INTERNATIONALISATION

AT

PÁZMÁNY PÉTER CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

2017

I. Introduction

Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPCU) is a state approved higher educational institution that is run by the Catholic Church and governed by the Hungarian Catholic Bishops' Conference. The University has a legal entity both in the legal system of the Catholic Church and that of the State of Hungary. PPCU forms a unique segment of the Hungarian higher education as a non-regional institution with national coverage.

II. Mission

The University functions and fulfils its ecclesiastical mission according to the Apostolic Constitution Ex corde Ecclesiae: *"Since the objective of a Catholic University is to assure in an institutional manner a Christian presence in the university world confronting the great problems of society and culture. (…) A Catholic University, therefore, is a place of research, where scholars scrutinize reality with the methods proper to each academic discipline, and so contribute to the treasury of human knowledge. Each individual discipline is studied in a systematic manner; moreover, the various disciplines are brought into dialogue for their mutual enhancement (…)."*

The characteristics of the University that provide us the possibility to fulfil our goals are the following:

- a broad spectrum in the field of human and law sciences,
- a specially rich pedagogical and psychological expertise,
- the pioneering development in the research and teaching of bionics,
- existing interdisciplinary programs,
- developing and improving international cooperation in all fields of science according to our skills and capabilities.

III. Internationalisation

Internationalisation plays a major role in our institutional life. The concept of internationalisation has been formulated mainly in the institutional development plan taking the faculties' specific factors into account.

a) The following ***three pillars*** on which we are addressing our international tasks to be organized:

- quality of research, teaching and services,
- partnerships and mobility of students and staff,
- supportive role of international offices and administration.

b) *Goals and actions to foster internationalisation*
- Achieving outstanding international research results.
- Channeling international relations in order to increase institutional competitiveness.
- Strengthening the international dimension of doctoral schools.
- Increasing the number of double degree type programs using the tool of credit recognition.
- Increasing the number of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree programs with the effort of the academic staff and other factors, such as the Directorate for Education.
- Improving the quality of multilateral inter-institutional cooperation.
- Increasing the number of international projects: to strengthen and increase the number of international cooperation and to review continually their content and quality.
- Ensuring mobility to even higher percentage of teaching staff.
- Expanding students' and staff mobility's rate and quality.
- Organizing summer courses for international students in English or/and in French/German.
- Having more and better cooperation between the University and different labor-market groups.
- Developing innovation in education and training, and its application in the course of cooperation with our partner institutions.
- Evaluating international partnerships, consortiums and groups where PPCU's membership fosters a mutually beneficial relationship.
- Improving quality of professional work output, language competences and overall satisfaction among actors involved in internalization.
- Creating a common forum and link the decision maker departments in the process of internalisation.
- Taking part in the creation of an overall institutional strategy and its communication regarding international affairs.
- Reducing the administrative burden on both students and staff, moving forward on the journey of digitalization.

- Fostering on increasing diversity in the classrooms and the further involvement of individuals with disabilities on mobility.

c) Target countries and institutions

- Catholic universities in Europe and in the United States established by the Holy See.
- Internationally acknowledged universities with outstanding results in research and education who tolerate – if not applied – the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Widely respected universities from the so called Visegrád countries.
- Universities from Asia and Middle East that could link to our deeply profound Archaeological initiatives.
- Universities in the Far-Eastern region with the goal of creating growing mobility waves and double degrees.
- Strengthening our European relations with universities involved in Romance Languages.

d) Organization

After the establishment of the Central Directorate for Foreign Affairs the processes and tasks originally placed at institutional level that have not had responsibilities previously and require central coordination have been gradually increasing in number. The formulation and realization of such tasks are in execution and to be fully completed in the upcoming years. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasize that in spite of the centralization – which in some cases means approval or control – the realization of international actions and their execution remained the responsibility of the faculties.

e) Development frame for internationalisation

In order to achieve the goals listed in section III/b, certain tasks need to be carried out. The most important areas to be improved are the organization research and educational program development, as well as relations and services enhancement and finally the increase of the number of qualitative motilities. These key references are included in our carefully considered international concept.

	OBJECTIVE	TASK
DEVELOPING THE ORGANIZATION	Administrative staff is able to deal with affairs of international professors, researchers and students.	Language courses for administrative staff, participation in related trainings, through grants as well.
	Administrative tasks of international tenders are handled properly.	Appointing colleague(s) in the overlapping segment of international and tendering organizational units who is/are responsible for international tendering activities.
	Existence of applicable policies and procedures.	Putting policies and procedures to paper.
	Smooth internal communication.	Building communicational channels, formulating and coordinating administrative procedures for central units that are involved in international affairs.
INCREASING MOBILITY	Increasing the number of incoming and outgoing teaching and non-academic staff.	Internationalisation of curricula and programs (courses about Central-Europe and other foreign language courses, foreign language master programs, launching joint/double programs) strengthening contacts through the already existing cooperation.
	Extension of international scholarship programs	Mapping and involvement in new programs enabling student mobility and diversity.
DEVELOPING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	Launching common programs with foreign partner institutions.	Contact seeking, formulating common programs and apply for grants, if possible.
	Development of foreign language courses.	Timely revision of curricula and offered courses, creating a permanent study block on institutional level.
R&D	Useful cooperation with existing networks.	Common tendering activities in Erasmus+ and H2020.
	Participation in international research projects which might result in research positions and make us possible to offer postgraduate grants.	Creating tender materials and tendering.
	Operating an international research database on institutional level.	Creating the database based on similar databases at faculty level.

DEVELOPING RELATIONS	Strengthening existing contacts and building new ones.	International tendering and research, H2020, Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships, strengthening scientific cooperation.
		Participation in higher educational fairs.
		Organizing staff training weeks.
		Monitoring of relations.
	Appropriate English language website and English language promotional materials about the institution.	Continuously updating the English website and issuing English language materials.
	Increasing foreign conference participation of teaching staff.	Financial framework both at faculty and institutional level.
DEVELOPING SERVICES	Improving the existing Mobility Online system (recording outgoing and incoming students' data).	Developing user friendly processes and interface, reducing the administrative burden and creating mobility statistics