

How to Get Academics on Board? A Role of International Office

Ivana Adamiková, Ostrava University Marie Špiláčková, Ostrava University

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How to Get Academics on Board – a Role of IROs

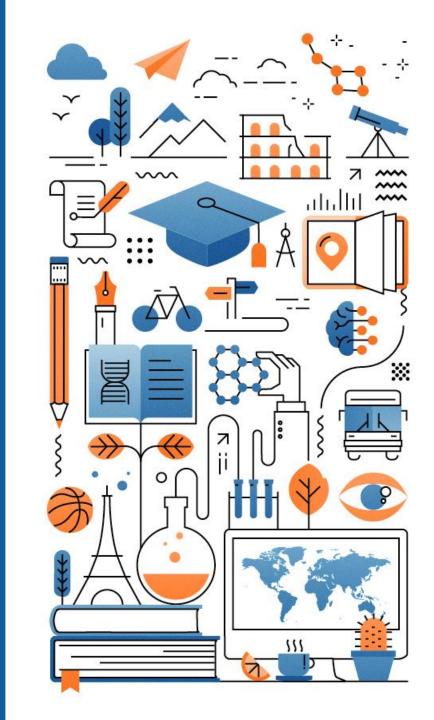
The Case of the University of Ostrava





• IRO established in 2016

Was it too late?





• Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015

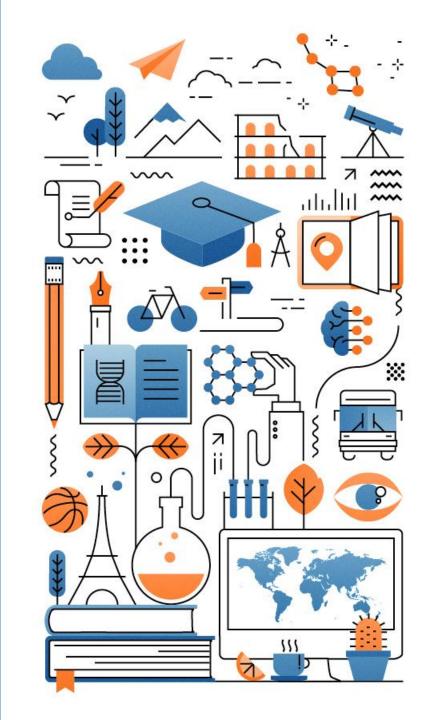
- The OU's intention is to continue to provide its services predominantly at a regional level, but with the aim that these activities are fully comparable in structure, quality and scope to regional universities within the European Education Area.
- 4 targets/indicators submission of ECTS Label application, number of study programmes implemented in cooperation with a foreign partner in a foreign branch of the OU, number of student mobilities within EU programmes, participation in national and international ranking activities.





... at the end of 2015 (baseline)

"The section of International Relations at the University of Ostrava is mainly engaged in ensuring normal operation of mobility under Erasmus+ programme. Currently, it is not possible, for reasons of capacity, to initiate new processes, respond to project challenges in the Czech Republic and abroad, provide advice and marketing support in internationalization, or effectively collaborate with institutions in the Region. Presently, the UO does not maintain intensive contacts, synchronize, or harmonize its management processes with any group of universities, making it difficult to find potential partners and implementation joint projects." (Strategic Plan 2016-2020)



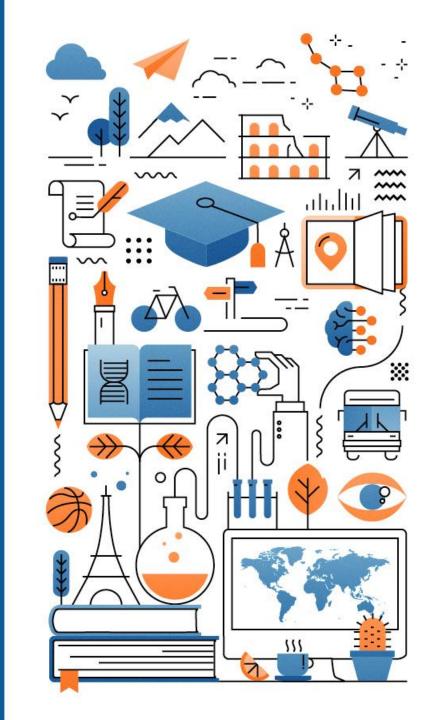


IRO established in time with a full support from the new management "Do not prevent good things from happening" – Prof. Lata, Rector Emeritus





