

Palacký University Olomouc

Name of the organisation :	Palacký University Olomouc	 <p>Palacký University Olomouc</p>
Address:	Křížkovského 8, 77140 Olomouc, Czech Republic	
Tel:	+420 585 631 111	
Fax:	No	
Web site:	www.upol.cz	

Name of the contact person :	Jiří Špička	
Function:	Full Professor	
Address:	Katedra romanistiky FF UP, Křížkovského 10, 77180 Olomouc, Czech Republic	
Tel:	+420585633361	
Fax:	+420 58 563 3011	
E-mail:	jiri.spicka@upol.cz	

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

Palacký University Olomouc (UP) is one of the most important Central European centres of education and research, boasting achievements on the European and global levels in a number of disciplines. UP also plays a significant role in the region. It is one of the largest employers in the Olomouc Region and the City of Olomouc. The economic growth and development of the region would not be possible without the University.

Founded in the 16th century, PU is the oldest university in Moravia and the second-oldest university in the Czech Republic. Today it is a modern higher education facility with a wide range of study programmes and copious scientific and research activities. The eight faculties of Palacký University offer 274 Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral [study programmes](#). Applicants may choose from a broad variety of programmes, ranging from theology, education, physical culture and sports, through the humanities, social sciences and arts, to natural, medical, and health sciences. The credit system at UP is fully compatible with ECTS – The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System.

The Olomouc alma mater has confirmed its status among important science and research institutes by the activities conducted at the Technology Park, which connects the University with industrial partners. It also offers services business consultation services to students.

The University provides a high-quality environment for its students and employees. Dozens of facilities have been newly built or renovated. Modern accommodation facilities, dining services, the university library, sporting facilities, and counselling services are available to all, including students with special needs.

Comprehensive counselling is provided by experts to all students, academic employees, alumni as well as applicants coping with difficult situations in life. The University houses a profession counselling centre, a support centre for students with special needs, and a guidance centre for achieving a healthy lifestyle. Palacký University also promotes the development of civic society in the Czech Republic; a number of its activities fulfil the ethos of the institution, that for which it was established.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

International Mobility projects: PU has been participating in the Erasmus programme since 1998. Currently it has more than 400 partners in 29 European countries. We are sending nearly 500 students and accepting over 350 students annually. In 2015 Palacký University has entered the International Credit Mobility (KA107) and has participated in this activity since. Currently we run the largest ICM project in the Czech Republic ever (463 student and staff exchanges planned for 2018-2020).

Besides Erasmus we have a scholarship scheme for student exchanges with universities in the United States and bilateral agreements with 140 universities around the world. We are exchanging another 200 students within these schemes. International Joint programmes are open to students on Master and PhD level with partner universities from EU and also from universities around the world.

Erasmus Mundus projects: UP is partner in the Euroculture programme, coordinated by RU Groningen which has been running for more than ten years. In 2013-2016 we were members in two Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnerships: EURICA (Lot 15, coordinated by Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) and USA_ID (Lot 17, coordinated by Ruhr Universität Bochum). In 2016 the University successfully applied for an EMJMD joint degree programme GLODEP – Global Development Policies. First students have enrolled in 2017/2018, in June 2019 first 19 students graduated. Every year the programme attracts around 800 applicants.

Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Building projects: within last 3 years Palacký University coordinated 8 KA2 projects and participated in another 10 KA2 projects as partner. International Research projects: UP belongs among top Czech research universities and hosts several internationally recognized research centers. PU has developed comprehensive international student and staff services.

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

The UPOL Faculty of Arts is in a great part formed by philological departments, is among three biggest institutions in the country in these field and it has the ambition to play a strong role in language teaching. The methods of teaching and the variety of languages have been enriched all the years in UPOL. The philological departments of UPOL are also engaged in the preparation of teaching materials for the Czech and the foreign languages. Courses of foreign languages are compulsory for all UPOL students.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

The Italian Department has 25 years of experience of teaching Italian as foreign language. The Italian has been taught to the students of Italian Philology at undergraduate and postgraduate level and as an optional subject on elementary, intermediate and advanced level to students of the whole University. The staff is involved in courses of literature, history, Italian civilisation, Italian art, Italian film, Italian music, etc. where, together with the elements of Italian culture, the students continue to develop their language skills. We'd like to use this experience for teaching innovation and production and testing of innovative teaching materials for the language acquisition and for discovering the Italian culture.

Reasons of involvement in the project

There are 5 universities that offer a degree in Italian and courses of Italian for all university students. There are Czech books of Italian with rather conservative methods and other language materials are imported from Italy. We consider very important to prepare innovative and open access teaching materials which fit with the interest of Czech students and make their study of Italian more efficient and amusing and it will motivate them to try the higher level of course. We will use the results for teaching Italian at UPOL and we will disseminate them to other universities and language schools through workshops and our graduates who are teaching Italian.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Jiri Spicka is Full Professor of Italian Literature, director of under/postgraduate Course of Italian Language and Literature, he was Vice-Dean for Research of the Faculty of Arts (2011-2018), member of Research Board of the Faculty of Arts (2010-2019). He has taught courses of Italian Literature, Italian language, methodological courses, Latin, Digital Humanities. He is author of a textbook for courses of Italian Culture and Life (*Italské reálie*. Plzeň: Fraus, 2001, and reprints), author and editor of a textbook for courses of Italian Literature (*Letteratura italiana del Medioevo e del Rinascimento*. Olomouc: Palacký University, 2014), founder of the information site Nodit, he has been active in the promotion of Italian language and literature (journalism, debates, presentations for general public).