

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 2018

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) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (BDG-0131-3409-06 of 9 March 2006).

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.

Correspondence conducted during this year with the Chair of the Polish Accreditation Committee clearly indicates that the next accreditation review for the Economics and Computer Science programmes should take place in the academic year 2020/2021.

Students

As of 9 November 2018, the Faculty enrolled 293 students (291 foreign nationals and 2 Polish citizens), of whom: 105 in first-cycle Economics, 53 in second-cycle Economics, 76 in European Studies, and 59 in Computer Science.

As a result of admissions for the academic year 2018/2019, 93 students were admitted, including: 30 to first-cycle Economics, 10 to second-cycle Economics, 29 to European Studies, and 24 to Computer Science.

The Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius does not enrol students with disabilities, which may be attributable in part to the inaccessibility of the building to persons with disabilities.

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, a volleyball section and a basketball section are active.

During the academic year 2018/2019, Faculty students were actively involved in a wide range of initiatives.

The Faculty Student Council [Wydziałowa Rada Samorządu studentów] strengthened its cooperation with the Student Parliament of the University of Białystok, as a result of which the Student Ombudsman [Rzecznik Praw Studenta] visited the Faculty for the first time, and training sessions on students' rights and obligations were conducted.

The Student Research Association in Economics (KNSE — Koło Naukowe Studentów Ekonomii) conducted active operations during the academic year 2017/2018. Its members participated actively in academic conferences and seminars.

KNSE, together with the Student Research Association in International and European Law of the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, took part in an international collaborative research project, the outcome of which was the organisation of the International Academic Conference 'Europe in the Face of the Challenges of the 21st Century'. In collaboration with the Student Research Association of Tourism Economists of the Faculty of Economics and Management (WEiZ), University of Białystok, KNSE members also organised the International Academic Seminar 'Tourism and Economic Development in Central and Eastern Europe'.

As part of the 16th Podlaskie Festival of Culture and Science in June 2018, KNSE members, in cooperation with the Forum for Polish Entrepreneurship in Lithuania 'Korona', prepared and conducted an economics quiz, in which pupils from final-year classes at Vilnius schools and students of the Faculty participated. Cooperation with the INSTRAT Foundation and the Vilnius Region Foundation [Fundacja Wileńszczyzna] resulted in the organisation of the 'Summer School of Economics' (13-15 July 2018, Vilnius). Through cooperation with the Student Research Association for Competitiveness Studies at the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH), workshops on argumentation skills, public speaking, and the Oxford Debate format were also held on 29 June 2018.

KNSE students also participated in:

The international project 'School for Polish Diaspora Leaders — Ja-Lider' (23 June - 4 July 2018), organised by the 'Freedom and Democracy' Foundation with financial

support from the Government of the Republic of Poland within the framework of the Senate of the Republic of Poland's care for the Polish diaspora and Poles living abroad. Students from Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova learned to write projects aimed at addressing environmental issues. Students from the Faculty won first place with a project concerning financial support for a hospice in Vilnius. This project was subsequently implemented in practice.

Third-year Computer Science student Edgar Novogrodski participated in a European research grant: 'VaVeL — Variety, Veracity, VaLue: Handling the Multiplicity of Urban Sensors'. The grant is implemented under the HORIZON 2020 programme (ERC, Research & Innovation Action, Innovation Action, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions). Consortium partner: Faculty of Mathematics and Information Science, Warsaw University of Technology.

Additional Lectures and Meetings

The Faculty organised, for the second time, a series of additional lectures delivered in English, completion of which was noted in the Diploma Supplement. The lectures included: 'Foreign Policy of the European Union', conducted by Dr T. Dubowski.

The Faculty also organised a lecture series entitled 'Practical Aspects of the Application of International Commercial Agreements and the Pursuit of Cross-Border Claims', conducted by Jan Kondratovič, a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Białystok, and a licensed private detective (Privataus detektyvo licencija Nr. 0001669 išduota 2017-12-18, Balstogės vaivadijos Policijos Komenda).

The following open lectures were also delivered:

Prof. Vadim Voynikov (Immanuel Kant University, Kaliningrad): 'Eurasian Economic Union' (17 November 2017);

Prof. Bogusław Gruzewski (Institute for Social Research and Labour): 'Europe and Lithuania's Social Policy in the Context of Contemporary Challenges' (18 January 2018);

Prof. Jan A. Wendt (University of Gdańsk): 'Contemporary Political, Social and Economic Transformations in Poland' (30 January 2018);

President Bernard Niewiadomski (Forum for Polish Entrepreneurship 'Korona'): 'How to Become a Successful Entrepreneur' (8 June 2018).

Financial Assistance

111 students received scholarships awarded by the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA [Narodowa Agencja Wymiany Akademickiej]), 30 received the Rector's scholarship, and 20 received support under the Stanisław Grabski Assistance Programme.

