

The Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences (ID PAS), undertakes commitments within the Erasmus+ program, understanding the importance of international cooperation in the context of improving the quality of education, scientific research, and enhancing the competencies of employees and doctoral students. We believe that active participation in the Erasmus+ program will contribute to further development of our institution, increase its international dimension, and enrich the scientific environment of ID PAS.

## **Institute Overview**

The Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences, is a leading national scientific institution engaged in interdisciplinary research in the field of woody plant biology at all levels of their organization. Research at ID PAS encompasses two scientific disciplines: forestry (scientific category A+) and biological sciences (scientific category A+). With highly qualified scientific staff, engineering personnel, and administrative staff, we ensure high-quality research. We also possess professional infrastructure, including specialized laboratories, an arboretum with a rich collection of woody plants, an herbarium, a library, as well as a network of numerous research sites located throughout the country, including our Experimental Forest "Zwierzyniec" in Kórnik.

## **International Cooperation**

The scientific staff of ID PAS actively collaborates with other renowned research institutions both in Poland and abroad. The results of our research are published in top scientific journals worldwide (including Nature, Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Global Change Biology, Ecology Letters, Ecology, Ecological Monographs, Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, Forest Ecology and Management, Land Degradation and Development, Annals of Forest Science, Cells, Ecosystems, Journal of Ecology, Plant, Cell & Environment, Fungal Diversity, New Phytologist) as well as in the form of monographs, confirming the high quality of our research activities.

## **Education and Promotion**

The employees of the Institute place great emphasis on promoting knowledge about nature through the publication of popular science works and delivering lectures that promote scientific achievements. Our efforts are aimed at shaping social attitudes conducive to fostering respect for nature.

## **Practical Application**

ID PAS engages in interdisciplinary research in the biology of woody plants, focusing on their structure, function, and complex interactions at the fundamental level. Our work involves a deep analysis of growth, development, reproduction, and evolutionary processes of plants, contributing to enriching the knowledge about these significant organisms. The results of our research have practical applications, particularly in the fields of forestry management and nature conservation. Based on a solid and up-to-date knowledge approach, ID PAS supports making effective decisions regarding sustainable forest management and the protection of biological diversity.

## **Readiness to Participate in the Erasmus+ Program**

ID PAS declares full readiness to actively participate in the Erasmus+ program. Our institution is open to the exchange of students, doctoral students, academic staff, and administrative personnel with foreign partners. We aim to actively support the mobility of our community, enabling them to gain new experiences, develop international competencies, and broaden educational and research horizons.

### **Strengthening Mobility and International Cooperation is the primary goal of our policy, therefore:**

- we actively develop cooperation with partners in other countries participating in the Erasmus+ Program as well as with other Partners, using established strategies;
- we promote and support the mobility of students and staff, especially from marginalized groups, consistently eliminating discrimination;
- we establish a clear policy for developing integrated cross-border teaching activities, enabling dynamic development of education at the international level;
- we recognize the importance and ensure visibility of the achievements of our doctoral students and staff involved in individual mobility or cooperation projects with strategic partners.

We regularly evaluate the effects of activities related to mobility and international cooperation, aiming for continuous improvement of our international engagement.

## **Commitment within the Erasmus+ Program**

The Institute will make every effort to participate in all available actions within the Erasmus+ Program, while simultaneously shaping high-quality international cooperation and intensifying internationalization.

- Respect for the principles of non-discrimination, ensuring equal access and opportunities for mobility participants from various backgrounds.
- Full (where possible) recognition of satisfactorily completed mobility activities of doctoral students and/or trainees in terms of awarded credit points (ECTS).
- Ensuring the inclusion of satisfactorily completed mobility activities in the final record of student achievements.
- No fees for mobile students for tuition, registration, exams, or access to laboratories, research areas, and libraries.
- High standard of academic cooperation, based solely on inter-institutional agreements, built on mutual understanding and alignment of academic standards.
- The Institute is seeking partners among Higher Education Institutions, research institutions, businesses, and other entities interested in collaboration in the field of education and training.
- The selection of partners is done with due diligence, ensuring sustainability and balance between academic interests and other factors.
- The Institute continues collaboration with existing partners and initiates new partnerships in all geographical areas, based on experiences and trends in international cooperation.

**The activities related to science and training of the Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences, are targeted towards the following target groups:**

- Doctoral students who seek to acquire knowledge, improve themselves abroad, and participate in international projects to develop their personal skills and build their academic careers. Through this, they can achieve professional development and enhance their employment prospects.
- Scientific staff and researchers conducting research in the field of biological sciences and forestry sciences, as well as administrative staff of the Institute. Participation in the Program will contribute to the development of participants' professional skills, including areas such as teaching, project management, and communication skills. Additionally, the program will be beneficial for the overall development of the Institute's human resources.

The Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences, commits to adhering to the principles of non-discrimination, in accordance with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ Program. The Institute will actively work to ensure equal access and equal opportunities for mobility participants. Furthermore, the Institute will be guided by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in its actions. For individuals participating in mobility, especially students and staff, as well as considering special needs and potential disabilities, the Institute of Dendrology PAS will provide the necessary assistance, counselling, and mentoring.

The Institute of Dendrology PAS actively supports the development of projects involving doctoral students and scientific staff. Our support includes initiating activities aimed at developing programs and training for young scientists, especially in foreign languages. Additionally, we strive to enhance the professional and personal skills of our staff.

The Institute will be building collaborative relationships in projects with existing partners, who are well-known, and will be seeking new partners from both EU and non-EU countries (educational institutions, research organizations, businesses, local and regional authorities, non-governmental organizations, etc.) to conduct international projects.

The Institute will actively promote available sources of funding, proven methods of operation, and project outcomes. Various forms of support will be available to participants involved in projects, including searching for collaborative partners, partner search, administrative assistance, financial and organizational support, as well as advisory services. The Institute leverages its own infrastructure in the educational, research, and administrative domains, as well as human and financial resources, to effectively conduct international projects. The Institute's active participation in international projects will contribute to the development of teaching programs in line with the needs of the European market, the introduction of innovative practices in education, training, and the activities of young researchers, as well as the promotion of employability, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

**Implementing the European Union agenda**

The Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences, commits to actively contribute to the implementation of the new European Union policy/agenda in the field of higher education. The strategic and developmental actions undertaken by our institution fully align with the main priorities of this agenda:

- Our goal is to enhance the quality of education, research, and cooperation with the international and business environment. We focus on attracting talented young researchers interested in interdisciplinary studies in the field of woody plant biology at all levels of their organization, enabling them to develop their scientific careers in our institution. Increasing the mobility of

doctoral students and staff, the number of international doctoral students, programs in foreign languages, and participation in international projects are priority actions. The Erasmus+ program supports our participants in acquiring advanced transversal skills and key competencies, enabling them to succeed in the job market.

- Our actions aim to ensure that higher education is open and accessible to researchers from diverse backgrounds. The inspiration for these efforts is the strategy outlined by ID PAS “HR Excellence in Research”. Systematic collaboration within the Erasmus+ Program with other academic institutions will help guide doctoral students based on their talent, regardless of their background, and create flexible educational pathways. Appropriate career counselling and mentoring from the Institute staff are key to the effective development of human resources in our institution.

### **Securing the contribution of higher education institutions to innovation**

ID PAS is involved in implementing regional and national strategies in the fields of scientific research and education, focusing on various research areas such as systematics and chorology, physiology and ecophysiology, molecular biology, seed biology, biochemistry, genetics, proteomics, ecology, bioindication, phytoremediation, mycology and mycorrhiza, selection, breeding and propagation, entomology, introduction and acclimatization of species of foreign origin.

The activities of ID PAS encompass areas recognized as key within the Erasmus+ Program, particularly in terms of training mobility and international projects. These initiatives will contribute to strengthening the knowledge triangle, which connects the academic, research, and business environments. Furthermore, they provide an excellent opportunity for various departments of the Institute to transfer knowledge and innovation from the laboratory to the business world, accelerating economic development and enhancing the region's and country's competitiveness in key areas. Erasmus projects, focused on developing doctoral training and doctoral study programs, will assist in training innovation manager-researchers who lead scientific discoveries, promote new ideas, and apply knowledge. The presence of highly qualified researchers, successful international collaborations, and the practical application of research results are crucial for achieving the status of a research excellence centre.

### **Supporting effective and efficient higher education systems**

The program enables the diversification of the financing system of the Institute of Dendrology, Polish Academy of Sciences, contributing to greater flexibility in resource management and efficiency in allocating funds for strategic purposes. Activities within the program allow efforts to be focused on developing individual strengths, collaborating with higher education institutions, research-based teaching, supporting interdisciplinary education, and introducing innovations into teaching programs.

Participation in Erasmus+ supports the achievement of goals of the European Education Area, such as 1) universal recognition of diplomas within the EU, 2) promotion of proficiency in two foreign languages, 3) access to high-quality education regardless of socio-economic background, and 4) building a strong European identity, nurturing cultural heritage, and embracing diversity.