



Харківський національний університет
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CLASSICS AHEAD OF TIME

Internationalization of Higher Education in an Asymmetric Partnership

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Internationalization of higher education has evolved from sporadic contacts of leading professors solely for scientific or educational purposes to programmes of broad cooperation with common values and understanding of the mission of the modern university.

At the same time, this cooperation is accompanied by a struggle for human resources and students, scientific research grants.

Strategic partnership between universities is different from the usual bilateral relations. This partnership is mutually beneficial, designed for the future, has positive results for partners.



Asymmetric partnership in the context of internationalisation of higher education has systemic, structural, functional and dynamic manifestations.

1)ASYMMETRY OF THE SYSTEM;

2)ASYMMETRY OF STRUCTURE;

3)FUNCTIONAL ASYMMETRY;

4)DYNAMIC ASYMMETRY.



Signs of asymmetric interdependence between partner universities:

- difference in the size of universities;
- difference in financial and material opportunities;
- differences in the size and motivation systems of lecturers;
- the difference in access to modern information and communication technologies and the willingness of lecturers and students to use them;
- asymmetry in cooperation between universities is manifested as information asymmetry, universities do not always have all the information about the conditions of academic exchange, human resources of their partners.



Factors Contributing to Asymmetry in Relations between

Ukrainian Universities and Their Partners at the International Level:

- Series crisis, which provokes low demand for specialists with higher education.
- Emigrational orientations of young people.
- Insignificant representation of Ukrainian universities in world rankings.
- Insufficient attention of universities to the introduction of educational innovations: dual education, adult education, etc.
- In Ukraine, the problem of inconsistency between the development of the labour market and the market of educational services is up-to-date.
- Ukraine lacks funding for education and science from various sources. Financial autonomy is not working yet because universities have not learned how to use it (they still hope for mostly state funding).



Case of International Partnership of Karazin University

23

schools

136

departments

16 260

students

101

**Bachelor's
degree programs**

93

**Master's degree
programs**

4066

**foreign
students**



International partners

197
partners



- 27** | The Republic of Poland
- 22** | The People's Republic of China
- 16** | The Italian Republic
- 11** | The Republic of Turkey
- 8** | The Federal Republic of Germany
- 8** | The French Republic

49

countries of the world
(including 18 countries
of the European Union)





Dual international mobility for teachers, scientists, staff and learners (2019/20)

662

people
went



41

countries

399

foreigners
accepted



40

countries

> 50 Partners

Agreements

Erasmus+ KA 107
"Mobility programme"



1. High intensity of international cooperation, but we depend on international grant support.
2. Institutional inequality (mostly on a salary level).
3. Weak integration in European (and in international generally) academic environment:
 - Language issues;
 - Publications quantity;
 - Long term visits possibilities.



Organic integration...



ASYMMETRY OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION RESOURCES

1. National context

- Limited access to publication data for Ukrainian researchers
- A different academic tradition of publications - Ukrainian researchers should adopt the Western tradition of publication.

2. International context

“SCOPUSiation” of an academic life: SCOPUS index creates motivation and tension at the same time for all researchers over the world.

Schengen visa regime opened up new opportunity for Ukrainian scholars. But there are some other restrictions regarding those countries, which are not a Schengen visa regime subject – for instance UK. It could limit an effort to cooperate.





Some examples of solutions

1) ASYMMETRY OF THE SYSTEM

defining your niche, for example in our university it is formulating in the answer to the question:

How do we see Karazin University in the global scientific and educational space in 2025?

Organically integrated into the world community of universities, with a high international reputation and wide recognition, actively engaged in bilateral and multilateral international partnerships, attractive to foreign students and foreign students.



2) **ASYMMETRY OF STRUCTURE –**

New departments as answer to new challenges (Karazin Open University).

3) **FUNCTIONAL ASYMMETRY –**

**revision of functions under new challenges for old and new departments.
Implementation of best practices (adaptation – not copying)**

4) **DYNAMIC ASYMMETRY –**

Strategy of development of Karazin University (Action Plan + concrete projects)

+ Supervisory Board



Perspective c of Strategic Partnership Between Universities in the Conditions of Asymmetric Relations:

1. Awareness of common interests in the international market of educational and scientific services.
2. Adherence to the principles of fair competition in the market of educational services, including academic integrity.
3. Formation and development of research potential of students. Academic exchanges.
4. Organisational support of strategic partnership:
 - creation of university consortia;
 - opening branches of powerful universities of the world together with partners;
 - joint scientific programmes and scientific publications.
4. Use of modern information and communication technologies in the interaction between universities and their stakeholders.



Thank you!

Questions?

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