



# Newsletter#2

OTWARTA INTEGRACJA/OPEN INTEGRATION

[www.kul.pl/openintegration](http://www.kul.pl/openintegration)

## Dear Readers!

We cordially invite you to get acquainted with the second newsletter of the Open Integration project. The newsletter will be published, on average, quarterly (with the exception of summer holidays) and will present information concerning project actions, also serving helpful tips about everyday life at our University and the City of Lublin, inviting to actively participate in the academic life. The newsletter is edited by the volunteers of Open Integration and is addressed to foreign students studying in Lublin. This newsletter mainly focuses on the project events. You will also have an opportunity to read some interesting opinions of our participants. Have a nice reading!

# PROJECTnews

## Become our participant!

Dear Students, we would like to welcome you at our University and invite to participate in the integration project Open Integration that realizes a goal of introducing you to Polish society by following actions:

1. Trainings in integration and cultural module
2. Polish language course
3. Soft skills trainings needed at the labor market
4. Organizing two editions of Orientation Week for foreign students
5. Editing and distributing of the Newsletter directed to students (OPEN INTEGRATION NEWSLETTER)
6. Organizing two editions of Summer School – “Protection of Migrants’ Rights”
7. Actions of the assistants for integration and legislation
8. Permanent integration support for foreign students thanks to the assistance of Polish students (guardian angels) on the basis of a “common room” at the University.



To take part in courses provided within our project you should **fill in the application form**, available on our website: <http://www.kul.pl/o-projekcie,17787.html>

The completed form must be submitted in person or via registered mail along with a copy certifying legal stay in Poland and a copy of student ID to the following address:

The Department of Research Support and University Development  
Section for Structural Funds  
The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin  
Poland, 20-950 Lublin, Al. Racławickie 14, room GG-100 (Main Building)

In case of any questions please also contact our project office: [oi@kul.pl](mailto:oi@kul.pl)



# Sign up for courses carried out within the Open Integration project!

## Integrative and cultural trainings

In November 2016 the first edition of integrative and cultural trainings will launch. Proposed courses: „Polish know how”; „Polish History in a Nutshell”; „Independence – why so precious?”; „Mosaic of nations and religions, that is Poland of many cultures”, „Lublin of many cultures”, „Polish road to democracy”, „Polish holidays and traditions”. In the framework of this action students will be also taken on trips to Muzeum Wsi Lubelskiej, Kazimierz Dolny and Roztocze

## Polish language courses

We are recruiting for classes of Polish as a foreign language for students from abroad. The action is organized by the School of Polish Language and Culture KUL. Courses of Polish as a foreign language will be delivered by instructors with using modern teaching techniques at the level adjusted to the needs of our participants – courses at basic and intermediate level are planned. Classes start in November 2016.

## Trainings of soft skills needed at the labor market

We start with the first edition in February 2017. The subject matter of the courses will concern memorizing techniques, time management skills, creativity, preparing job application (CV and cover letter), self-presentation, principles of savoir-vivre, identifying professional potential, ways of determining future career.



## Support in the area of integration and legalisation

Did you know that having a status of Open Integration project participant you will have an access to use help of our assistants for legislation and integration? Our assistants will be ready to help you with: obtaining and renewing residence permit, accommodation, health insurance and all necessary formalities. To be eligible for the above mentioned support please drop us an e-mail at: [oi@kul.pl](mailto:oi@kul.pl) in order to register for the project.

Our advisers are ready to help you in the:

Candidates and Students Section of The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin,

Al. Raławickie 14, 20-950 Lublin, room GG-200 (Main Building)

Tel. +48 81 445 42 16

Opening hours: from 7:30 to 15:30.



## Summer School “Protection of Migrants’ Rights”

From **4-10th of July 2016** the Summer School „Protection of Migrants’ Rights” has been organized within the „**Open Integration**” project. The School is addressed to foreign students studying at the territory of Poland. The Summer School was co-organized by the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration, Research Center for European Law and Migration Policy and the Open University.

Beyond **thematic lectures**, *inter alia* of those concerning legal system in Poland, free movement of persons in the European Union or protection of migrants’ rights in EU countries, networking visits were also a strong point of the school, during which our students visited Lublin City Hall, Voivodeship Office, Border Guards Unit and local NGOs. One of the lecturers was a visiting professor, **prof. Laurynas Biekša** from the Mykolas Romeris University, who have lead the course of Asylum and Migration Law in the EU.



