



CALL FOR REGISTRATION

**Association of Academic Foreign Language Centres SERMO
and the Foreign Language Centre of Warsaw University of Technology
are organising a conference**

Internationalisation - practical challenges for university language centres
Warsaw, 4-5 December 2015

The aim of our conference is to share experiences connected with widely understood internationalisation in higher education, challenges posed by increasing mobility of students and graduates and the role played by university language centres in this process.

We would like to discuss topics from many areas - general ones, such as benefits of internationalisation of universities and student mobility, as well as more detailed ones, connected with the influence of internationalisation on everyday life of the university, for example conducting classes in mixed groups, cultural differences, organisational problems.

We sincerely hope that the choice of speakers and presentations will encourage you to take part in our conference. See the list of presentations on the following pages. For the opening and closing times check the provisional timetable below. A more detailed programme will follow soon.

Please, fill in the attached Registration form.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Warsaw!

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PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

FRIDAY, 4 December 2015		Saturday, 5 December 2015	
9.00-10.00	Registration	9.00-10.00	Plenary session
10.00 -11.00	Opening ceremony and plenary session	10.00-11.00	Parallel sessions
11.00-11.15	Coffee break	11.00-11.15	Coffee break
11.15-13.15	Plenary sessions	11:15-13.15	Parallel sessions
13.15-14.15	Lunch	13:15-13:30	Closing ceremony, prize draw, certificates
14.15-15.45	Parallel sessions	13:30-14:30	Lunch
15.45-16.00	Coffee break	14:30-16.00	SERMO General Meeting <i>(only for SERMO members)</i>
16.00-17.00	Parallel sessions		
17.00-17.40	Plenary session		
17.45-20.00	Dinner		

PRESENTATIONS

(all presentations are in English unless stated otherwise)

We are really proud to host many distinguished speakers, among whom you will find **professor John de Jong** who will attempt to answer a very intriguing question:

- **Why doesn't CEFR always work?**

We will also present various aspects of internationalisation at Warsaw University of Technology and this topic will be reflected in the following presentations:

- **Internationalisation of Warsaw University of Technology**
- **International students – challenge accepted!**
- **WUT Foundation Year for International Students.**

We will also gain an overview of how other higher education institutions, from other European countries and from Poland, deal with the problem of internationalisation:

- **Enhancing the international student experience: the benefits of an effective induction and integration programme – British experience**
- **Quo vadis, language centre? Internationalisation as a driving force; the ongoing development of the language centre of Ruhr-Universität Bochum**
- **Two examples for a successful and sustainable internationalisation - European University Viadrina**
- **The internationalisation of the university on the example of Cracow University of Economics *(in Polish)***
- **The Politics of Language Policy - the experience of the RWTH Aachen University Language Centre.**

At the same time we will focus on some practical aspects and challenges of teaching students coming from different educational and cultural backgrounds and on bridging the communication gaps. The presentations below will contain teachers' hands-on experience in this area:

- **My international group: a hard nut to crack or a piece of cake?**
- **Teaching technical and professional writing to students of a technical university.**

At least two presentations will provide some serious food for thought:

- **What can TED speakers teach us about globalisation, soft skills and language? Analysing TED talks for better internationalised world - a talk by Piotr Bucki**
- **Admissions criteria - Do standardized tests matter?**

We will also address the issue of new skills university teaching staff need in order to deal with the growing numbers of international students, both in Poland and abroad. This will be discussed by a doctor of medicine who **teaches international students at a medical university**. And in two other presentations:

- **What helps teachers teach... in English?**
- **Internationalisation and the role of English in tertiary education - providing English language support to university teaching staff.**

One of the speakers will show the benefits of internationalisation for teachers of foreign languages in the presentation:

- **Teacher development in the context of internationalisation of higher education - the example of the Foreign Language Centre, Warsaw University of Technology.**

We will also tackle the matter of learning the language of a host country by international students, difficulties these students face and solutions offered by host universities:

- **Some ideas concerning teaching Polish as a foreign language at Poznań University of Technology** (*in Polish*)
- **Why is it so difficult to learn Polish?** (*in Polish*)
- **Finnish at Aalto University: The use of the local language in a globalized university context.**
- **Specyfika nauczania języka rosyjskiego jako obcego w Katedrze Ukrainistyki UW w obliczu różnorodności kulturowej studentów.** (*In Polish*)

Our conference will also be the place to show different initiatives undertaken by students and teachers to integrate international students with the host country and host university community. We will present the idea of

- **Polish-Technika Day**
- and events organized by **Erasmus Student Network at WUT.**

And we are still expecting a few more presentations.