



EUROPEAN UNION
Asylum, Migration
and Integration Fund

THE JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF LUBLIN

KUL
1918



Newsletter^{#3}

OTWARTA INTEGRACJA/OPEN INTEGRATION

www.kul.pl/openintegration

Dear Readers!

We invite you to get acquainted with the third newsletter of the Open Integration project. In the newest issue we encourage you to get acquainted with our current offer. Moreover, according to our established tradition you will have a chance to read some short interviews and coverages of events that we have organized so far. Have a nice reading!

PROJECTnews

If you are a citizen of a country from outside of the European Union and you are studying in Poland we invite you to take part in the OPEN INTEGRATION project. Thanks to participating in the project you may benefit from the following actions:

POLISH LANGUAGE COURSE

A free 120-hours course carried out by the School of Polish Language and Culture KUL. Classes are conducted with the usage of modern teaching techniques as well as they are adjusted to the level of knowledge possessed by the students. Courses are being provided at the basic and intermediate level. **Each participant receives free teaching materials. We are currently recruiting for the course starting in the second semester**

TRAINING OF SKILLS NEEDED ON THE LABOR MARKET (BRAND NEW OFFER!)

Topics of the classes cover: identifying professional potential, self-presentation and job interview simulation, preparing a job application (CV, cover letter), creativity and image-building, time management. Participants will receive free teaching materials. The courses are starting from **March 2017**



SUMMER SCHOOL „PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS”

One-week Summer School „Protection of Migrant's Rights” in the first week of July 2017.

Addressed to foreigners and leaders of migrant communities. Each day of the Summer School covers different thematic block, while realization of the program will allow students to acquire full knowledge and skills needed for an effective protection of their rights. The program consists of daily activities (8 teaching hours), visits in organizations and institutions acting for foreigners, and a trip to Kazimierz Dolny. The classes are lead by Polish and international experts. Participants will receive **free accommodation, meals and teaching materials.**



COMMON ROOM

We invite all Lublin students from Monday to Friday at 15:30 - 19:30 for our integrative meetings in the Common Room, which is situated on the second floor of the KUL Main Building.

The Common Room is a place to meet, cherish conversation and rest for Polish and international students. We also organize cyclical cultural events, culinary meetings and common meet-ups in cinemas, theaters or during a concert.



NEWSLETTER

Especially for international students studying in Lublin we prepare a **Newsletter (in Polish and English)**, which includes information concerning rights and duties of foreigners, to help them in everyday life in Poland. Also includes coverages from interesting events at the University, impressions of our participants, photo reports, previews of the upcoming attractive events in Lublin. The Newsletter appears quarterly and is published at the project website, sent by e-mail to all interested persons. All students studying in Lublin are invited to participate in creating of our newsletter.

SUPPORT IN THE AREA OF INTEGRATION AND LEGALISATION

Each foreign student can get **free support** of our assistants for integration and legalisation **in issues connected with studying in Poland**: accommodation, insurance and other formalities (inter alia in obtaining and renewing residence permits). Our assistants are ready to help you from Monday to Friday at **7:30 to 15:30** in the Students and Candidates Section (Main Building KUL, room GG-200).

Contact us for more information:

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Application forms are available online at the project website:

<http://www.kul.pl/otwarta-integracja,17786.html>

in the „project information”.

Facebook: Open.Integration





„Our Polish mom”: Farewell of a group of students from Kazakhstan

On the 7th of February 2017 we organized a meeting summarizing the intensive Polish language course for a group of students from Kazakhstan, who studied at KUL for the winter semester 2016/2017. Together with their Polish language instructor – Dr. Anna Majewska-Wójcik, students, volunteers and the project team said “good bye” to our participants by issuing them certificates of completion of the course. However the meeting did not end on that, because our Kazakh students prepared a special presentation about their country together with memories from the trips, which they made during their stay in Poland. After that the time has come for more personal farewell and the last moments spent in the Common Room with other students. We have made short interviews with students from Kazakhstan, who one after another call their Polish language teacher: „our mom”.

Elina

I was studying German language here at KUL. The first thing I've seen when I came here is great organization. During the first day at KUL we saw it through the attitude of people towards us, everyone was willing to help us with all necessary formalities. We felt ourselves like at home because at the very beginning we acquired vital information about Lublin and everything here. Thank you for this project. It was a pleasure for me to participate in the Open Integration project – especially through meeting new people, to study Polish language. Although I live in Kazakhstan and study German there it was still very interesting for me to study a new language. I will say the truth, because all my friends in Kazakhstan asked me “for what do you need Polish language?”, but I said: “I'm living here right now and I need this language to communicate with other people, to speak not in English but Polish because I'm in Poland”. So if someone will enjoy the place, the country I think people need to learn something about culture, about the language. And I would like to thank “Pani Ania” (Dr. Anna Majewska-Wójcik) because “wow”, lessons with her were so cool, very funny. She's for us like mom, our Polish mom and she is a great teacher. She always understand us and we understand her. Right now we know many things about Poland, about culture and language. For me it is a pleasure to speak with people in the shop or everywhere in Polish language, it is interesting. I know I make many mistakes in Polish but it does not matter, I think people can understand me with my mistakes. What about food – “żurek” was my first meeting with Polish food, it was very tasty and I said: “hmm, not bad” so I needed to eat it one more time. All people here are open and helpful and I like all the people in the Open Integration project and here in Poland. I met some random people who did not know me at all but when I asked for help I always received all the help I needed. I was a great time here in Poland and I think this part of our lives will be forever in our hearts, thank you!

