The Institute of Pharmacology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IF PAS) maintains a high position on the list of Polish and international research centres conducting studies in the field of biological medicine. In 2002 IF PAS obtained the status of the Centre of Excellence in Neuropsychopharmacology in Search for New Perspectives to Respond to the Demands of Emerging European Society and in 2012 with the Faculty of Medicine of the Jagiellonian University Medical College the Institute acquired the prestigious status of the Leading National Research Centre (KNOW).

IF PAS is a basic research institute and its scientific activities are focused on: pathophysiology of mental disorders, neurodegenerative diseases and addiction, developing new therapies for the treatment of chronic pain, investigating the effects produced by novel antidepressive, antipsychotic, analgesic, neuroprotective and anti-addiction substances, synthesising potential medications and providing their pharmacological analysis, identifying genetic, epigenetic, neurochemical and immunological markers of mental and neurological disorders.

Our staff can be distinguished by undertaking multiple research activities, as it is evidenced by the number of grants realized between 2011 and 2017 that were financed both from the national and EU funds: 107 projects financed by the National Science Centre; grants obtained within LIDER (1), ERA-NET Neuron (3) and ALLOSTERIX (1) programmes financed by the National Centre for the Research and Development; HOMING PLUS (3) and POMOST (1) financed by the Foundation for Polish Science; NeuroPain (7PR), the Polish-Norwegian grant, grant from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fund, NANONEUCAR, HAZARD and many others. Within a framework of the Innovative Economy Operational Programme co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund, IF PAS carried out MODALL, DEMETER and PROKOG projects.

The Institute’s major priority is to pursue continuous improvement policy in the field of developing research infrastructure, increasing the quality and the scope of conducted research as well as enhancing the attractiveness of the doctoral study programme aimed at expanding medical knowledge with a view to meeting society’s needs and improving the quality of life.

One of primary strategic objectives set by the Institute is to increase IF PAS participation in large-scale international research grants, collaboration and exchange of experience with international research centres, establishing research networks and consortia, promoting knowledge dissemination, conducting well-planned and goal-oriented research aimed at developing practical clinical applications that will contribute to improving patient’s quality of life and thus provide benefits to the entire society.

Another strategic objective defined by the Institute is to enhance research expertise exchange with international research centres that we currently collaborate with as well as look for new foreign cooperation partners. IF PAS cooperates closely with numerous research centres in Europe and beyond (Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Sweden, Hungary, Russia, the USA, Canada) what resulted in publishing multiple joint articles and reports as well as researcher exchange. With regard to activities undertaken within the Erasmus+ Programme, mobility strategy will be focused on Programme Countries as well as Partner Countries. Partner HEI's shall be selected based on research programme, experience and unique infrastructure. Erasmus+ partners will also be chosen taking into account ongoing collaboration initiatives.

Mobility activities will be targeted, in the first place, at third-cycle students, who are willing to acquire new skills by participating in educational activities and traineeships in international laboratories. The Institute aims at developing a research platform which will enable conducting doctoral research partly at sending and partly at receiving HEI. The second target group includes IF PAS academic staff who will be provided with the opportunity to improve didactic skills, acquire knowledge of managing projects and familiarise with a unique research environment. Broadening teaching and research skills of our staff as a result of participation in the Erasmus+ mobility programme will contribute to raising the quality of doctoral studies and enable applying for international grants. The third target group includes administrative staff, who thanks to participation in training and exchange with other institutes will learn about management techniques adopted in other research centres and other means of obtaining funds for modernisation and coordinating research projects.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain:

Original language [EN]
IF PAS is proud of its achievements in running international projects, such as ERA-NET and NeuroPain, that were carried out in cooperation with research institutions from Germany, France, Israel and Italy. The Institute is committed to pursue the policy of active participation in the international research projects both as a partner and a leader. The Institute plans to continue existing international cooperation as well as look for new partners among Programme and Partner Countries. We are convinced that collaboration within the Erasmus+ Programme will allow for modernisation of IF PAS research infrastructure, expanding the scope of research activities undertaken at IF PAS as well as upgrading the quality of doctoral education.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution.

Please refer to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area* and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue:

Original language [EN]

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs
 Participation of IF PAS in the Erasmus+ Programme will enable modernisation of the educational system through continuous improvement of academic staff qualifications. Enhancing the quality of the education will give our graduates competitive advantage in applying for postdoctoral traineeships or jobs in renowned research centres in EU and other territories. Student mobility will improve the attractiveness of doctoral studies and increase the number of students pursuing tertiary education. Opportunity to participate in the mobility program will generate in students stronger motivation to study. Extensive professional experience gained during studies will open up greater employment opportunities in and outside research sector.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education
 Improving the quality of education depends on proper preparation of the teaching staff. Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme will allow for academic staff mobility aimed at improving teaching as well as research qualifications. Improving skills and qualifications required to train students will increase the relevance of the higher education provided by IF PAS as students completing tertiary studies will be immediately employable in the best research centres and private companies.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation
 Mobility programme will provide students as well as academic staff at IF PAS with an opportunity to develop their laboratory skills and thus improve their employability. Development of research skills and capabilities will be further facilitated thanks to inviting researchers and students from Partner Countries, what will result in implementing new research ideas and methods. The strategy devised at IF PAS provides the students with an opportunity to carry out some research tasks in partner institutions, what allows for familiarising with work systems adopted in other laboratories and cooperation within culturally and socially diversified teams.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development
 IF PAS as a research institute commits itself to establishing cooperation and developing innovative projects with local and international companies with a view to exploiting acquired knowledge and transferring research results into business. Operations and educational activities undertaken by IF PAS will be aimed at providing greater continuity between fundamental and applied research to support successful knowledge transfer from the research centre into business based on our close collaboration with pharmaceutical companies and well-established and venture capitals.

5. Improving governance and funding
 Improvement of the management system and obtaining funding. Participation in the Programme will extend managerial and administrative staff education and thus improve the standard of governance at IF PAS. Advancing the knowledge of the possibilities to obtain funding, establishing cooperation with businesses and managing projects will contribute to developing IF PAS as a research institution and support commercialization of the results delivered by researchers.