



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Strategy of international activity development of Lithuanian Maritime Academy (LMA) contributes to vision of LMA and implementing of key strategy objectives.

The vision of the LMA: the LMA is a modern higher school, open to society educational institution, integral part of the Lithuanian and European systems of higher education, meeting the needs of Lithuania as a maritime state, observing the requirements of the EU Directives, and providing the community with educational and different social services.

The strategic aims of LMA activity were classified into four main areas of strategic activity:

- Studies and lifelong learning;
- Applied research and staff professional development;
- An impact on the regional and national development and the promotion of the idea of Lithuania as a maritime state;
- The improvement of the LMA management structure and the development of the quality management system.

Search of partners is carried out trying to find the institutions or organizations whose activity directions could be coordinated with the vision of LMA and strategic objectives. When the partner is found the possibilities and needs of cooperation are analyzed, the aim is that cooperation agreements helped to ensure the correspondence of LMA and partner institution fulfilled study programmes, compatibility of teachers' scientific interests. Development of project activities, possibilities to carry out teachers' internship and students' practices according to study programmes carried out by LMA and partner institution and other activities. As the activity of LMA is directed into maritime sector cooperation agreements are aimed to sign with institutions working in maritime sector. The number of the signed cooperation agreements is not large, as the LMA observes the strategy of signing only such agreements that result in actual activities – maritime studies.

The strategy of international activity of LMA tries to cover wider geographical area not limiting to EU countries, but it is important to match priorities of institutions activities. LMA cooperates with academic, social, and business partners. The LMA researchers conduct research and consult in cooperation with the researchers from other higher schools, as well as with its social and business partners.

The aims of the cooperation are the following:

- to assure sites for student practices;
- to provide the LMA graduates with placement opportunities;
- to share experience;
- to protect and foster maritime traditions;
- to provide information about the changes in the maritime sector;
- to provide teaching and consulting services to employer organizations.



Erasmus activities help to develop other LMA activities, e.g., in 2009, due to Erasmus programme, a cooperation agreement with Szczecin Maritime University (Poland) was signed; presently, 11 LMA graduates continue in Master study programmes in it. On the basis of Erasmus cooperation Treaty with South Tyneside Maritime College (UK) an application for acquiring project funding from Leonardo da Vinci programme was prepared, LMA cooperates with Latvian institutions organizing competition for schoolchildren „On maritime routes“, this helps to promote maritime professions, to develop idea of maritime nation; carries out common projects with other countries, e.g. cooperates with Liepaja Maritime College in order to increase the competitiveness of human resources in maritime sector of both countries (projects „LLI-002 Improvement of the labour force competitiveness in Latvian-Lithuanian Maritime Sector/ LTLVMARINE“ and „LLIV-289 Improvement of the competitiveness of Lithuanian-Latvian Maritime Sector Engineers / LTLV-MARINE-ENGINEER“); participation in the Regional Maritime English Instructors Training Course organized by the IMO resulted in the updating of the Maritime English teaching materials and etc. International cooperation target groups of LMA include teachers, scientists, personnel, first cycle (undergraduate) students, but the target groups sometimes go out of the limits defined as LMA provides assistance to LMA graduates who are studying in second cycle (Master's degrees), and working in maritime sector professionals. Researchers from abroad are co-authors of publications, they give lectures at the LMA, make presentations at conferences and seminars, and do expertise, e.g., prof. dr. A. Alop reviewed books published by the LMA; prof. dr. Butman from the USA who arrived in the framework of the Fulbright programme assessed the study programme of Marine Engineering; Gdynia Maritime University professor dr. S. Kluj gave the course of professional development to the LMA staff, etc. Joint research projects are planned with the researchers of the Baltic State Academy. The LMA researchers made presentations in international conferences in Poland, Latvia, France, Russia, etc.

LMA pursuing to implement LMA statute defined vision and strategic activity objectives takes part in involving partners and implementing international projects. The active LMA participation in project activities started in 2000. Due to international cooperation, a modern contemporary teaching infrastructure has been built and new maritime technologies have been developed. The study process is provided with contemporary teaching/ learning materials and aids. Participation in projects provides for the possibility to update study programmes, given the changing international standards and the needs of the market. The project activity is an on-going process: with one project completed, new project applications are written and other projects are implemented.

The main principle of cooperation are common fields of interest:

- cooperation in applied research;
- updating of study programmes in compliance with international requirements;
- the use of the learning facilities;
- assurance of the continuity of studies;
- sharing of the best practices;
- teacher and student exchange.



Participation in international conferences and training courses provides for the exchange of the best practices with foreign countries and to adapt the novelties to the LMA activities. The LMA maintains and extends relations with higher schools, training centres, employer enterprises, and stakeholders in other countries. Regular contacts with the foreign maritime education and training institutions contribute to the improvement of study programmes and make them more attractive. The LMA academic staff participates in conferences, seminars, and professional development courses.

Participation in lifelong learning programme allows to improve LMA its activity, creates additional value added. Lectors who participate in international projects improve study programmes, given needs of market, technological development, international requirements. In the implementation of international mobility, lectors' professional qualification develops, study process improves, non-formal training services are provided. Programmes options allow opportunities to participate in international conferences, training courses, it provides exchange of the best practices with foreign countries, adapt novelties to LMA activities. Due to international cooperation, contemporary learning resources are developed, as well as latest maritime technologies. Study process is provided with contemporary teaching/learning materials and aids: after implementation of projects financed by EU structural funds, modern Seafarer's Training Centre was opened, provided with contemporary labs and training simulators; afterwards navigation simulator was updated, visualization programme of Klaipeda Port navigation area was developed, engine room simulator was updated, GMDSS lab was established, contemporary equipment, teaching aids, computer programmes, books were acquired. Programme activities contribute to formation and promotion of image of Lithuania as a maritime state in EU and world: as maritime business is of an international character, study programmes of Marine Navigation and Marine Engineering were designed in accordance with requirements of International Convention STCW-78 (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978) and requirements of Directive 2008/106/EB of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the minimum level of training of seafarers. They were recognized by Government of the Netherlands, later by other EU countries. When seafarers of Lithuania were included in IMO White List, the prestige of LMA and Lithuania as a maritime state rose.

LMA goals are closely related to Erasmus programme's aims. By participating in international programmes LMA intensify its cooperation with foreign higher education institutions, promote students and staff mobility, cooperation between enterprises and HEI. Implementation of mobility programmes provide opportunities for students to study or have traineeships in enterprises abroad, develop their language skills, meet foreign cultures and access experience in the similar field of the study from European institutions. Academic staff gets an opportunities for professional and personal perfection, also exchange of knowledge and good practice experience and partnership relations between institutions are promoting. Participation in international exchange programmes directly related to implementation of the Bologna Process's goals and objectives in higher educational institutions, promotion of students and academic staff mobility and improvement of the quality of education.