Faculty Staff

During the academic year, the Faculty employed 4 persons at the rank of professor, 6 at the rank of associate professor (adiunkt), 7 assistant lecturers (asystenci), and 3 language instructors (lektorzy). 4 individuals were employed under civil-law

contracts (umowy zlecenia). Furthermore, as of 31 August 2017, 11 non-academic staff members were employed.

The Faculty is supported in its teaching activities by 30 academic and teaching staff members from three faculties: Economics and Management, Law, and Mathematics and Computer Science.

Research and Academic Affairs

The Faculty organised or co-organised the following conferences:

From 9 to 12 May 2018, a Congress of Chairs of International Law Departments from universities across Poland and the academic conference 'International Law – Theory and Practice' were held in Vilnius. The organisers were the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius of the University of Białystok. More than 70 papers were presented.

On 7 July 2018, the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius organised an International Seminar on Computing Technologies, with the participation of Prof. Fusheng Yu from China.

From 30 September to 2 October, an international conference entitled 'In Search of the Foundations of European Legal Culture', co-organised by the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius, was held in Vilnius.

A publication appeared as the outcome of discussions held at an international conference co-organised by the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius: 'Optymalizacja organizacji i rozwiązań prawnych dochodów i wydatków publicznych w interesie społecznym, 21–22 września 2017 r., Wilno' [The Optimization of Organization and Legal Solutions concerning Public Revenues and Expenditures in Social Interest, September 21–22, 2017, Vilnius]. As Dean of the Faculty, I submitted an application for this publication to be listed in the Web of Science database.

Faculty staff participated in both domestic and international conferences (funded from University of Białystok resources). The majority of staff members published book chapters in multi-authored monographs or journal articles during this period.

Faculty staff participated in the preparation of three project applications submitted to the National Science Centre (NCN) under the DAINA competition; unfortunately, none of the applications received funding. Research activities are therefore financed solely from BST [statutory research] and BMN [young researchers and doctoral candidates] funds.

Regrettably, none of the Faculty staff members obtained academic degrees or titles. The only exception is the doctoral procedure of MA Regina Lašakevič, which has now reached its final stage. The procedure was opened at the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Białystok. The supervisor is Dr hab. Ewa Roszkowska, prof. UwB, and the auxiliary supervisor is Dr Jacek Marcinkiewicz.

International Cooperation and External Relations

Agreement with 'Orlen Lietuva'

During the preceding academic year, negotiations were conducted regarding a cooperation agreement between the University of Białystok and 'Orlen Lietuva'. The procedure was concluded with the signing of the agreement on 5 October by the General Director of 'Orlen Lietuva', Michał Rudnicki, and the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Mieczysława Zdanowicz, in the presence of Consul Marcin Zieniewicz — Counsellor and Head of the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Lithuania.

International Activities

International academic cooperation took place primarily within the framework of academic conferences organised by the Faculty (see point 5) and through staff participation in international conferences.

None of the Faculty's Erasmus-affiliated staff members undertook mobility for teaching or training purposes under the Erasmus programme.

For the first time, the Faculty hosted lectures organised within the framework of the European academic staff exchange as part of the Erasmus+ programme.

On 12–13 April, the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science hosted open lectures by guests from Russia, representing the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University in Kaliningrad: Anastasia V. Turkina — 'The Latest Development of the Court of the Eurasian Economic Union and its Role in the Eurasian Integration' (2018); Vadim Voynikov — 'EU-Russia Relations in the Area of Free Movement of Persons and the Latest Development of the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice' (2018).

On 18–20 April (Wednesday to Friday), open lectures were delivered at the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science by a guest from Belarus — Dr Tatsiana Harayeva from the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno.

Promotional Activities in Schools and on Behalf of Schools

From 15 November to 15 December, promotional visits were conducted to schools in Vilnius and the districts of Vilnius, Šalčininkai [pol. Soleczniki], and Trakai [pol. Troki]. Meetings with prospective students and pupils in years X–XI were attended by Dean Dr hab. Mieczysława Zdanowicz, Dr Elżbieta Zalesko, MA Stanisław Pilżys, Dr Irena Mikłaszewicz, and student representatives. Approximately 30 schools were visited.

During the academic year 2017/18, the Department of Computer Science [Katedra Informatyki] ran the 'Young Computer Scientist Academy' (Akademia Młodego Informatyka), an initiative addressed to pupils in years XI–XII attending schools with Polish as the language of instruction.

A cooperation agreement was signed between the Szymon Konarski Grammar School [Gimnazjum im. Sz. Konarskiego] in Vilnius and the University of Białystok.

