



Cooperation between Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra (UKF in Nitra) and its partners in the Republic of Kazakhstan

1. Bilateral agreements of cooperation:

Bilateral agreements of academic cooperation generally define framework and basis for creative cooperation of UKF in Nitra, its faculties and their partner institutions within:

- common work in education
- common scientific-research work
- common project work
- creating necessary conditions for exchange of teaching and research staff and students
- mutual exchange of scientific works and results
- mutual publishing of these results
- common organising of scientific events (conferences, seminars, workshops)
- joint degree study programmes (Double Diploma or Joint Degree).

Currently, our university has valid bilateral Agreement of Academic Cooperation with:

- ✓ **Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages**
- ✓ **L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University**
- ✓ **Kazakhstan Innovative University**

2. Erasmus cooperation (mobilities):

UKF in Nitra has been very active in the Erasmus+ European exchange programme (exchange of students and staff) since its early start (introduction) in Slovakia, i.e. already from the Academic Year 1998/1999. Erasmus cooperation with Kazakhstan was developed mainly within the **Erasmus Mundus MANECA project**.

MANECA stands for “Mobility Academic Network between EU and Central Asia” and was the project within the framework of the Erasmus Mundus (Action 2) programme during the period 2010-2013 (project no. 183135, coordinated by UKF employee prof. PaedDr. Zdenka Gadušová, CSc. from the Department of English and American Studies, **Faculty of Arts**). MANECA partnership included 15 Central Asian universities from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and 5 European universities from Belgium, Germany, Lithuania and Slovakia (with Technische Universität Berlin, Germany, as the coordinator of the project). Kazakh institutions which participated in MANECA were as

follows: Kazakh Academy of Transport and Communication, Al – Farabi Kazakh National University, Karaganda State Technical University and East – Kazakh State Technical University. In the frame of the project, more than 100 students at all academic levels, academic and administrative staff from Central Asian universities have received scholarships for study, research and training at one of the European partner universities. In 2011, we received 6 international students and 2 teachers, in 2012 2 teachers, in 2013 UKF hosted 6 students, 1 post-doctoral student and 2 staff from Kazakhstan within this Erasmus Mundus project.

Faculty of Natural Sciences and Informatics:

The following activities leading to the establishment of cooperation took place:

- 1) In 2019, in the framework of the preparation of the **Erasmus+ KA107 project** (mobility of students and staff between EU and non-EU universities), there was an effort to establish cooperation with ENU Astana in the field of informatics.
- 2) In 2020, the **Erasmus+ CINDICA project** was submitted under the KA2 Action (Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices, Capacity Building in Higher Education). Unfortunately, the project was not approved. The project consortium also included the following institutions from Kazakhstan:
 - Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
 - Karaganda State Medical University
 - Kazakh-Russian Medical University

Faculty of Education has developed cooperation with Kazakh institutions through the **Erasmus+ DIREKT project** (Developing Trans-regional information literacy for lifelong learning and the knowledge economy) funded within the Erasmus+ KA2 Action. The project involved 15 universities from 6 countries (Ireland, Germany, Russia, Kazakhstan, China and Slovakia) and Kazakh partners who joined the project were: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University and A. Baitursynov Kostanay State University. Within the project, 4 project meetings on monitoring the implementation of learning modules and information literacy were carried out by the faculty staff.

UKF also participated in the **Erasmus+ IQAT project** (approved under the Action 2, focused on Enhancing capacities in implementation of Institutional quality assurance systems and typology using Bologna process principles, project period 2015 - 2017). The project was coordinated by the Czech University of Life Sciences and involved 10 institutions from Kazakhstan (Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University, International Educational Corporation and Karaganda State Technical University), Uzbekistan, the Czech Republic (coordinator), Spain, Latvia and Slovakia. 2 employees from the **Faculty of Education** attended the project meetings and gave lectures on Methodology of teacher self-assessment and its application in quality management and on Tools for assessment of a teacher pedagogical competence in Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University.

3. Student and staff exchanges:

Students, teaching or research staff from all over the world (incoming and outgoing participants) can apply for short-term scholarship stay based on the **Memorandum between the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan**. Another interesting option is to apply through **National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic** for the purpose of study, artistic, research, stay (including doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship). NSP programme is financed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Also applicants from Kazakhstan interested to come to Slovakia are welcome to apply through the NSP programme. Or applicants can apply for study or research stay based on **other programmes and grant schemes** such as Horizon Europe – MSCA Doctoral or postdoctoral fellowships and networks.

