



Warsaw, 26/05/2020

ERASMUS Policy Statement

Instytut Podstawowych Problemów Techniki Polskiej Akademii Nauk – IPPT PAN (*Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences*) is the largest engineering sciences institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Nauk - PAN). IPPT PAN is a public institution with a record dated back to January 1953 when the decision to establish such science problem-oriented institute within the structure of the newly then (1952) created Polish Academy of Sciences was taken.

IPPT PAN has always been focused on the world's science and technology challenges.

The Institute has been taking advantage of and building its future on two complementary pillars: the richness of its history and tradition and its openness and curiosity-driven forward-looking approach to responding to challenges.

The overarching goal of IPPT PAN to strive towards excellence has been implemented via a set of strategic measures which include its internationalisation and modernisation. Internationalisation strategy is implemented via attracting scientists and PhD students from other countries to join IPPT PAN's community and contribute to execution of its strategic goals and via fostering collaboration with entities from many countries and continents which can bring added value to the quality of performance, achievements and international recognition of our Institute.

IPPT PAN has been traditionally active in operating its own post-graduate school (doctoral studies).

Since the establishment of the school in 1968 close to 800 PhD degrees have been granted to young Polish and foreign researchers in the fields of materials sciences and engineering, electronics, mechanics and computer science.

Currently IPPT PAN manages 3 PhD schools (due to the changes, imposed by the national reform of the higher education and science system of 2018 on the Polish institutions operating PhD studies, one of the schools will cease to exist in the coming years and it will be replaced by another one which was established in 2019). Establishment of two new PhD schools provides unique, inspiring, opportunities to young people who would like to broaden their knowledge and gain practical competences and skills. One of the schools is operating in collaboration with other research institutes having the right to grant PhD degrees in relevant scientific disciplines. This provides young people with a large portfolio of opportunities available as a one-stop shop, allowing them to make their well-informed choices about the professional paths and disciplines they would like to focus on.

Almost 50 PhD students currently benefit from the curricula offered by the schools in the disciplines of mechanical engineering, information technologies and telecommunications, material engineering, automation, electronics and electrical engineering and biomedical engineering and medical sciences. For many years already the PhD curricula offered by IPPT PAN has been attracting candidates from many countries all over the world, including USA, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran. Currently over 20% of PhD students are foreigners.

The admission process is open and transparent and it fully respects the non-discrimination and inclusion principles.

IPPT PAN keeps holding the outstanding scientific category (A+) in Poland, conferred by the Minister of Science and Higher Education as a result of regularly organised national competitive process of evaluation of the scientific institutions and organisations (so called parametrisation). Recently the evaluation process has been conducted every 4 years.

In 2016 IPPT PAN was granted Human Resources Excellence in Research award (following the competitive process). Thus the European Commission acknowledged the Institute as the organisation which follows the principles and meets the requirements of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. Since then the Institute has been committed to implement its Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R). In 2019 the process of implementation of the Strategy successfully passed an interim assessment conducted by the European Commission. As the strategy is designed as a continuous process, the Institute keeps its efforts to develop and improve its performance following the principles set in both EU documents.

Currently the Institute has over 300 employees. Approximately 30% of them are researchers, including over 20 full professors. The overall staff structure represents a good gender balance, with around 45% of women. The number of employees coming from other countries, including Brazil, India, Italy, Peru, is gradually growing.

The Institute's organisational structure, divided into research departments and laboratories, reflects its scientific capacity. Researchers are supported by a dedicated administrative staff. The administration of IPPT PAN covers also the National Contact Point for EU Research Programmes - an autonomous department of over 50 employees, which serves all entities in Poland planning to participate and participating in EU research and innovation programmes.

Active academic and scientific collaboration resulting in growing international network of partners from over 40 countries (both EU and non-EU) has visible impact on knowledge sharing and significant research results. The research results are published in scientific journals, constituting a significant high-quality publication record of IPPT PAN's staff with approximately 300 publications per year. They are also disseminated at national and international conferences, seminars and workshops. Our activity and its results are communicated to the society via the website of IPPT PAN, through regular active participation in science-for-society events, such as science picnics and festivals, science lessons for schools, organised by our Institute, and media interviews.

IPPT PAN has been successfully participating in national, bilateral and international research and innovation competition-based funding programmes. They include UE programmes such as COST, FP7 and Horizon 2020. Majority of our projects are implemented in collaboration with national or foreign entities of public or private nature.

Under Erasmus+ programme IPPT PAN has opened up new collaboration paths with new partners. When looking for new collaboration partners or accepting invitations to work together we have focused on potential synergies and added value perspectives. The primary criterion has been the quality and excellence of future partners, focus on current and future scientific and societal challenges and complementarity of expertise areas.

Under Erasmus+ IPPT PAN has also strengthened and enlarged the scope of already existing collaboration with selected HEIs.

In Erasmus 2021-27 IPPT PAN plans to continue its involvement in both incoming and outbound mobility for students and staff, which will result in continuous increase of quality of IPPT PAN's performance and in widening the competence and skills of its PhD students and staff. Partnerships for cooperation and exchange of practices as well as Partnerships for Innovation will be considered as parallel paths which could be particularly beneficial to further development of the modernisation agenda of the Institute. Activities IPPT PAN plans to undertake will support constant development of PhD curricula and its increased attractiveness - thus contributing to implementation of the overall modernisation and internationalisation strategy of the Institute. It will have a clear impact on improved effectiveness and efficiency of our higher education system.

Benefits of participating in Erasmus 2021-27 programme, such as mutual learning and inspiring, exchange of ideas, joint collaboration and creation of social capital, will create a win-win situation for IPPT PAN and its partners who will equally profit from the mutual collaboration.