Check out Summer School impressions of our participants:

## Vira Hradyuk (Ukraine)

Summer school „Protection of Migrant`s Rights” was, probably, the greatest adventure of my summer. Things I've learned during this mega-productive week will help me during the whole life.

I'm an Ukrainian student in Poland and, as most students abroad, at first I was afraid of lots of things: bureaucracy with visa and any other documents for foreigners, crossing of the border and discrimination.



When I started my education, I would often hear a question: aren't you afraid to go to another country? This fears really stop lots of people in front of the world's doors. As a person, who travelled a lot from the childhood, I understood – it shouldn't be like this. I'm starting my adult life and I want to see the real world: not only from the tourist's point of view, not only from the window of an excursion bus.

During the conference we've learned lots, lots of useful things about the laws, related to migration – and how they work in practice. We've made some practical «law-exercises» to see how to protect the migrant's rights in different situations: economic, religious and other. We've learned how does the judicial systems in Poland and the EU works.

Very useful and exiting part of the conference was the networking. We had a chance to visit state institutions as Lublin City Hall, Voivodeship Office and Border Guards Unit and to communicate with officials directly. This opportunity showed that they aren't closed for cooperation. Quite the opposite – they are opened, ready to answer questions, help or create

new projects together. The visit at Volunteer Centre and to the Rule of Law Institute Foundation showed that there are lots of opportunities for foreigners to get free legal advice, help in complicated situations, opportunity to study Polish language and other things, which will help them to integrate to the society.

But the most important thing for me was the perception that migration is natural. That sometimes people choose the country, which is the most appropriate to their lifestyle – and that's natural too, because we didn't choose the place of birth. And integration of migrants is good for economy, judicial system and for society in general. That You don't have to be afraid of the hate speech and understand, that it's only an unproductive thing, but nothing more. I liked the name of one of the integration projects, presented in Lublin City Hall – "We are all strangers sometimes". Understanding of such simple things and courage to be "a stranger" is a little step to the big, interesting world, which is probably worth it.

This summer school was a big step to the big World. Thank You for opportunity to make it!

## Da Lu (China)

From 4 July to 10 July, I had a wonderful experience in Lublin.

I have to say that this week I mentioned was not originally in my plan. However, it became the most valuable memory of my summer research stay in Poland.

My name is Da Lu and I am a Chinese student who is starting his PhD at the University of Szeged in Hungary. Since my research topic is about the development of constitutional law between China and Central Europe, I decided start my summer research in Poland this July.





Before I came to Krakow, Dr. Wladyslaw Peksa, who teaches at the Jagiellonian University, sent me an email in which he suggested me to join a summer school in Lublin. I asked for permission of my supervisor Dr. Nobert VARGA, and he also advised me to go there. Therefore, the second week of my research stay in Poland I joined a summer school in Lublin.

The summer school was mainly about the migration and integration in Europe and since there are not too much Syrian refugees in Poland, the lectures mainly talked about the refugees from Chechnya. During the Summer School, there were also some classes about NGOs, since one of the organizers was the Rule of Law Institute in Lublin. Thanks for Prof. Swenson's brilliant lectures, we got some information about the rule of law in the USA, Poland and China. Dr. Biekša's lectures about Migration and Asylum Law were also very popular.

What's more, the Summer School also organized some study visits, such as the visit in the City Hall, Rule of Law Institute Foundation, Volunteer Centre or Border Guards Unit in Lublin. Also, we had a wonderful excursion in Kazimierz Dolny, it was so beautiful, although the weather was not so nice.

Summer school in Lublin is a very good choice to for students who want to know more about Europe, especially Poland and about Poles. And last but not least, Dr. Tomasz Sieniow, Emil, Konstancja and Vako, thank you so much that you were kindly helping and hardworking.

*We send best wishes to our participants and invite you for the next edition of the Summer School, which will be carried out next summer!*



## Orientation Week 2016

From the 8th to the 12th of October 2016, during the Orientation Week, we had the pleasure to welcome foreign students who have started their studies in Lublin. The aim of the 5-day meeting cycle was to introduce them to the reality of living and studying in our country.

