

Report of the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius, University of Białystok, on the Activities of the Faculty in the Year 2017

(Pursuant to Art. 8(5) of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies of 29 June 2016)

University of Białystok – A University with a Mission



Uniwersytet w Białymstoku

The University of Białystok (hereinafter: UwB) is the largest and most dynamically developing public higher education institution in north-eastern Poland. Students of the natural and mathematical sciences study in a new campus, recognised as one of the most modern academic facilities in the country, distinguished with the title of Podlaskie Brand of the Year 2014.

The University currently educates nearly 12,000 students across more than 30 degree programmes. The quality of teaching at UwB is evidenced by the fact that the majority of programmes received a positive evaluation from the Polish Accreditation Committee, and the law programme received a distinguished rating. In 2012, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education awarded it the title of 'Best Study Programme'. The Faculty of Law has consistently ranked among the top schools in this discipline. In turn, the Faculty of Economics and Management was one of the first academic units to implement a Quality Management System covering student education, research, and expert-consultancy activities.

University of Białystok

The University of Białystok has developed a range of study programmes in foreign languages for prospective students from abroad, though citizens of the Republic of Poland may also avail themselves of this offer. Programmes taught in Russian include: pedagogy, European studies, computer science, and Russian philology. Programmes available in English include: environmental protection, international economic relations, medical physics, computer science, pedagogy, European studies, and English philology.

Five faculties of UwB — Law; Economics and Management; Philology; History and Sociology; and Biology and Chemistry — offer doctoral programmes. Since 2016/2017, the Faculty of Physics has also offered such studies. The University additionally provides a rich range of specialisations across individual degree programmes and more than 100 types of postgraduate studies.

The University's structure comprises 9 faculties, including the off-campus faculty in Vilnius. Teaching and lecturing is conducted by approximately 800 academic staff. UwB holds 11 rights to confer doctoral degrees and 6 rights to confer the degree of habilitated doctor in the following disciplines: chemistry, biology, economics, history, law, and physics.

UwB has numerous research achievements, including participation in the 5th, 6th, and 7th Framework Programmes, Horizon 2020, the Comenius and Aspera programmes, and the DAPHNE III programme. Through these initiatives, the University has carried out research and teaching projects in the areas of physics, chemistry, pedagogy, computer science, mathematics, economics, history, sociology, and philology. UwB also conducts research under the POLONIUM Integrated Action Programme. Furthermore, the University implements the 'Mobility Plus' programme, the National Programme for the Development of Humanities, and the TEAM programme.

Many academic staff members and students can boast individual awards and achievements. Two UwB students were awarded the Diamond Grant in the competition of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which supports outstanding Polish students.

The University carries out numerous projects aimed at supporting the north-eastern region of Poland, primarily through expert studies, conducting research for economic development, and cooperation with businesses. Since 2014, the UwB Expert Centre has been in operation, with the aim of commercialising knowledge, including the results of research conducted at the University. The company provides the preparation of expert analyses, opinions, and translations, as well as all types of training and the completion of assignments submitted by entities representing business and public administration, beyond the scope of the University's standard catalogue.

Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius, University of Białystok

The Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius of the University of Białystok was established pursuant to a decision of the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Poland (DSW-2-0412/ /JB/05 of 25 April 2006), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (BDG-0131-3409-06 of 9 March 2006), the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Resolution No. 633 of 19 June 2007), and the Ministry of Education and Science of Lithuania (Permit for Studies No. 002011 of 8 August 2007 and Permit for Studies No. 002508 of 4 September 2014). Under Lithuanian law, the unit constitutes the first branch of a foreign higher education institution in Lithuania and the first off-campus faculty of a Polish university operating outside the territory of Poland.

Three degree programmes are offered: Economics at the first and second cycle; European Studies at the first cycle; and Computer Science at the first cycle. This diversity of programmes is a distinctive feature of the Faculty and has a bearing on its operation.

Quality of Education

The Faculty holds the following accreditations.

In the area of institutional evaluation:

- In 2015 — a positive resolution of the Studijų Kokybės Vertinimo Centras [Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education] and accreditation for a period of six years.
- In 2015 — a resolution of the Polish Accreditation Committee [Polska Komisja Akredytacyjna] concerning institutional evaluation; the next evaluation is scheduled for the academic year 2020/2021.

In the area of programme-level evaluation:

- By resolution of 7 July 2011, the Presidium of the Polish Accreditation Committee issued a positive evaluation for the Economics programme;
- By resolution of 6 September 2012, the Presidium of the Polish Accreditation Committee issued a positive evaluation for the Computer Science programme.

