



# International Offices – do we need them in the future?

On behalf of:

Vilnius University (VU)

Tallinn University of Technology (TUT)

Tallinn University (TU)

University of Latvia (UL)

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# History

| VU (1579)   | TUT (1918)       | UL (1919)        | TU (2005)<br>as a result<br>of merger                        |
|---|------------------|------------------|--|
| IRO est.<br>1972  | IRO est.<br>1968 | IRO est.<br>1972 | IRO est.<br>2007   |
| Office taking care of staff & students' exchanges, administred by Moscow                              |                  |                  | same activities done by institutions that later merged in TU |
| 1991-1998 -> new meaning, bilateral agreements, scholarships for students, TEMPUS & research projects |                  |                  |  |
| 1999 – till now -> (Socrates) LLLP ERASMUS, bilateral agreements, Nord Plus, Leonardo etc.            |                  |                  |  |

# Present

| VU                                      | TUT                 | UL                                       | TU                |
|---|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1. Facts                                |                     |  |                   |
| Students:<br>23 707                     | Students:<br>13 700 | Students:<br>20 048                      | Students:<br>9520 |
| 8 full time<br>1 part time              | 12 full time        | 5 full time                              | 6 full time       |
| Strategy &<br>Intl' policy<br>Statement | Intl'<br>Strategy   | Intl'<br>Strategy &<br>Strategic<br>plan | Intl'<br>Strategy |

# Present

VU

TUT

UL

TU

## 2. Functions

### Common:

- administration of international activities on institutional level
- **ERASMUS**
- administration of international networks, programmes
- institutional coordination of bilateral & state agreements
- administration of international projects
- incoming exchange students & services
- staff exchanges
- outgoing mobility
- correspondence on behalf of top management
- international marketing of the university

# Present

| VU  | TUT  | UL  | TU   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>2. Functions (cont.)</b>   |  |   |  |
| <b>Specific:</b>  |  |   |  |
| Participation in Intl' policy decisions on national level                             | Recruitment of intl' degree students, intl' fairs, producing marketing materials | Intl' summer schools, EILC, conferences, seminars, intl' projects | Management of intl' summer & winter schools; |
| Active involvement in optimization of student service structures and curricula reform | EURAXESS mobility center, initiation of projects                                 | Policy on national level  | Taking care of university's guests           |

# Results

| VU   | TUT  | UL   | TU  |
|--|--|--|---|
| Bilat. agreem.:<br>106 partners in<br>33 countries               | Bilat. agreem.:<br>39 partners in<br>19 countries                | Bilat. agreem.:<br>82 partners in<br>30 countries                | Bilat. agreem.:<br>29 partners in<br>18 countries                                   |
| Stud. mobility:<br>outgoing 700<br>incoming 350<br>full time 197 | Stud. mobility:<br>outgoing 199<br>incoming 179<br>full time 427 | Stud. mobility:<br>outgoing 390<br>incoming 189<br>full time 110 | Stud. mobility:<br>outgoing 156<br>incoming 156<br>full time 172                    |
| Programs:<br>in English- 7<br>In Russian- 2<br>+ 450 courses     | Programs:<br>in English- 14<br>+ courses                         | Programs:<br>in English- 8<br>in other lang.- 4<br>+ courses     | Programs:<br>in English- 11<br>incl.1 EM program<br>+ courses in Engl.<br>& Russian |
| <b>+ projects, international programs, networks</b>              |  |  |   |
| Budget for intl'<br>activities                                   | Fund for<br>international<br>mobility, for visitors              | Budget for intl'<br>activities                                   | Fund for<br>internationalization  |

# Future: strategic objectives

| VU   | TUT  | UL   | TU   |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-increase the number of intl' students (degree&amp; exchange)</li> <li>-increase the number of intl' academic staff</li> <li>-expand scientific cooperation</li> <li>-increase the academic offer in English; spec. emphasis on joint progr.</li> <li>-increase the visibility of VU</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-self assessment &amp; exercise on national &amp; intl'level in 2010</li> <li>-maintain and improve counselling with faculty coordinators on intl' cooperation with the establishment on projects at faculty level</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-increase the number of intl' students (degree&amp; exchange)</li> <li>-attract more intl' acad. staff</li> <li>-initiate and participate in intl' projects</li> <li>-strategic goal is to stabilize UL as a research university-&gt; all activities connected with this objective</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- initiate &amp; participate in intl' projects</li> <li>- initiate joint programs in university's major fields</li> <li>-create more programs in English</li> <li>-increase the number of intl' students (degree, exchange, summer &amp; winter school)</li> <li>-attract more intl' staff</li> <li>-increase visibility in intl' networks</li> </ul> |

# Conclusions

We do need international offices in the future, because:

- they perform wide range of activities, which are not connected with functions of other administrative units;
- their language skills and professional competencies are not characteristic to administrators in other units
- sustainable development of international relations of the university is the main concern of the international office, but not so much of other units
- international visibility at the university level
- first-stop-agency for internationals
- encouraging, assisting and networking for development of international cooperation at all levels
- multiplying the know-how and informing the local community about the current trends in development of higher education abroad

**Thank You for Your attention!**

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