 2 approaches - Hire external experts on internationalization - "Raise" own staff – the way of the UO



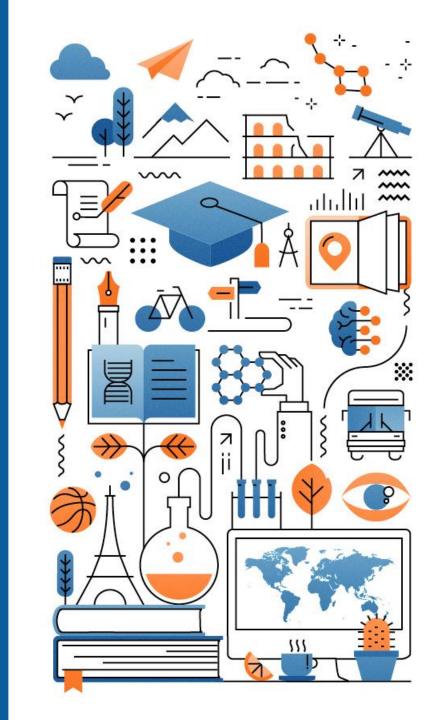


- Core academics initiating the change already on board
- Meetings with Vice-Deans
- First participation at NAFSA, student fairs in 2016 – together with the academics
- Setting up the Committee for the Development of International Relations





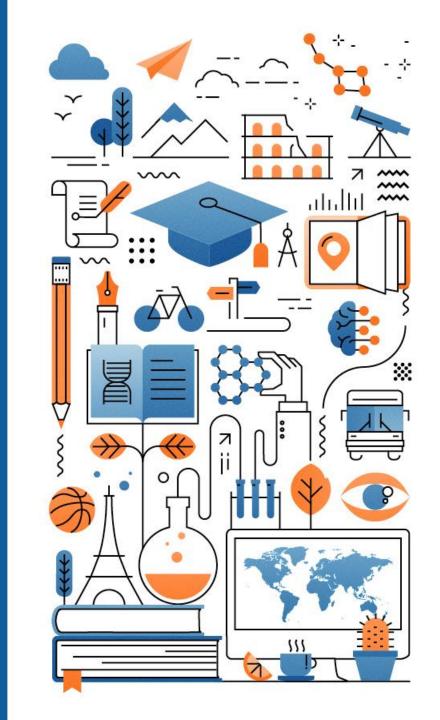
OP VVV project Department coordinators on board (53) direct regular meetings, all calls discussed, methodological support, in-house trainings, project preparation support





Incentives on top of personal motivation

- Impact on university/faculty budget
- Financial rewards
- Travels
- Admin support
- Professional development





Program To Be In for Academics

Towards Better Internalisation

Aimed at promoting and fostering international cooperation and developing internationalization activities

Objectives

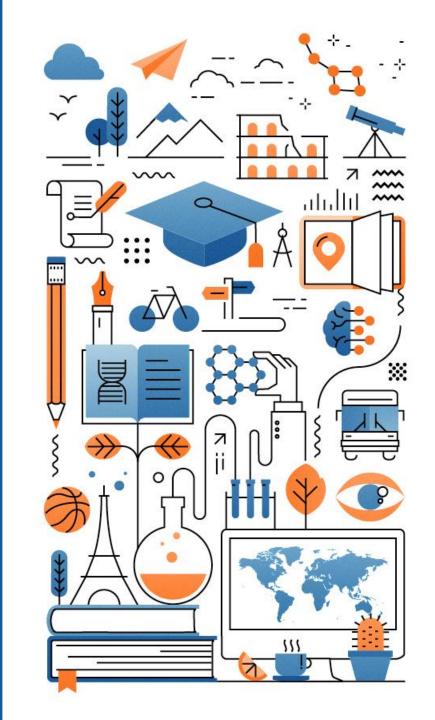
- Development of internationalization activities of study programmes and teaching
- Demonstrable increase in the number of incoming and outgoing students and/or self-payers
- Strengthening and development of cooperation with partner universities/networks leading to strategic partnerships