On 14 October, a representative of the Faculty participated in the inauguration ceremony and celebrations marking the 110th anniversary of the school in Buivydyiai [pol. Bujwidze] — the Tadeusz Konwicki Grammar School [Gimnazjum im. Tadeusza Konwickiego] (the Faculty's representative was Dr Irena Mikłaszewicz

of the Career and Promotion Office).

On 20 October, Dean Dr hab. Mieczysława Zdanowicz, prof. UwB, participated in the inauguration of the J. Lelewel Engineering Grammar School [Gimnazjum Inżynieryjne im. J. Lelewela] in Vilnius.

On 20 November, Dean Dr hab. Mieczysława Zdanowicz presented the Faculty's educational offer at a conference organised at the Polish Cultural Centre [Dom Kultury Polskiej] by the Parents' Forum [Forum Rodziców].

On 23 November, Dean Dr hab. Mieczysława Zdanowicz met with principals of grammar schools in the Vilnius district and with the Head of the Education Department of the Vilnius District Municipality, Lilia Andruszkiewicz. The Faculty's educational offer was presented and questions were addressed. On the same day, a meeting took place with the Director of the Vilnius District Administration, Lucyna Kotłowska, concerning internship placements for Faculty students.

On 15 December, Dr Irena Mikłaszewicz, at the invitation of the organisers, participated in the conference 'Schools of National Minorities in Lithuania in 2017', held under the patronage of the 'Wspólnota Polska' Association at the grammar school in Trakai [pol. Troki]. Dr Mikłaszewicz spoke on the value of university education and presented the Faculty's offer.

On 30 January 2018, Dr Irena Mikłaszewicz visited the J. Słowacki Grammar School [Gimnazjum im. J. Słowackiego] in Bezdony [pol. Bezdany] and the Tadeusz Konwicki Grammar School in Buivydžiai [pol. Bujwidze], where she presented the study offer at the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius, University of Białystok, to pupils in final and eleventh-year classes; in Buivydžiai she also gave a presentation for parents.

Economics Quiz for School Pupils within the Podlaskie Festival of Science and Arts

On 8 June, an economics quiz was organised at the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius of the University of Białystok as part of the Podlaskie Festival of Science and Arts. Participants included pupils from Polish schools: the Szymon Konarski School in Vilnius, the John Paul II Grammar School [Gimnazjum Jana Pawła II], and the Władysław Syrokomla Grammar School [Gimnazjum im. Władysława Syrokomli]. The prizes were funded by the Forum for Polish Entrepreneurship 'Korona'.

Studijos 2018 Education Fair

From 8 to 10 February, the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius had a stand at the Studijos 2018 Education Fair. On 8 February, the stand was visited by the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Lithuania, Ms Urszula Doroszevska, and by the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Saulius Skvernelis. The costs of participation in the Fair were covered by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

'Minority SafePack' Initiative

On 1 March 2018, the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius of the University of Białystok and the European Foundation of Human Rights (EFHR) organised a signature-collection event in support of the European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority SafePack', held at the Faculty's premises in Vilnius.

Alumni Club

On 2 March, a meeting of the Faculty alumni initiative group was held, at which the Alumni Club of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science in Vilnius, University of Białystok, was established. A three-person board of the Club was elected, tasked with drafting the Club's statute.

Media Cooperation

All events held at the Faculty are covered by Polish-language media: Radio 'Znad Wili', the Polish-language programme of Lithuanian Radio, Radio 'Wilno', the weekly 'Tygodnik Wileńszczyzny', the daily 'Kurier Wileński', and the internet portals 'zw.lt', 'Wilnoteka', and 'l24.lt'. Interviews for Radio 'Znad Wili' were given by Prof. Mieczysław Muraszkiwicz, Prof. Sławomir Presnerowicz, and Dean Dr hab. Mieczysława Zdanowicz, prof. UwB.

The Bishop of Vilnius [Biskup Wileński] appointed Father Romuald Kuźmicki as academic chaplain of the Faculty.

In keeping with tradition, students cleaned graves at the Rossa Cemetery [cmentarz Rossa] and participated in the Parade of Polishness [Parada Polskości].

Premises and Facilities

On 14 March 2018, Jarosław Gowin — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Higher Education — and Prof. Robert Ciborowski — Rector of the University of Białystok — signed an agreement on co-financing by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the expansion of the premises of the Faculty of Economics and Computer Science, University of Białystok, in Vilnius. The amount of co-financing: PLN 18,952,000.

The lease agreement for the premises at Kalvarijų 135 was extended, as was the agreement with the DKP [Dom Kultury Polskiej / Polish Cultural Centre] for the rental of lecture rooms. In addition, an agreement was concluded with the A. Mickiewicz Grammar School [Gimnazjum im. A. Mickiewicza] in Vilnius concerning the rental of a sports hall. All other premises and facilities conditions remain unchanged.