A Teaching Quality Team [Zespół ds. Jakości Kształcenia] has been established at the Faculty, operating in accordance with the resolutions of the Senate of the University of Białystok. The task of the Faculty Teaching Quality Team, pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 1748 of the University of Białystok of 27 May 2015, is to carry out a self-assessment of the unit and to prepare an annual report on the functioning of all elements of the teaching quality system within the unit, identifying strengths and weaknesses in the individual areas subject to monitoring. The Team works in close cooperation with the Faculty's authorities on the implementation of its mission, strategy, and envisaged educational concepts. Access: <http://www.uwb.lt/zespoly/> | <http://docs.uwb.edu.pl/pliki/2015-1748-1.pdf> | <http://docs.uwb.edu.pl/pliki/2015-40-2.pdf>

Students

As of 30 November 2017, the Faculty enrolled 293 students.

**Over 10 years, 620 graduates have completed studies at the Faculty.
In 2017, 70 students graduated.**

101 students were admitted for the academic year 2017/2018.

	Currently Enrolled	Graduated	Admitted
Economics 1st cycle			
Economics 2nd cycle			
European Studies			

Student Activities

The Faculty maintains a student self-government body, and three student research associations are active in the fields of economics, European studies, and computer science. In addition, volleyball, basketball, and martial arts sections are active.

The Student Council [Samorząd Studencki] organised an integration camp, an initiation event (otrząsiny), a wafer-breaking meeting (spotkanie opłatkowe), and a student festival (juwenalia).

Faculty students actively participated in the following projects:

- 13 Faculty students participated in the 'Inspiring Solutions — IT Applications in Business' Conference, 29–31 March 2017, Warsaw, Warsaw School of Economics [Szkola Główna Handlowa];
- KNSE members participated in the conference 'Faces of Competitiveness of New EU Member States in the Conditions of Globalisation and Integration 2017', 26–27 May 2017, Vilnius;
- KNSE members volunteered during the implementation of the project 'Polish School — a Place for the Development of Talents', carried out by the Forum for Polish Entrepreneurship in Lithuania 'Korona', financed by the Foundation 'Pomoc Polakom na Wschodzie' [Aid to Poles in the East], 3–4 July 2017.

The University of Białystok, including the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius, actively participated in the 15th Podlaskie Festival of Science and Arts. The event aims to promote science. From 19 to 24 May 2017, 5 events conducted by academic and teaching staff, addressed to secondary school and university students as well as all interested parties, took place at the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius.

The Faculty organised a series of additional lectures delivered in English, completion of which is recorded in the Diploma Supplement. These included: Introduction to Computer Science and Engineering (conducted by Prof. M. Muraszkiwicz) and Foreign Policy of the European Union (conducted by Dr T. Dubowski).

Students participated in a series of open lectures on the Austrian School of Economics, organised by the Student Research Association in Economics in cooperation with the Lithuanian Free Market Institute; the speaker was the Institute's Vice-President, Vytautas Žukauskas.

Computer Science students participated in a meeting entitled 'Behind the Scenes of a Job Interview with a Future Employer, and Building Your Professional Career', conducted by Prof. M. Muraszkiwicz.

Students also attended additional classes on 'Financial Crises', conducted by Dr hab. A. Alińska, prof. of the Warsaw School of Economics.

Students also engaged in other forms of extracurricular activity.

Student Internships

Pursuant to Faculty Council Resolution No. 154 of 30 March 2017 (available at: <http://www.uwb.lt/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/1.pdf>), European Studies students are required to complete an internship of one month's duration in their second year of study and two months in their third year.

Two European Studies students completed a one-month internship at the European Parliament in Brussels. The Faculty provided internship placements for all European Studies students, including at the authorities of the Vilnius district, Šalčininkai [pol. Soleczniki] district, and the City of Vilnius (11 persons), the European Foundation of Human Rights — 3 persons, the Chancellery of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania — 1 person, and the Department of National Minorities under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania — 1 person. The Faculty signed the relevant agreements, organised a health and safety training course, and covered insurance for all students during their internships.

In November 2017, the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius passed a resolution changing the academic profile of the Economics and Computer Science programmes to a practical profile. This entails, among other things, an extension of student internships to 3 months. The aim is to increase the competitiveness of university graduates in the labour market.

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na rynku pracy.



Jarosław Siroic, Danske Bank Data Science Challenge 2017

Awards and Distinctions

Łucja Wojnicz, a second-year Economics student (second cycle), received the award for an outstanding student, funded by WBK-Bank Zachodni and Santander, March 2017.

