

Project Work (PW)

Mobility not only for studying abroad
but for having a professional training

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Outline

- Project Work
- Advantages
- Difficulties
- Suggestions and ideas

Project Work /1/

- **Project Work** (PW) – a new type of Mobility Offer.
- The main idea of PW is to enhance collaboration between Universities and companies.
- PW – involves both teaching and a ‘project’.
 - Individual (small group) projects/theses on topics related to companies demand.
 - Short term internship possibly included.

Project Work /2/

- PW will be offered at **all levels of study**, including Undergraduates and Masters levels, involving both teaching and working on a project.
- Emphasise on Science and Technology.
- Short term mobilities (6 months).

Advantages

- Providing practically-oriented basic skills, acquiring experience in collaborative work.
- Soft skills: ability to communicate, self-learning, the use of project management methods.
- Up-to-date knowledge.
- The PW concept improves quality of mobilities and provides the grantees with valuable skills and knowledge.

Project Work – examples /1/

- A topic of a thesis originating from a company.
- An academic supervisor is involved in a collaboration with a company.
- Offer teaching and project together (for example PW for 20 ECTS and regular courses for 10 ECTS in a semester).

Project Work - Companies

- Associate companies Eurelec and Vivadia will help with examples of collaboration.
- We hope the number of associates increases during staff mobilites (???)

Difficulties /1/

- Setting up PWs is a great challenge.
- The main problem: a great amount of **unknowns** in the application process.
- Discipline-oriented!
- Only (sufficiently) good candidates may be considered as candidates for PWs.

Difficulties /2/ - unknowns

- The content of a PW is strongly related to the skills/knowledge/experience of a candidate (especially in sciences and engineering).
- It does not make sense to generate PWs with too specific requirements.
- It is more efficient to provide **general domains of PW** and to define specific conditions once there are interested candidates to work in an area.
- PW are individually defined and agreed between a candidate and a supervisor.

Difficulties /3/ - defining PW

- A general rule: less general PW offers with several applications than several specific PW with less candidates.
- Not the number of PW is crucial, but the **number of applicants** interested in such a mobility.

How to make things easier /1/

- It might be easier if Asian Partners define disciplines and type of problems of an interest.
- Advertising topics/courses offered by **host universities**, which could potentially be linked to PW.
- → Identify overlapping disciplines.

How to make things easier /2/ - other approaches to PW

- Run BA/Master thesis in combination with some advanced courses.
- Practically-oriented topic of a BA/Master thesis.
- Incorporating students/grantees in activities conducted by a host group in cooperation with companies/industry.
- Collaboration between home/host: Topic/problems of a thesis work proposed by a home university to find a suitable host university.

Essential: Attract good students

- The WP is designed for **good students**.
- We need to attract good students to apply. Therefore there is a need of a close cooperation and support on the side of home universities.
- Strongly advertise PW mobilities to bring attention of potential applicants **as well as their supervisors** (home universities, web page).

Difficulties – Credit recognition

- Credit recognition – how to incorporate WP to the transcript of records and how to get recognition by a home university.
- Essential: recognition by home Universities.
- We expect recognition will be easier to obtain for the EU → Asia exchange.
 - UW: there are Faculty coordinators, who decide if an internship (=PW) could be considered as a part of a curricula (ECTS credits).

UW – ideas

- We have got a very good experience in defining MOs.
- We envisage more difficulties in setting PWs.
- We want to use the links provided by the Carrier Office of University of Warsaw.