



ERASMUS + TOOLKIT PROJECT  
07-11 October 2019, Vilnius University



# INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME: Language issues

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# Why HE Institutions are placing more importance on language issues?

## REGIONAL/GLOBAL DIMENSION:

- age of global knowledge and technology,
- an interconnected world
- current labour market requiring graduates to have international, foreign language and intercultural skills to be able to interact in a global setting



# Why HE Institutions are placing more importance on language issues?

## INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION:



- development of students language skills, to enable them communicate their knowledge in different languages

- contribution to academic language use



- enable the mobility of students and staff

- encourage language studies and use of languages other than native language



- support linguistic diversity within the institution

- be an attractive university for foreign researchers, teachers and students

- communicate information via websites and relevant documents/publications in languages other than native language, primarily in the language with the greatest international dissemination i.e. English

## Language issues address to:

- Curriculum,
- Teaching,
- Research,
- Service,
- Extracurricular activities



# Language issues

## CURRICULUM:

Foreign language course in study programs

Study programs or part of it in foreign language

Study programs with mobility window  
(short term or semestre exchange abroad)

## RESEARCH:

Research in it's nature is international:

- publications, international collaboration, projects
- Foreign language proficiency of research staff

## TEACHING

- Language proficiency & intercultural competencies of academic staff:

are they ready to work with intercultural, multilingual class?

mobility, international collaboration

## SERVICE:

- Visibility & information: website, documents, guidance, signs
- Communication: administrative staff , working with admission, accommodation, other service

# Languages issues - Lithuania experience

Law on Higher Education - language of instruction is Lithuanian

- Strict regulations effected VU curriculum –degree programs only in national language - Lithuanian
- Limitations for internationalisation – how to attract international students?
- as a consequence - low **competitiveness**

Lithuanian universities put a lot of effort to change the Law - Amendment to the Law allowing programs in English

Lithuanian Rector's Council appealed to the Lithuanian Parliament to allow foreign language of communication on the level of higher positions (Rector) to attract **best-qualified candidates**



# Languages issues - VU experience

As response to the objectives (goals) of Strategic plan of Vilnius University for 2018-2020:

Strategic project „Creation of an international study environment at Vilnius University“ has been designed

One of the objectives, challenges: **Bilingual university**

Working group on language issues:

1. Website
2. Documentation
3. Service
4. Improvement of foreign language and intercultural competencies for academic and administrative staff

# Important to know

## National policy on languages:

- Common strategy?
- Any limitations?
- What are priorities?

(Legislation, other documents related to HE)

## Institutional policy on languages:

- Mission
- Vision
- Values
- Some other institutional documents – guidelines, acts, regulations, directives

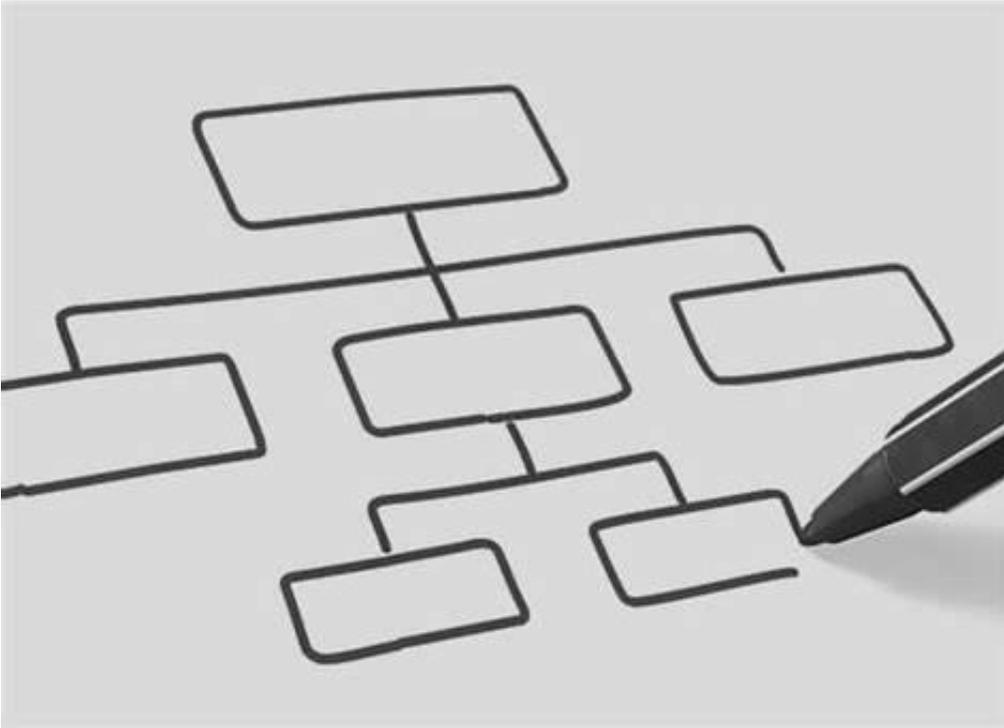
## Personal/ community attitude

- support or resistance?

# Solving language issues

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- Institutional support: to have mandate for necessary changes, reforms
- Human Resources: IT, academic, administrative staff
- Financial Resources: funding, equipment, premises
- Good communication: clearly articulated goals for the faculty and administration







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**Any questions?**  
**Thank you for your attention**