We started on Saturday 8th of October, day dedicated to the significance of intercultural communication and Polish history. The participants had the opportunity to get to know the Polish history in a nutshell, thanks to which they could learn about the effects of the past events on the current shape of Poland. The lecture on communication was not less important, during which students were taught the basic relationships affecting the ability to communicate with people from different cultures. Sunday was dedicated to integrative workshops for the participants, it was a wonderful opportunity to exchange valuable experiences and above all, to learn about

each other. The group work have certainly contributed to the integration of our group, which could be seen on the smiling faces of the students, who took advantage of every break to discuss in their midst. On Monday 10th of October, the participants discovered their rights and duties in Poland. By the number of questions asked, we can clearly say that the lessons of this type are really needed for people who are just starting their studies in our country. On Tuesday, we went for a walk around the city, during which the participants visited Lublin's City Hall, Voivodeship Office and the Rule of Law Institute Foundation. The conclusion day was Wednesday, which was dedicated to studying at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. During the classes, the students received useful guidance on the functioning of our University, among others the registration and use of the e-kul system. There was also a meeting with the Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, Rev. Dr. Hab. Andrzej Kiciński. At the end of the day there was a ceremony awarding the certificates of participation in the Orientation Week. It is worth noting that the students who took part in our activities came from all over the world, that is to say from the USA, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ukraine, Mexico, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea and China, which created a truly international atmosphere during our Orientation Week.

## Carol Lynn Miller (USA)

Overall, I really liked the orientation week! It was very interesting to interact with students from different countries. As the week went on we all began to bond really well over the fact that we were all students in a foreign country and quickly began to form great friendships.

The content we learned over the week was extremely interesting and beneficial. After the week, I felt much more prepared on how to live in Poland and to make my experience much richer. All of the people running the program (the organizers and instructors) were extremely kind and very willing to help us with anything.

I have two favorite aspects about the orientation week. My first favorite is the day where we got to learn about Polish history. I found this very

enriching as it gave me a deep understanding of how Poland arrived at its present state and a better understanding of the overall culture. My second favorite aspect of the week was the teaching on communication. We learned about the importance of communication and how to communicate with people outside of our own country. This lesson in communication gave me a broader understanding of the human person revealing that even though we have some differences we also have many similarities. Overall, it was a lovely week and I highly encourage any foreign students coming to study at KUL to participate in Open Integration orientation week. Don't miss out. The week will enrich your time in Lublin!



Carol (right) with her sister Michelle

## Dima Muzyka (Ukraine)

I have to admit, that during the Orientation Week there was no such thing I did not like. I want to express my gratitude to those who organized this event. At the time of the Orientation Week I met a lot of new people, with whom I already established friendly contacts. I got to know the culture and customs of other nations. I liked both the classes and people I have met there. All was very interesting for me. I thank all the people who put their effort to make it happen as it was. I hope such kind of events will be happening in the future. Thank you very much.



## Juan Antonio González Paz (Mexico)

“Why am I here?” That was the question I had at the beginning, during the first night: it was cold and dark, and the darkness was penetrating my mind. In a deep way I was questioning myself, why am I here? And the time was passing, with a long jetlag - when you travel more than 28 hours in a row the only things you want are a bed and someone who can help you holding the weight of that decision.

The next day, after taking a long time for myself and sleeping in a bed in a hostel,

I was ready for the university, for Lublin and in my playful mind I had the same thought which was accompanying me all night long: “what am I doing

here?" But let's complete the dream of being abroad, and in a very strict way, talking to myself, I realized that I had to start enjoying the whole thing as a blessing coming from heaven.

"What am I doing here?" 2.0 I was there facing the reality of being in a country (which I only knew based on books and a couple of pictures), trying to adapt and understand a little of this hard language, when suddenly a paper, an invitation to an integration week came to me. I wanted to know, to share my feelings with someone who was in the same situation as me. So the day was there, after some days trying to pronounce the name of the food I was eating (very nice food, by the way), the Orientation Week started, much to my surprise, there were a lot of foreigners (sadly I was the only Mexican) but everyone was in the same situation. We started to interact with each other and we were being taught about this wonderful Poland. Suddenly, the dark thoughts started to open, letting a new day come, and with that, bringing the opportunity of seeing more clear and sharp aspects about what I am doing here. Now I know that the best that could happen to me was that I am the only Mexican in the Open Integration project. It is a door that I must walk through to learn more and grow, to become a better person and enjoy this new day that is already here. With this brief story, I just want to invite all of the people who are wrongfully feeling that they don't belong here, to open themselves to this opportunity, to open themselves to this kind of groups as the Open Integration because it brings a wonderful help and is truly a light from the sky.

