

Ateneum-University in Gdansk, founded in 2004, continues the traditions of the first Gdansk academic college called Gymnasium Academicum sive Illustre, which in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was also known as Gdansk Ateneum. In this way the citizens of Gdansk paid their tribute to all those who shaped the science and culture of the city, and who created a university widely acknowledged throughout Europe. This honorable tradition, defines the guidelines for our institution to follow in order to render the best service possible for its city, its country and for the EU. Our guiding values are: the rational pursuit of truth through innovative scientific research, following the best models of science, modern education for the development of civilization and pluralistic society, mutual respect and trust, tolerance for diversity of views, and solidarity of the entire academic community.

Ateneum was participating in Erasmus+ Programme for years 2014-2020 as a part of our strategy for internationalisation of education. Further participation in the Erasmus+ programme is vitally connected to crucial points of our strategy adopted by a resolution of the University Senate in the year 2012. Those points being: strengthening of intellectual capital, student and staff mobility, strengthening the university's ties with the economic and social environment of Pomerania, bringing new quality in research and creating innovation. In our strategy, we aim to effectively promote the inclusion of people with disadvantaged backgrounds and promote the development of social capital among young people. Ateneum is set on promoting the potential of Europe's talent and social assets in a lifelong learning perspective. The specific objectives pursued in the field of education and training are:

- to improve the level of key competences and skills, with particular regard to their relevance for the labour market and their contribution to a cohesive society, in particular through increased opportunities for learning mobility and through strengthened cooperation between the world of education and training and the world of work;
- to foster quality improvements, innovation excellence and internationalization at the level of education and training institutions, in particular through enhanced transnational cooperation between education and training providers and other stakeholders;
- to promote and raise the awareness of a European lifelong learning area designed to complement policy reforms at the national level and to support the modernization of education and training systems, in particular through enhanced policy cooperation, better use of EU transparency and recognition tools and the dissemination of good practices;
- to enhance the international dimension of education and training
- to further the development of long-distance learning methods through such initiatives as e-learning and multimedia knowledge centre
- to conduct courses focused on language and communication skills
- to promote equal access to high-quality education
- to promote Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity and strengthening European identity

Those objectives will be carried through our participation in Erasmus Key Action 1 and through a program realized under the priority axis III Higher education for the economy and development: Comprehensive university programs - program implemented by Ateneum thanks to the National Centre for Research and Development grant (call numer POWR.03.05.00-IP.08-00-PZ1/18). Those two actions will complement each other as thanks to the NCRD program we are developing new IT infrastructure that will help us move Erasmus+ documentation and mobility support from paper to digital form.

Ateneum-University in Gdansk has well-established cooperation with over 20 universities that have similar profiles of teaching and learning programs under the Erasmus+ guidelines. We are interested in cooperation with new partners from all over Europe, but especially with partners who:

- are established in a country situated in the immediate vicinity of Poland,
- are established in countries where the official language or language of instruction is connected with the foreign language programs run in Ateneum, namely English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish. We can with a high degree of certainty imply that above-mentioned objectives will be realized as our experience in implementing the Erasmus+ Programme has proved extremely helpful in the past 6 years of our involvement in the Programme.

To increase the mobility rate within students and staff members we intend to:

- sign new bilateral agreements with partners who have clearly defined rules for the organization of international trade
- extend the offer of courses taught in foreign languages
- stimulate and expand international research cooperation
- prepare Polish language, culture and civilization courses for incoming students and staff members
- promote the participation of teaching staff in Erasmus+ thematic networks and intensive programmes
- promote Erasmus+ values and students mobility possibilities through the detailed information on the website, brochures and social media.

To promote Erasmus+ Programme opportunities, Ateneum will publish on its official website the Erasmus Policy Statement in a Polish and English version, accepted by the University authorities. The University will also prepare brochures with detailed information about mobility possibilities within the Erasmus+ Programme and will provide upto-date information regarding Erasmus+ activities through the regularly updated official website and our social media.