

Erasmus Policy Statement

The Mossakowski Medical Research Centre (MMRC) uniquely combines research within basic and pre-clinical biological sciences with clinical practice. Looking at the formal structure of the Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences it is clearly visible that this fusion of experimental and clinical medicine is accomplished through several different ways. To achieve its main goal to be one of the leaders in biomedical sciences, MMRC PAS has established close relations with several units of Warsaw hospitals, as well as many recognized academic and biomedical centers in Poland and worldwide. Among many others, MMRC PAS collaborates with Clinical Department of Cardiology and Clinical Department of Neurosurgery of the Bielański Hospital, as well as with the Central Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Interior, especially in neurology, transplantation and cardiology. Important avenue of experimental medicine are studies on basic mechanism governing various functions of living organisms and investigating both in vitro and in vivo on animal models the pathological disorders underlying numerous human diseases. This dual structure of performing research work is even reflected in the organization of several research units, like Department of Neurodegenerative Disorders, NeuroRepair Department, Human Epigenetics, Department of Experimental and Clinical Neuropathology, Department of Surgical Research and Transplantology etc. To ensure the best way for applying the newest scientific achievement into elaborating novel efficient treatments, a Translative Platform for Regenerative Medicine has been raised in the MMRC PAS. According to its internal policy of constant upgrading, the Institute has obtained funds within the framework of Innovative Economy for 8 projects supported by EU funds and linking basic and applied sciences with business. The Institute cooperates with nearly 40 foreign academic or clinical centers. Currently about 77 scientific grants are implemented in MMRC PAS, which is efficient in looking for international partnerships and gaining financial support for innovative projects. With the aim of upgrading educational quality and extending the range of the scientific collaboration with academic and scientific partners in EU, the professional training of research staff is intensively developed. MMRC PAS currently employs approximately 200 persons directly engaged in research, including 35 full professors, 25 assistant professors, 40 assistant professors and 30 research assistants. Special attention is given to a Ph.D. program, in which 50 participants are currently involved. Our students of 3rd cycle studies are offered a unique opportunity to gain knowledge coming from both the basic research and the clinical practice. Exceptional high level of scientific and educational achievements of the MMRC PAS has been recognized by nomination as KNOW (National Scientific Leading Centre). Within the KNOW program, the interdisciplinary Ph.D. studies has been established in collaboration with Centre of Innovative Research (Medical University of Bialystok), Center for Statistic (CenStat,, Hasselt University, Belgium) and Center for Metabolomics and Bioanalysis (CEMBIO, University San Pablo-CEU, Madrid, Spain). Another program enhancing student mobility and increasing job opportunities after graduation from the third cycle studies has been implemented by a consortium of Warsaw University and Life Science Institutes of Polish Academy of Sciences. Within the framework of the joint program financed by European Social Fund (ESF), students are provided with outstanding opportunity for getting apprentice at the best recognized academic centers and biotechnological companies worldwide, as well as to deepen their knowledge by learning from visiting professors within the framework of international mobility. The outstanding opportunity for in-depth education is highly supported by the MMRC localization in Biocenter Ochota, formed by few life science institutes and

offering close scientific and educational collaboration. The MMRC PAS is receptive for cooperation in all areas of the Institute expertise and research work with academic entities from all geographical regions.

The Institute promotes individual scientific development by organizing international conferences and workshops and supporting short- and long-term student and staff mobility. To date, the policy has resulted in broadening scientific relations, creating the innovative projects and ideas and giving rise to an international exchange of the specialist within their areas of expertise. To facilitate the management of international collaboration and mobility, the MMRC established the Department of Scientific Research Arrangement with the well and constantly trained administrative staff supervising processes of project implementation and reporting.

The satisfactory results of constant progress policy strongly support the MMRC intention to enhance the international mobility of students and academic staff. The implementation of the Erasmus programme will significantly contribute to the educational and professional training of Ph.D. students. The exchange of outbound and incoming students and staff members might result in creating new common scientific projects and a didactic exchange aimed at increasing both the educational qualities and the progress in research. This is expected to contribute to knowledge translation and commercialization and to foster international cooperation.

PRIORITIES OF THE MODERNISATION AGENDA

PRIORITY 1: Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

The implementation of the program will encourage the student and academic staff in MMRC PAS to initiate the crossborder mobility and increase their educational and training opportunities. This unique chance would be particularly beneficial for students with lower incomes and from less developed regions who are each year recruited to 3rd cycle studies. It will also contribute to widening participation in higher education for people from less economically privileged areas. Importantly, the initialization of learning and training avenues which extends formal education will increase job opportunities for groups that are usually marginalized and adjust qualifications of graduates to Europe needs and to fast changing labour market.

PRIORITY 2: Improving the quality and relevance in higher education

Increasing the mobility of students and staff due to Erasmus + programme will significantly contribute to increase the quality of learning and teaching by exchanging the educational experience and knowledge by outbound and incoming people. The opportunities of advanced traineeship will also support gaining of transferable skills as the outcomes of increased quality of higher education and valuable for labour market and innovative economy.

PRIORITY 3: Straightening mobility and cross-border cooperation

Implementing of the program is a valuable opportunity for MMRC PAS for widening cross-border cooperation, started thanks to increased student and staff mobility. The initiated common projects would straighten individual professional and social skills, as well as hopefully will result in future

common innovative projects, valuable for both the employability of the programme participants and to EU economy.

PRIORITY 4: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development

MMRC PAS is very successful in implementing projects in the framework of the innovative economy and in cooperation with business enterprises. This internal policy is aimed at translating the outcomes of basic and applied sciences into novel therapies and technologies. Fostering the student and staff exchange and resulting international cooperation will significantly enhance MMRC PAS activity within the cooperation with business sector.

PRIORITY 5: Improving governance and funding

Participating in the programme will enable MMRC PAS administrative staff to get knowledge and experience in governing the financial support and searching for funding opportunities. Particularly, the institute is interested in preparing new joint programmes for research and innovative economy to foster novel technologies development and employability.