



**“OUR ERASMUS”  
OR HOW TO OVERCOME THE  
IMBALANCE BETWEEN  
POTENTIAL AND RESULTS**

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# Introduction

- The South-West University is a state institution that offers training in Bulgarian and English in 67 Bachelor's, 86 Master's and 43 specialized PhD programmes.
- With its 39 years of history our University has a leading position in the scientific and educational space both in Bulgaria and Eastern Europe.

# [ South-West University ]



# [ Our location ]

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- Located in Blagoevgrad - the economic, cultural and educational centre of South-Western Bulgaria - it is situated only 90 kilometers southwards from Sofia, 20 kilometers from the border with Macedonia and 80 kilometers from the Greek border.

# [ Our students ]

- The South - West University (SWU) provides training in different scientific fields for about 14 000 students of whom 700 are foreign students coming from various countries such as Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Serbia, Albania, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Japan, Pakistan, Yemen, etc.

# [ Our academic staff ]

- The SWU employs over 800 lecturers including professors, associate professors and assistant professors.
- They provide modes of training following the Bulgarian traditions in education and research on the one hand, and meeting the contemporary European standards in the fields of science, arts and sports, on the other.

# Basic structures of the University

- The Faculty of Law and History
- The Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics
- The Faculty of Economics
- The Faculty of Public Health and Sport
- The Faculty of Pedagogy
- The Philological Faculty
- The Faculty of Philosophy
- The Faculty of Arts
- The Technical College
- WEBSITE: [www.swu.bg](http://www.swu.bg)

# [ Faculty of Law and History ]





# [ Faculty of Law and History ]

- Fields of study:
- Law
- Public Administration
- International Relations
- History
- History and Archaeology
- Archive Studies and Information Security
- Public Relations
- European Studies

# [ Faculty of Law and History ]

- The university's largest faculty
- Faculty where avant-garde thinking is promoted
- The curricula include modern subjects and areas of knowledge
- Motto "Open to the World"
- WEBSITE: [www.law.swu.bg](http://www.law.swu.bg)

# [ The beginning of “Our Erasmus” ]

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- Bulgaria, including the South-West University, began a modest participation in the Erasmus Programme in 1999
- Then we had 3 bilateral agreements
- We only provided student and teacher mobility
- During the first year we realized an exchange /incoming and outgoing/ with a total number of participants being a single digit

# [ Further development ]

- Throughout the years the development has undoubtedly been an ascending one.
- There have been a number of successfully used tools under the same programme such as a students and teachers mobility, development of common study programmes and intensive summer schools.

# [ The status quo today ]

- Number of signed Erasmus agreements - 52
- Number of outgoing students for training purposes for 2013/2014 - only 27 in 12 states, mainly in Central and Southern Europe!
- Number of incoming students- 2 !!!???

# [ The status quo today ]

- Number of students who have implemented a mobility for the purpose of practice – 9
- Number of outgoing teachers - 9
- Number of incoming teachers - 9

# [ The deficits ]

- It should be noted that various opportunities, especially the ones related to the new Erasmus+ programme, have not been used accordingly.
- Bulgaria, in particular our university, remain in the periphery of attention of major European universities.
- Student's mobility being primarily outgoing and in a few cases - incoming.

# [ The opportunities ]

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- At the same time, there are great resources and favorable conditions, including economic and academic environment, for a mutual exchange and cooperation
- Therefore, we would like to appeal for more intense contacts



# [ Our position ]

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- The strategic location of SWU naturally facilitates the academic cooperation with a number of Universities in the Balkan region.
- It also allows a direct and easy access to numerous attractive destinations, both in the country and in the neighboring states.

# The University city of Blagoevgrad

- With its two universities – the American University in Bulgaria is also located in Blagoevgrad, with its theatres, cinemas, libraries, discotheques and restaurants, the city combines the opportunities and the advantages offered by the big city, on the one hand, and, on the other, it is branded with the cozy atmosphere of any small Bulgarian town.

# [ Blagoevgrad and the area ]



# [ The options ]

- There are potential “niches” in which the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” and specifically the Law and History Faculty could be an active partner.
- The new Erasmus+ Program offers much more - let's use the tools!

# [ Our proposals ]

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- Further intensification of student, academic and non-academic staff mobility
- We would like to accelerate the practical education, hence we promote the student mobility for traineeships and staff mobility for practice
- We offer good facilities in many majors - including sport!
- So, we are ready to start negotiations

# [ Our proposals ]

- We have the idea to organize on an annual basis a Forum that will gather students, faculty, researchers, politicians and businesses
- The potential participants could be from the Balkan region, but not exclusively as we would like to be “a bridge” between the Balkans and “the big Europe” of the EU

# [ Our proposals ]

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- During the Forum:
- We could discuss issues of common interest
- We can organize some trainings
- We can start scientific and practical projects and could cooperate to foster innovations and good practices exchange

# [ Our proposals ]

- **There is an infrastructure available; we invite partners for Strategic Partnerships!!!**
- We are ready to be a coordinator of specific networks - educational, research, etc., or Knowledge Alliances - especially in the field of Law!



# [ Conclusion ]

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- When there is a will, there is a way!
- We have ERASMUS+ Program !
- Let's take this perfect opportunity!

[ Thank you for your kind  
attention! ]

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- Any questions ???