Dziękuję





## Mykola Mialkovskyi (Ukraine)

I already know the Orientation Week organized under the Open Integration project will become for me one of the most important weeks here, at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. I had a possibility to integrate into students life and I feel I did it perfectly. During these five days we had an opportunity to learn the history of Poland and our university, to meet with local traditions and to receive a lot of useful literature. What is more - now I know how to buy bus tickets - which is very important. I am very grateful to all who contributed to this project. I am also thankful for the motivation and confidence that will help me to start my studying!



*It was a real pleasure to work with such a committed and creative group of students; we thank you for your interest and wish you good luck!*

## Take part in our project. Sign up now!

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The completed form must be submitted in person or via registered mail along with a copy certifying legal stay in Poland and a copy of student ID to the following address:

**The Department of Research Support and University Development  
Section for Structural Funds**

**The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin**

**Poland, 20-950 Lublin, Al. Raławickie 14, room GG-100 (Main Building)**

**In case of any questions please contact our project office: [oi@kul.pl](mailto:oi@kul.pl)**

We kindly inform, that according to **paragraph 3, sub-paragraph 11** of the *Regulations of recruitment and participation in workshops carried out as a part of the "Open Integration" project* the Recruitment Committee may issue a fee waiver decision or lower the amount of the entry fee (180 PLN) in exceptional situations. In order to use such possibility participant who has been qualified to participate in the project must, prior to the beginning of a project action submit a fee waiver request or request for lowering the amount of an entry fee. The mentioned entry fee is a **one-time fee that allows to participate in all of the project actions.**



# KULnews

## American Dream!

Playing on an American basketball court is the dream of many basketball players. During these summer holidays, in the sports venues of KUL, camps from the HoopLife Basketball Camp took place in which participants could develop their skills under the care of American coaches (among others). The most important thing to note is that the people who showed great capacity and physical ability have the chance to earn a sports scholarship and a trip to a secondary school or university in the USA. Congratulations to all of the participants!





## We are building a statue

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, the City Council adopted the resolution to build the statue of an extraordinary man, the founder of Our University, Fr. Idzi Benedykt Radziszewski. The initiative of the construction of this commemorating monument has been supported by many inhabitants, universities and institutions of Lublin. Almost every resident of Lubin, and especially the students of Our University, know how important he was and the significant role he played not only for the Catholic University of Lublin but also for the entire city. Our academic community is thankful for the support of this idea.

## International Day at KUL

On Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> of October, for the first time at The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin the International Day took place. The main purpose and intent of this event, beside the integration with Polish students was to warmly welcome all foreign students at our University. The event included inter



alia: meeting with the authorities of the University, tasting of selected Polish dishes and theatre performance by the ITP Theater. We also had the pleasure to listen to the impressions of several foreign students and graduates of KUL, including those from Nigeria, Spain and Ukraine.

*You have made a perfect choice, coming to our University. I am very happy that you all are here with us. You are most welcome and we will do our best that you could feel here like at home* - with these words all the participants were welcomed by Anna Tarnowska-Waszak, director of The KUL Open University, the main organizer of the first International Day at KUL.

In October, the new academic year has started at our University with more than 600 students from abroad - from 43 countries. The most of them come from Ukraine, Belarus and Spain. Some, however, came to us from such distant places in the world as Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Indonesia and Japan.

Katarzyna Boguta





# CULTUREnews

## Summer in Lublin

Although during the holidays Lublin emptied and you couldn't see many students there, our city was not following asleep. July is a time for two major cultural events, which permanently had become a part of the summer calendar of the city. Between 6-10 of July residents of Lublin had the opportunity to participate in the East Culture – Other Voices Art'n'Music Festival. For 5 days on the stage appeared 150 artists representing various sounds and musical genres. One of the most famous stars was Shibusashirazu Orchestra, which by a combination of jazz, rock and roll and dance music created a unique spectacle, which will remain in the hearts and memory of viewers. The second permanent event held in July in Lublin was a carnival of Magicians (28-31 of July). During this event, the audience had the opportunity to watch the artists representing different arts for example: acrobatics, fire show, illusion, stand up, theater, juggling. It must be said that all of the performers were masters in their fields and watching their performances was a real pleasure. Both the East culture and carnival Magicians events are cyclical, so if anyone missed the opportunity to come to those events this year, he can participate in them during next summer.

Don't forget to track website <http://www.lublin.eu/en/lublin/news/>

in the culture section

you will find all of the information concerning events in Lublin. Good luck in the New Academic Year!

<http://en.sztukmistrze.eu/>

<http://en.innebrzmienia.eu/>





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