

*Promoting mobility
for students and researchers
in the Baltic Sea Region.*

The examples from the University of Gdańsk



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What we have

The harmonisation of Qualification in HE in Europe facilitate mobility among students and enhance new professional opportunities.

European Qualification Framework system has tools that help, for example:

- ▶ System of descriptions of students' **learning outcomes** gives possibility to understand them in every European HE institution.
- ▶ System of **APEL / RPL** (*Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning and Recognition of Prior Learning*) = validation of learning outcomes including formal, non formal and informal learning
- ▶ **ECTS** (*European Credit Transfer System*)
- ▶ **Diploma supplement** (description of extras)
- ▶ **Erasmus** – European students and teachers exchange programme which works for years giving a lot of experiences and creating good basis of new ideas and projects).

What we have...

The UG's activities – for example:

Co-operation with other universities

Erasmus Mundus:

- ▶ MARES project (*Doctoral Programme on Marine Ecosystem Health and Conservation*) – 24 partners; individual PhD projects.
- ▶ The IO UG Summer School (every year, since 2001) organized as undergraduate units of study from degree programmes (Erasmus MSC in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation) with Centre of Excellence for Baltic Development, Education and Research BALTDER; EU project BIOCOMBE; Network for Excellence MarBEF.

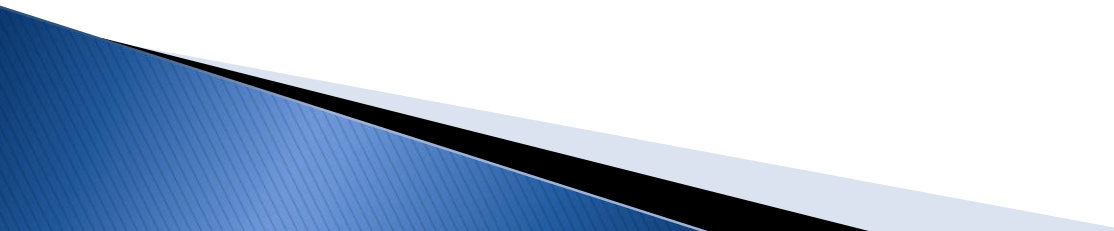
Co-operation between University of Gdańsk and business sector:

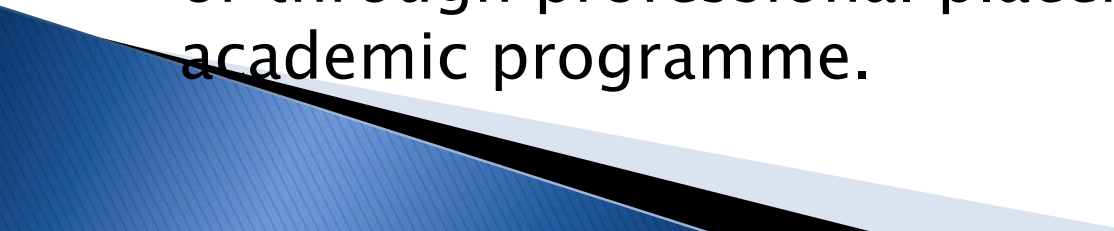
- ▶ The Pomeranian Platform of the Academic–Industrial Innovative Cooperation: INNOPOMERANIA project (for young researchers: 3-month internships in foreign industrial centres).
- ▶ The project (EC) *ECO2, The Ocean of Tomorrow* – 27 partners including 2 business partners: Grupa LOTOS and STATOIL (PhD thesis in the frame of the project).
- ▶ and...

NATIONAL BALTIC RESEARCH CENTRE (NBRC)

NBRC company Ltd. (creation coordinated by the UG)

The aims:

- ▶ integration of Polish scientific, educational and research–developmental institutions;
 - ▶ coordination of interdisciplinary research and education for cost–effective management, SD, and environmental protection of the Baltic Sea;
 - ▶ more effective cooperation with the maritime economy sector, local and central government;
 - ▶ students and researchers' exchange,
 - ▶ etc.
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- ▶ We also know that...
 - ▶ one of the main obstacles faced by those seeking employment and for the employers seeking new employees is **the lack of experience** among the new graduates.
 - ▶ So we have to...
 - ▶ **identify various experiences** that graduates acquire during their studies through their involvement in areas such as the arts, culture, and communication or through professional placements as part of their academic programme.
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What could improve students transition from education to employment?

Facilitation of

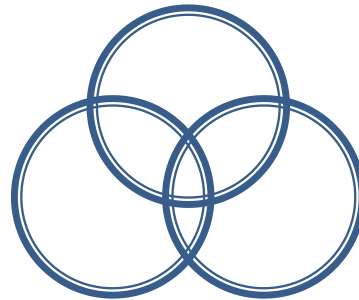
- ▶ the identification
- ▶ valuing
- ▶ validation

of the KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, COMPETENCIES
gained through
the formal, informal and non-formal learning



The most significant value:

PARTNERSHIP



‘Triple Helix’

(old and new version): business, policy, university (or its local dimensions)

Recommended practices

- ▶ **Projects** [possibly financed by the EC (support by the *European Universities Continuing Education Network* is possible)]:
 - ▶ facilitating the identification, valuing and validation of the knowledge, skills and competencies (formal, informal and non-formal learning)
 - ▶ bridging HE and work places (co-work on the educational offer; jury teams, scholarships, students exchange programmes).
- ▶ **Baltic Research Centres** (at European, state and local level)
- ▶ **Clusters** (like *Study in Pomerania* in Gdańsk) .

Let's try

- ▶ Generate new ideas and approaches
- ▶ Move things forward
- ▶ Step on the accelerator
- ▶ Create energy from bad news and diagnosis
- ▶ Do not work for inclusion as exclusion



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One could say at the end...

When something is redesigned or 'under construction' in the university, add the Baltic Sea Region viewpoint .

As university in the Baltic Sea Region

- ▶ *ally yourself with the externals as well (Don't only play the university game).*
- ▶ *Prepare for a long journey...*



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