Philological School of Higher Education (WSF), aware of its multilingual potential and importance of intercultural experience and dialogues, is strongly committed to internationalization, which is a substantial part of its mission. Owing to participation in Lifelong Learning Programme, since 2005, WSF has expanded internationally and it presently cooperates with 33 Partners universities from 17 European countries. The institution organizes exchanges of students and staff in the area of languages and philological sciences, teacher training and education. Partnerships are reviewed annually, with a view to consolidating and strengthening each relationship. Academic units are encouraged to establish new partnerships which bring long-term benefits to each institution. One of WSF’s main objectives is providing thorough education up to the best European standards to make students and graduates respectful and aware of each culture’s uniqueness. The institution specializes in humanities offering education (1st and 2nd cycle) in the area of modern languages studies: English, German, Spanish and Italian, including components of literature, history and culture with specializations “language in business and tourism”, “translation”, “foreign language teaching” and a “language+language” option. Both local and international students may benefit from a wide range of courses conducted in a relevant language by highly qualified international staff. Additionally, students may take up courses of Chinese, Czech, Portuguese, French etc. Study programmes are varied and flexible to satisfy student’s individual needs. Implementation of ECTS, transfer of credits, transparency of study programmes and student-oriented study process were acknowledged by European Commission in December 2012 when WSF was rewarded with ECTS Label. Moreover, in 2011, quality of education and instruction at WSF was graded "outstanding" by Polish State Accreditation Committee.

In WSF’s international projects students are the main target group, which is reflected in a yearly increasing number of bilateral agreements (from 14 in 2008/9 to 31 in 2012/13) and mobile students (students’ Erasmus study periods: from 18 in 2008/9 to 32 in 2012/13). Partnerships, to the benefit of students, are established mostly with the institutions in the countries where the language taught at WSF is native (Great Britain, Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy) or/and HEI of similar profile/study programmes. This way students raise their linguistic proficiency and gain invaluable cultural experience. WSF, a non-public, unsubsidised by the state HEI, has implemented student-fiendly measures and a mobility supportive policy i.e. fee discounts for study mobility period and pre-financing for outgoing students.

There is a growing students’ interest in participating in Erasmus traineeships in various selected European enterprises related to the field of their academic specialization: business, education, translation or tourist sectors. To ensure high quality of students placement International Office publishes the list of reliable, recommended enterprises and assists students while making arrangements. Student mobility period is fully recognized and treated as an integral part of WSF education; and the Erasmus “work placement”, provided it fulfills specific criteria, is acknowledged as an obligatory student training at WSF. Mostly preferred destination for Erasmus trainees European countries: Great Britain, Spain, Italy and Germany.
WSF also promotes mobility of its academic and administrative staff. Lecturers willingly visit partner institutions and share their knowledge and experience during lectures and meetings. Participation in Training mobility programmes are appreciated by WSF administration staff. It gives them opportunity to learn about new solutions and good practices oriented towards their specific job area. Staff and experts (teaching and training mobility) from partner institutions are more frequently received by WSF, as well. All international activities strongly stimulate the institution’s development and result in significant academic initiatives: common research projects, international workshops and annual international conferences.

Internationalization and modernization are part of WSF strategy - goals which are accomplished by WSF’s participation in the Programme: annually growing students/staff mobility and the extension of Erasmus Partners University network (16 new Partners within the past 3 years). It is also reflected in the increased amount of Erasmus fund granted to the institution each year. Inter-institutional cooperation goes beyond mobility projects and results in mutual research and educational projects, students traineeship or/and staff training schemes. WSF lecturers from Department of German studies carry our the educational project with their partners from University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic and Matel Bej University, Slovakia – both WSF’s Erasmus Partner universities.

Collaboration with Sogn og Fjordane University, under Erasmus and Norway Grants, consists in academic transfer and good practices, which stimulate the institution’s development in terms of education and organization: learning innovative methods applied in foreign language teaching; preparing new study programmes; initiating mobility traineeship schemes; maintaining relations with alumni and graduates’ potential employers.

Cooperation of WSF and Havering College in London is based on the exchange of experience in the field of glottodidactics (student summer workshops in England and traineeships at schools) and career advising service for students. WSF organizes annual conferences, which are recognized internationally. Each year conferences i.e. “Languages in Contact” or “Abre los ojos” attracts primarily academics, from partner universities. WSF is concerned about quality – it gives education and study organization an European dimension, which was acknowledged by European Commission – “ECTS Label” (2012). To support its development the institution is constantly improving governance and funding (Norway Grants, EU funds etc.). It’s major local initiatives are i.e. Regional Language Contests.

WSF will continually contribute to the European Union’s modernization and internationalization agenda in higher education. Its concern about quality of provided education is already apparent in structural solutions, study content and organization of studies. The institution, will currently update and modify its offer of study programmes and courses’ content to match present needs of the local and European labour market. In academic education it will put more stress on practicality and usefulness to open employability prospects before their graduates. Equipped with broad interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, high linguistic competence and inter-cultural awareness, WSF’s graduates are attractive for potential employers. The institution intends to build closer relationships with local and international business enterprises (impact on study programmes, organization of traineeship schemes in sectors of business, tourism, translation and modern language education; meetings with experts). This way WSF graduates will be better prepared for potential careers and their employability after graduation will be considerably enhanced. Educational process is
supported by modern learning facilities and state-of-the-art ICT solutions (use of e-learning, Intranet etc.), which will be gradually modernized. To accomplish its major strategic objectives WSF intends to apply for EU funds, Norway Grants and financial support of Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

WSF will aim at further developing international cooperation and improving quality. These goals will be mainly achieved by higher level of mobility and more cross-border cooperation projects. Good practices and know-how of international partners will still have a strong impact on WSF modernization. International orientation of the institution will be ensured by tightening links with present European Partners and setting up cooperation with new ones, including HEI in Third Countries. Participation in the Programme will be underpinned by policy support measures. WSF will carry on promoting and supporting student and staff mobility, including underrepresented groups (non-discrimination policies) and ensure equal access and opportunities to mobile participants of all backgrounds. The institution declares to fully recognize satisfactorily completed activities of study mobility, and, where possible, traineeship (ECTS, Diploma Supplement). It also undertakes to charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities. In near future WSF is planning to introduce more supportive measures and improve services for outgoing (fee discounts for the mobility study period and possibility of pre-financing) and incoming students (online application system, quality integration activities, participation in international conferences, engagement in WSF academic circles and projects).