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**THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE
FOR UKRAINIAN STUDENTS
(personal experience)**

In terms of changes and innovations that are actively introduced into the system of higher education in Ukraine the students' studying experience in Europe can become one of the issues worth studying. Today there are many different international educational and cultural programmes that give an opportunity to Ukrainian students to study abroad. As a part of this article our own studying experiences during the first semester of 2015 – 2016 academic year at the Pomorska Academy in Slupsk (Poland) will be analysed.

Through the programme Erasmus +, which promotes international cooperation in the system of higher education, students of different universities of the country, including Zhytomyr State University named after Ivan Franko had an opportunity for both short and long academic stay abroad. As a third year student of Educational and Scientific Institute of Pedagogy (specialty Musical Art*) I had the opportunity to participate in the long-term exchange between Pomorska Academy in Slupsk (Poland) and Zhytomyr State University named after Ivan Franko.

Pomorska Academy in Slupsk is a modern European state university, which has three faculties: faculty of mathematics and natural sciences, faculty of history and philology, faculty of pedagogy and philosophy. 22 specialties and 100 specializations are offered to students. An archive, a library, sports and rehabilitation center, science center and the center of foreign languages are available at the Academy. At Pomorska Academy at the Institute of music the professional training has two stages: 1st degree studies: Edukacja artystyczna w zakresie sztuki muzycznej (art education in music), specjalty - music education (teacher). 2 degree studies: Edukacja artystyczna w zakresie sztuki muzycznej (art education in music), specjalty – animation culture. Also there is Studia podyplomowe (postgraduate studies) – Muzyka w edukacji wczesnej z elementami muzykoterapii (Music in primary education with the elements of music therapy), Muzykoterapia z psychohrjfilaktyką stresu (Music therapy).

According to the contract, I studied three courses of the Academy, provided by self-selection of subjects within 30 credits. A variety of subjects contributed to the personal improvement. A distinctive feature of the studying process is that students of the Institute of music focused purely on musical disciplines and do not study such subjects as sociology, medicine, economics, philosophy, physical education, etc. They focus on their careers and are interested in further development. Impressive is real democracy in all spheres of the university life (eg. a big advantage is that the students themselves have the right to elect a certain number of course credits).

Let me briefly outline the main features of the educational process. Education was extremely productive. The duration of the lessons was quite diverse from 40 min up to 2.5 hours. It should be noted that for teachers and students, the priority is the practical activity compared with the theoretical training, based on current trends of music of the XX-XXI st centuries, e.g. jazz and the art of improvisation. Much attention is paid to collective forms of work, such as: vocal ensemble, choir and chamber orchestra, theatrical musical performances. The selection of the repertoire is organised by students themselves, including their own arrangement.

One of the most popular subjects was nauka akompaniamentu z czytaniem a'vista, where we studied to different songs in different styles and genres (jazz, blues). It is interesting that the students are more interested in modern music, but are also familiar with the classical one.

Passive practice in secondary school (szkoła podstawowa), in which all children have the opportunity to play musical instruments (flute, xylophone, drums) impressed me. The feature of the educational system is that the students of the Pomorska Academy (Institute of Music) on their own initiative, every 3-4 months held musical performances. At the end of the semester I had exam time, the organization of which he is very different to a domestic one. Examinations in the choir, vocal ensemble, conducting, took place in public in the form of an open concert.

The educational system in Ukraine really needs changes. Special attention should be paid to creative professions, which requires not only financial support, but also a reorientation of the educational process towards greater democratization and freedom of creativity.