Third-year Computer Science students Mark Rudenkow and Jarosław Siroic placed 2nd and 4th respectively in the Danske Bank Data Science Challenge 2017 programming competition, 12 April 2017.

Jarosław Siroic, Danske Bank Data Science Challenge 2017

Financial Assistance

112 students received scholarships from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland; 39 received the Rector's scholarship of the University of Białystok; and 15 received support under the Stanisław Grabski Scholarship Programme, implemented by the Vilnius Region Foundation [Fundacja Wileńszczyzna] and the National Bank of Poland.

Academic Staff and Administration

The Faculty employed 4 persons at the rank of professor, of whom 2 were foreign nationals, 5 at the rank of associate professor (adiunkt), of whom 2 were foreign

nationals, 5 assistant lecturers (asystenci), and 2 language instructors (lektorzy). 3 individuals were employed under civil-law contracts (umowy zlecenia). Several staff members — 4 professors and 2 doctors — combine their teaching duties at the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius with a position at one of the faculties of the University of Białystok.

In addition, the Faculty employed 11 administrative staff members, including: chief accountant — 1 FTE; librarian — 1 FTE; IT specialist — 1 FTE; administrator — 1 FTE; dean's office manager — 1 FTE; dean's office staff — 2 FTEs; other staff — 4 FTEs.

In 2017, the Faculty's teaching activities were supported by 33 academic and teaching staff from three faculties of the University of Białystok: Economics and Management — 12, including 2 professors, 4 habilitated doctors (dr hab.), and 6 doctors; Law — 13, including 3 habilitated doctors and 10 doctors; Mathematics and Computer Science — 8 doctors. This ensures education at a high university standard.

Scope of Research Activities

Department of Economics: Institutional determinants of the development of contemporary economies; Analysis of factors affecting the competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy; Regional development of Lithuania after accession to the European Union; Socio-economic development of Lithuania since 1990; Effectiveness of foreign investment in Poland since 1990; The role of transport in the development of the Lithuanian economy; Lithuania's historical policy since 1990.

Department of Computer Science: Analysis of user behaviour on internet portals; Formalisation of temporal logics in automated proof-checking systems; Application in the verification of programme properties; Methods of intelligent information processing; Design and application of non-destructive computer-measurement devices for determining the properties of photodielectric layers; Theoretical foundations of permanent information labelling; Application of the Normalised Compression Distance measure to data stream classification.

Faculty staff published 19 articles in 2017. The Faculty co-financed the publication 'System finansów publicznych Polski i Litwy' [The System of Public Finance in Poland and Lithuania], to which texts were also prepared by Faculty staff and which is intended for use in teaching activities at the Faculty. Full list of publications: <http://www.uwb.lt/nauka/publikacje/>

Academic Conferences

The Faculty organised or co-organised the following academic conferences:

— International: 'Optymalizacja organizacji i rozwiązań prawnych dochodów i wydatków publicznych w interesie społecznym' / 'The Optimization of Organization and Legal Solutions concerning Public Revenues and Expenditures in Social Interest', 21-22 September 2017, Vilnius (jointly with the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok);

— National: 'Oblicza konkurencyjności nowych krajów członkowskich UE w warunkach globalizacji i integracji' [Faces of Competitiveness of New EU Member States in the Conditions of Globalisation and Integration], 25–27 May 2017, Vilnius; 'Pozycja ustrojowa władzy ustawodawczej we współczesnym świecie' [The Constitutional Position of Legislative Power in the Contemporary World], 5–6 June 2017, Białystok (jointly with the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok).

The Faculty was a partner of the Association of Polish Scientists of Lithuania [Stowarzyszenie Naukowców Polaków Litwy] — the organiser of the international academic conference: 'Nauka a oświata mniejszości narodowych w Europie: wczoraj, dzisiaj, jutro (aspekty edukacyjne, społeczno-polityczne, prawne i historyczne)' [Science and Education of National Minorities in Europe: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow (Educational, Socio-Political, Legal, and Historical Aspects)], 6–8 April 2017, Vilnius.

International Cooperation and External Relations

The University of Białystok has signed more than 60 scientific cooperation agreements with partner universities abroad. It also participates in the European educational programme Erasmus.

The University of Białystok initiated the creation of an international university consortium comprising institutions from Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia under the name Network of Border Universities [Sieć Uniwersytetów Pogranicza]. Cooperation encompasses, inter alia, joint applications for international grants and the implementation of research projects, exchange of research and implementation services, and shared use of infrastructure and equipment within joint ventures.

