational programmes and provide support for the implementation of these programmes, initiate the procedures for international recognition of educational programmes. Thus, the leadership has a direct impact on the quality of the educational programmes at the academy.
<i>Staff</i>	
Staff mobility	Involvement of foreign teachers in the educational processes is the important task. This indicator has a big impact on the quality of the educational process. It's also essential for international recognition of the academy. Another important task is the support of international staff mobility that increases the qualification of human resources and positively affects the quality of educational processes.
Enhanced communication	Participation in international conferences and international research projects, involvement in joint research, development of joint publications enhances the qualification of human resources and contributes in the improving the academy's profile that attracts best students for study at the academy.
International educational projects	Implementation of joint international degree programmes improves the quality of other educational programmes at the academy.
Language skills	Knowledge of foreign languages is the core factor to overcome barriers in the internationalisation. Application of foreign languages in education shall be increased.
International comparability of the content of disciplines	This component is most challenging for teachers. Internationalisation of the entire academic life helps solving this problem.

Delivery of lectures in foreign languages	One of the main indicators of internationalisation of the academy, the most challenging task for departments and requires significant efforts from teaching staff.
<i>Students</i>	
Training of foreign students	One of the main indicators of the internationalisation of the academy. Moreover, the share of foreign students is one of the main criteria of the efficiency of university. Informal contacts with peers allow to update the knowledge of foreign languages converting it to the linguistic and communicative competences. This creates the communicational capacities of students for participation in the internationalisation processes and gives possibilities for study in foreign universities.
Participation in joint educational programmes, both short-term and degree-granting	This internationalisation component allows to improve the general intercultural competences of students due to their involvement in the international students teams. This also allows to adjust the national study programmes to international standards.
Students mobility	This component includes training of students in universities abroad, practical placements, summer schools, professionally-orientated programmes, etc.
Research work of students	Involvement of students to advanced research with participation of international partners significantly helps to bring the quality of education to highest standards.

3. Quality assurance of the implementation of internationalisation policy

The main instruments for quality control:

1) Benchmarking analysis of the key indicators in the following areas:

- students mobility: double degree programmes, academic exchange programmes, language training abroad, summer schools, individual initiatives;
- staff mobility: research projects, exchange programmes, language training abroad, international publications, joint research, trainings / retraining abroad;
- cooperation with international partners
- participation in European projects;
- international conferences.

2) Analysis of educational environment:

- existence of programmes taught in English;
- compliance of study programmes with the requirements of graduates;
- internationalisation of educational processes;
- transnational education;
- harmonization of the different systems of higher education.

3) Analysis of internal infrastructure:

- level of application of information technologies;
- availability of computer equipment and the Internet;
- resources of library (international sources);
- quality of teaching staff;
- funding of the academy.

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