Constantine the Philosopher University welcomed the following scholarship holders (15 students) since the Academic Year 2015/2016:

- b) **10 students** based on the bilateral agreement of Academic cooperation to the Faculty of Arts, 3-5 months study in the winter semester 2015/2016, of which 7 from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, 3 from Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty;
- c) **3 students** based on the bilateral agreement of Academic cooperation to the Faculty of Arts UKF, 3-5 months study in the winter semester 2016/2017, of which 2 from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty and 1 from Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty;
- d) **1 student** based on bilateral agreement of Academic cooperation to the Faculty of Arts, 3-months study in the winter semester 2017/2018 from Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty;
- e) **1 student** through the National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic to the Faculty of Arts, 3- months study in the winter semester 2018/2019 from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty;
- f) **4 staff** through the Erasmus+ KA2 project to the Faculty of Education, short 6-days training in the summer semester 2018/2019, of which 2 from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, 1 from Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University, Nur-Sultan and 1 from A. Baitursynov Kostanay State University, Kostanay.

4. International degree-seeking students:

In the line with its Long-term Strategy, CPU actively supports increasing internationalization in education also by attracting foreign students. **There are 15 students from Kazakhstan who have been studying at our university within 4 faculties** of CPU in the following full-time bachelor degree study programmes:

- **Faculty of Arts:**
 - 4 students – Russian Language in Intercultural and Business Communication,
 - 1 student – Marketing Communication and Advertising,
 - 1 student – Teacher Training of English Language and Literature and Russian Language and Literature,
 - 1 student – English Language and Culture and Russian Language and Culture
- **Faculty of Social Science and Health Care:**
 - 1 student – Social work
- **Faculty of Natural Sciences:**
 - 1 student – Applied Ecology and Environmental Sciences
- **Faculty of Education:**
 - 2 students - Teacher Training of Pedagogy and Russian Language and Literature,
 - 1 student – Fine Arts Education,
 - 1 student - Teacher Training of Psychology and Russian Language and Literature,
 - 1 student - Teacher Training of Fine Arts Education and Russian Language and Literature,
 - 1 student – Pedagogy and Education.

5. UKF Staff Business Trips to Kazakhstan:

For the purpose of developing or strengthening the existing cooperation and relations of our university with partners abroad, our university staff from the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Natural Sciences carried out in total **24 business trips to education institutions in Kazakhstan** (to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakh-British Technical University, Nazarbayev University in Astana, A. Baitursynov Kostanay State University, Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University).

These trips took place between the years 2011 – 2019 and enabled UKF staff to attend the international scientific conferences (on application of ICT, e-learning „Assisted Teaching of Technical Subjects“, etc.) or join various project meetings or give lectures to Kazakh students.

6. Other international activities with Kazakhstan:

Our university is active in co-/organizing and attending various events (scientific-research and educational events – conferences, workshops, professional discussions, project sessions or meetings, etc.) during which the university develops cooperation with and/or hosts international guests, colleagues also from our partner institutions in Kazakhstan:

- 1) Academic staff of the **Faculty of Natural Sciences** participated in international IEEE

AICT IT conferences held periodically in Kazakhstan within IEEE Region 8:

- The AICT 2014 conference, which took place in Astana (currently Nursultan), was attended by employees of the Department of Informatics, Faculty of Natural Sciences of UKF. The conference was hosted by Nazarbayev University and Gumilyov Eurasian National University.
- The AICT 2018 conference, which took place in Almaty, was also attended by staff members of the Department of Informatics and the Department of Technology and Information Technologies of the **Faculty of Education**. The conference was held at Kazakh-British Technical University and at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

- 2) Prof. Zdenka Gadušová from **Faculty of Arts** gave a lecture at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University as well as at Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, and Kazakh Financial and Economic Academy in Semey.
- 3) Moreover, prof. Zdenka Gadušová was a supervisor of a doctoral student (in the field of the Foreign Language: two foreign languages) from Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty who successfully defended her doctoral dissertation. Currently, prof. Gadušová is supervising a doctoral student from the Kazakh National University Al-Farabi in Almaty.