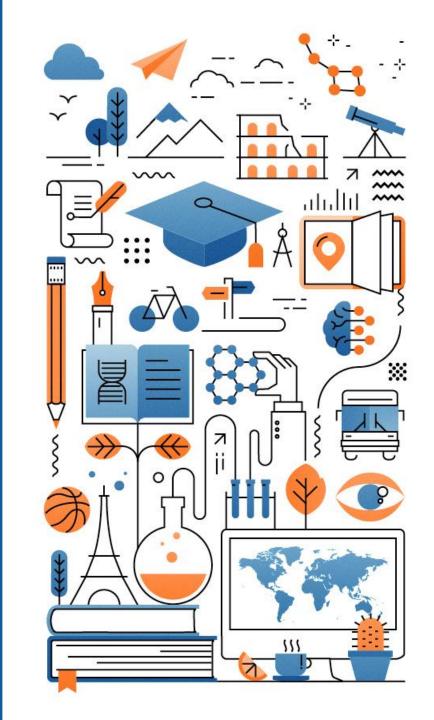
Program To Be In

- Building new partnerships outside of Europe (from 0 to 50 new partnerships)
- 13 guest professors supported
- 6 faculty-led programmes
- Preparation of 5 new study programmes, incl. JDP
- Supporting activities within the university networks (e.g. think tanks)
- COILS, BIPs, International Teaching Weeks





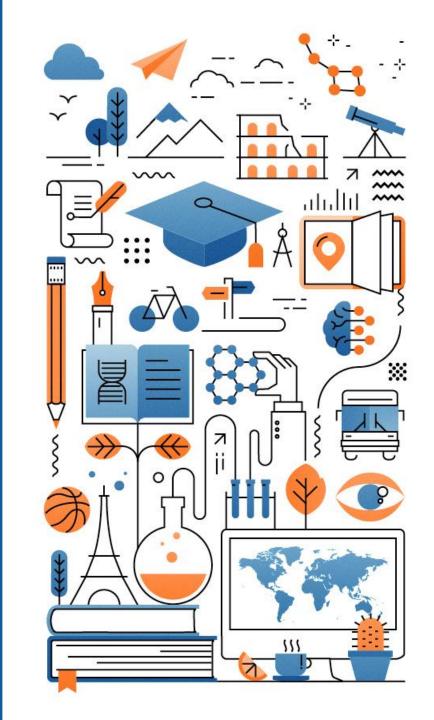
- VIA programme for student mobility outside the E+ (1/3 of incoming students are outside of the EU)
- PhD students can study at any institution of their choosing – future academics?
- ICM projects (4th uni in Czechia)
- Programme OU AID volunteering abroad (e.g. Rwanda, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Philippines)





Experience/knowledge sharing platforms

- In Day academics to academics
- To Be In sharing the outcomes
- In-house trainings for academics





Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025

- Internationalization will form an integral part of the UO's strategic management, and it will be anchored into the quality standards defined for degree programmes
- Various forms of international experience will be available to all students and employees, and the related knowledge and skills will form part of the University's graduate profile
- A well-elaborated system of service provision for international students and employees in place
- UO is a member of the EUI alliance
- UO is a socially responsible institution which responds flexibly to current global trends and challenges in international education

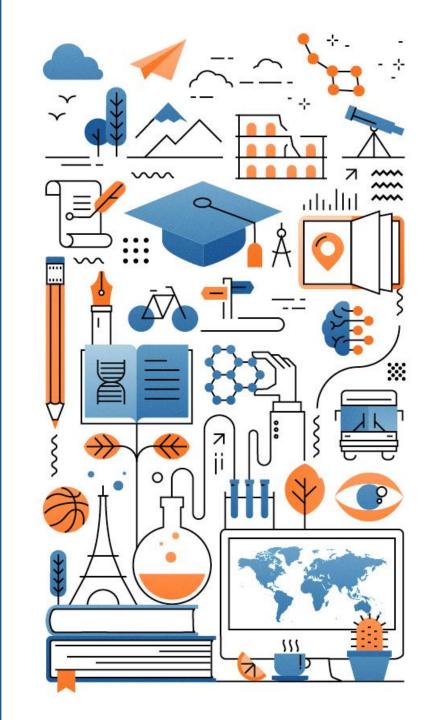




Challenges?

Keeping the academics on board – continual effort

Neolaia – Alliance of European Universities – Programme To Be Neo to be launched to get **ALL** on board (open calls)





Thank you for your kind attention

Center for International Cooperation Ivana Adamikova, Head ivana.adamikova@osu.cz

Faculty of Social Studies Marie Špiláčková, Vice-Dean for International Relations marie.spilackova@osu.cz