The University of Białystok has signed partnership agreements under the Erasmus+ programme with approximately 130 partner universities in EU member states, as well as with higher education institutions in Turkey and Switzerland. Students of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius may make full use of these opportunities. Access: <http://uwb.edu.pl/oferty-praktyk>, <http://uwb.edu.pl/umowy-bilateralne>

The Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius offers an extensive range of lectures in foreign languages for international students participating in Erasmus+ exchanges; see: <http://www.uwb.lt/en/courses.php>

In 2017, staff and students visited more than 30 schools in Vilnius and the Vilnius region where teaching is conducted in Polish, in order to present the study offer of the Faculty.

For the first time, the Faculty organised the 'Support a School-Leaver!' initiative ('Wesprzyj maturzystę!'), during which young people were able to attend lectures on the functioning of the European Union and selected issues related to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. More than 50 persons participated. From October 2017, the 'Young Computer Scientist Academy' [Akademia Młodego Informatyka] was launched, addressed to pupils in years X–XII, with classes conducted by lecturers from the Department of Computer Science. In an accessible manner, pupils explore the fundamentals of mobile applications, artificial

intelligence, and gain direct contact with professors. The initiative aims to promote knowledge of computer science.

The Faculty prepared an exhibition stand at the International 'STUDIA 2017' Fair at LITEXPO in Vilnius, 2-4 February 2017.



Targi „STUDIA 2017” na LITEXPO w Wilnie

Sprawy organizacyjno – administracyjne i finansowe

W roku 2017 w znaczny sposób poprawił się stan wyposażenia Wydziału w sprzęt komputerowy. Wydział otrzymał 25 nowych komputerów – DELL OptiPlex 7440 AIO. 20 komputerów stanowiło nowe wyposażenie pracowni informatycznej co włączyło w *'STUDIA 2017' Fair at LITEXPO in Vilnius*

Organisational, Administrative, and Financial Matters

In 2017, the Faculty's computing equipment underwent a significant upgrade. The Faculty received 25 new computers — DELL OptiPlex 7440 AIO. 20 computers were installed as new equipment for the computer laboratory, which significantly improved the quality of classes conducted. 5 computers were installed in the dean's office for accounting and administrative purposes, which was necessary due to the numerous new systems introduced. In addition, a multifunction monochrome printer, the XEROX WorkCentre 5330 — featuring printing, scanning, and copying functions — was acquired, along with 4 laptops.

The Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius utilised a floor space of 1,825.5 m²; the area per student was 6.2 m². Financial resources from the budget of the Republic of Poland per student amounted to EUR 2,374.

Library

Students of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius have access to the Library of the University of Białystok.

The Jerzy Giedroyc University Library in Białystok [Biblioteka Uniwersytecka im. Jerzego Giedroycia w Białymstoku] constitutes a university-wide organisational unit of the University of Białystok with research, information, teaching, and service functions. It is the central research information centre and the hub of the uniform library and information system, which encompasses the libraries of the University's organisational units.

The mission of the University Library in Białystok is to create a modern information centre and to maintain the highest level of activity in order to actively support research and educational processes. It also fulfils the function of a publicly accessible library serving the educational, informational, and cultural needs of the inhabitants of Białystok and the Podlaskie region. The Library collects Polish and foreign literature in the areas corresponding to the University's needs, primarily

from the humanities: philosophy, logic, history, religious studies, Catholic and Orthodox theology, sociology, law, philological sciences (including Belarusian studies), pedagogy and psychology, economics, and the natural and exact sciences. Particular emphasis is placed on collecting publications of national minorities and literature concerning the multiculturalism of the region. The Library's founding collection consisted of the combined holdings of the Libraries of the First and Second Teacher Training Colleges, totalling 60,000 volumes.

The collection was substantially enriched through donations from the University Library in Warsaw, other national libraries, and private individuals. The University Library's humanities collection comprises: monographs and serials — over 477,021 volumes; periodicals — over 103,349 volumes; special collections — over 14,983 volumes and units. Access: http://bg.uwb.edu.pl/?pid=O_zbiorach

The Library of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius holds 6,666 volumes. It subscribes to 13 foreign and 5 national periodicals. In 2017, access to selected publications in IBUK Libra was purchased. Access to available publications (from the university network) at: <http://libra.ibuk.pl>

Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius

Dr hab. Mieczysława Zdanowicz, prof. UWB