

University of Wrocław

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

The University of Wrocław has a rich history of more than three centuries. Founded by Leopold I Habsburg the university evolved from a modest school run by Jesuits into one of the biggest academic institutions in Poland. At the beginning of the 19th century the university had five Faculties: philosophy, catholic theology, evangelical theology, law and medicine. Later it was expanded by numerous sections, laboratories and a natural museum, which exists until today.

After the Second World War a group of Polish professors, formerly from Lvov, started teaching and research activities at the University of Wrocław. Initially they created the Faculties of law and administration, arts, natural sciences, agriculture, veterinary, medicine, mathematics, physics and chemistry. Some of these Faculties were soon transformed into other universities.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the University of Wrocław produced 9 Nobel Prize winners, such as Theodor Mommsen, Philipp Lenard, Eduard Buchner, Paul Ehrlich, Fritz Haber, Friedrich Bergius, Erwin Schrödinger, Otto Stern and Max Born. Today, the first and foremost focus of The University of Wrocław is scientific research. Our scholars have numerous links with their fellow researchers from other higher education institutions in Poland and throughout the world. The success of our researchers has been recently recognized by Polish authorities, who significantly increased funding for both equipment and research at our University by 80% compared to previous years. Like in most countries, in Poland the national quality assessment system is part of a national strategy for improving the quality of education. Every four years the Ministry of Education evaluates faculties of all Polish universities. Last year 9 out of 10 of our Faculties were qualified in the highest category and one was the second highest.

The Academic Incubator of Entrepreneurship is a new unit of the University of Wrocław designed to aid students in starting their own businesses by providing free entrepreneurial advice, organizing conferences, seminars, subsidizing selected investments and offering office space. The Academic Incubator of Entrepreneurship cooperates with the Wrocław Technology Park, a technological centre with laboratories, office space, conference centre and modern multimedia equipment. The objective of the Technology Park is to create conditions for the use of scientific and industrial potential of Wrocław and the region and to stimulate the advanced technologies industry. The University of Wrocław is proud to be one of its shareholders.

Today the University of Wrocław is the largest university in the region and teaches over 26,000 students and around 1300 doctoral students at 10 Faculties. 9000 students graduate from the University every year. At the Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies range of topics from the history, culture and the languages of the Mediterranean Region are taught. Students learn modern Mediterranean languages and the history, art, archaeology, philosophy and literature of the region. Classical Philology studies focus on the languages and literature of Ancient Rome and Greece. In recent years, bachelor and master degree programmes regarding Indian, Chinese and Korean language and culture have been inaugurated. The Institute has academic teachers with several years of experience in teaching language and culture of Italy, as well as in the organization and management of conferences and meetings.

The Italian language and culture within our department are the key elements of the studies in the Mediterranean Culture and Classical Philology in a wide perspective. The Italian specialization is dedicated to students who wish to focus their skills on the Italian language and culture. The classes are public and open to all. Among the skills acquired by students there is a thorough linguistic knowledge, aptitude for translating texts in Italian, as well as knowledge about geography, history, history of art and the distinctive features of the Italian peninsula such as folklore, traditions and social life.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

The University of Wrocław is engaged in many European scientific programmes in different fields. The staff has been cooperating with other European countries in order to promote the cultural exchange and develop knowledge and best practices for teaching. The Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies has many active European bilateral contracts, and specific cooperation projects

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The University of Wroclaw has a Centre for Distance Learning. The University think-tank has the objective of the implementation of Blended Learning, and Online Teaching activities.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Having available a greater research base concerning language didactics, Italian and compared European literatures, we would present a comparison or a cross-analysis among the different language families and develop the motivational factor through the experience of language teaching, e.g. game-based-learning, collaborative learning; in addition we would work on the techniques of contrast for the school leaving, the preparation of teachers to address this type of students, the creation of a platform for teachers and students to share their experiences and where experts could provide documentation for techniques and learning/teaching strategies. Moreover the language didactic staff will be working under constant cooperation with experts in arts, history, pedagogues, and anthropologists to collaborate on a larger scale.

Taking part to Pastille project will help us to our plan of working as Certification centre for teachers of Italian and other Mediterranean languages. Indeed we hope that, organizing and taking part to such workshops and seminars, we'll share part of the knowledge, and improve competences and skills to lay the foundations for organising more effective lessons, training workshops for teachers and activities concerning this field. Hence, we consider this participation as an important strategy to spread innovation in teaching methodology. The initiatives we have chosen addresses the need of keeping up with updated, tested and effective teaching tools, which go beyond the national teaching system tradition. The way how the course addresses the expected needs is providing activities like games, exercises, training material and workshops concerning the application of certain teaching methods.

Moreover, the activities are shaped on the needs of creating a reliable image of ourselves, to develop a sense of responsibility, to improve the abilities to motivate students and also improve competences on how to use feedback as a development tool; things which are going to help the teachers to strengthen the interacting and communication skills. We will incorporate the new competences with the professionalization and development of our University of Wroclaw and the other organisations. Moreover, meeting other people within the teaching/training activities, sharing ideas, pointing out problems and finding solutions would help us to get inspiration for the elaboration of new projects. Our purpose is to share and spread the acquired knowledge through a set of informative seminars and workshops with the topic addressed by the training programme.

Reasons of involvement in the project

The University of Wroclaw has signed an active bilateral cooperation agreement with the University of Genoa since 2013, with which also cooperates for the project "SMiLD - Focus on Students with Mathematics Learning Disabilities", involving PIXEL association as well, has active partnerships with the University of Vilnius, the University Palacky in Olomouc as well as the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, which will be strengthened thanks to the project "Pastille - European Arts and Traditions in Italian Language Learning". The Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies hosts the Dante Alighieri Society of Wroclaw, directed by the contact person, Gianluca Olcese, hosting volunteers and active in the field of youth, connected with around 500 committees in the five continents thus increasing the potential dissemination of the project outcomes.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Gianluca Olcese: Since 2008 Lecturer of Italian Language, Italian Literature and Culture at the University of Wroclaw, Junior-Professor of Didactics of Romance Languages between October 2017 and March 2018 at the Dresden University of Technology and since 2013 President of the Dante Alighieri Society of Wroclaw; from 2008 to 2011 Italian language teacher at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. Winner of the

Interstudent prize as the best foreign doctoral student in Poland in 2011. Engaged in research on the testimonies to the origin of the cult of John the Baptist in Romance and Slavic area, author of philological and anthropological publications on the areas of linguistic minority and popular traditions and research in the field of cultural studies, among them traditional folktales and legends, of the Silesian area. Coordinator for the project "Pastille - European Arts and Traditions in Italian Language Learning" led by the University of Wrocław, and responsible at the University of Wrocław for the project "SMiLD - Focus on Students with Mathematics Learning Disabilities" coordinated by the University of Genoa. Co-author of two photographic exhibitions on multicultural Siberia and co-responsible for the 'Unforgettable' project of ethical photography and medicine focused on intergenerational approach between the elderly in Social Assistance Residences (RSA) and young people.