Adelina

First and foremost I would like to say that I very like Poland because of Polish people. I mean they are very polite, hospitable and friendly – always ready to help you. First time we came here we had some small language barrier but thanks to Open Integration students, thanks to that program we managed to learn some Polish phrases, words and even grammar which helped us to communicate with Polish people, to understand them. Despite I'm only a beginner in learning Polish I'd like to say that I really like this language, it's very soft and beautiful – it sounds incredible. I feel here like I'm at home because Lublin has a lot of incredible landmarks, I really like old town here. I also like Polish traditional food because it's very delicious – especially “barszcz z uszkami”, very delicious. The same with “oscypek” – very interesting combination of cheese and jam, it was very tasty. Saying about the University - for me as for the biologist it is very important to have such kind of incredible environment to study, this University provided me with laboratories with special tools. That's why I was able to do a lot of incredible experiments. Teachers here are very kind, patient and polite. Especially “Pani Anna” (Dr. Anna Majewska-Wójcik) – she is incredible, very open minded as other Polish people, always ready to help and thanks to her I was able to learn Polish language. I really enjoyed my time here despite I was here like only for 4,5 months. When we went to Athens and to Rome I really missed exactly this place, Lublin. We felt here very comfortable, and I'm very thankful for this incredible opportunity to live and study here and to have new friends. Thank you!



Alina

The first days we came here I have met a of friends. I was surprised how polite and open the Polish people are. About the courses – I fell in love in Polish, for me it was very easy to learn. When I was in Kraków I have met one girl, Justyna – she taught me many nice phrases like “karaluchy pod poduchy” etc. I also really like Polish music, I listen to it. I would also like to personally thank you for being so kind to invite us to the Common Room, it was a great job, we’re so thankful to you. And finally a big “thank you” to “Pani Ania”... „Dziękuję, dziękuję bardzo”! She treated us like her children, she was like our mother, it was a great time.

Zarina

I really like staying in Lublin. The first thing is scenery, because it's European style, nice buildings. It was my first time in Poland and abroad at all. Polish people are tolerant, kind, patient. The only difficulty is of course language because I didn't know Polish language and then I started to attend the Polish language course organized within the Open Integration project. It made my life easier and more comfortable. We had meetings where I've met a lot of foreign students and friends. I came here to also improve my English and I must say that what impressed me was the level of English possessed by teachers, it was perfect!





Bonnie

First thing I want to say is that it was a great experience for me. I studied here English philology. I'm very thankful for our Polish teacher „Pani Anna”. When we arrived here it was very difficult to communicate, e.g. when we arrived to the shop people here didn't speak English so it was complicated for me. But then when we started our Polish course we were involving more in this sphere, I mean atmosphere of Polish language and culture. Also I had a chance to practice my language with Polish friends, I really like that. With the help of the Open Integration project I met a lot of friends from different parts of the world and I'm very thankful for that. And also it was a good chance for me to practice my English, that's why I came here. So Polish was like an instrument for me to live here and communicate with people. The thing I liked the best in Poland was Polish food because I really like “pierogi ruskie” or soups like “żurek” or “rosół” and I also like the old town in Lublin because it's different, even different from Warsaw as a capitol of Poland. Lublin has a lot of historical places and it was very comfortable to live here, even KUL dormitory is very good, sisters helped us a lot. I really liked everything, that's what I can say.

News from the Common Room

Christmas Evening

In December 2016 we had a chance to host over 30 participants of our project during the Christmas Evening. The meeting started from introducing students into Polish Christmas traditions, after that together with the project team and our volunteers students shared a Christmas wafer and wished each other all the best. A food was prepared by volunteers and participants. Our students even sang Polish Christmas carols and Christmas hit songs played all over the world. Despite that the meeting lasted over 3 hours it could be felt, that events like this are desired by international students. They are an excellent occasion to integrate intercultural environment of students and get to know each other. The only motivator to finish the meeting was a need to close the University in late hours. For a wonderful atmosphere and a lot of kind words just thank you very much!



Photo: Adrianna Brzozowska



French Evening

On 18th of January 2017 we organized a thematic evening devoted to French cuisine and culture. The meeting was lead by Barbara Zak, volunteer of the Open Integration project, who was raised in France. All started from a presentation of information and interesting facts about France, on the occasion we have received a lot of questions from our students. After the presentation the time has come for tasting of French snacks, such as cheese or cakes. There are still many of this type of thematic meetings planned for the future. Thank you and see you in the Common Room!

Upcoming events:

A meeting dedicated to student's organizations – meeting about the activity of student's organizations at KUL aimed at involving of international students into the academic life of the University. We plan two meetings of this type, first with the involvement of one or two student's organizations, while another a bit more complex, with the involvement of Student's Government at KUL.

A series of meetings with interesting people – we plan to invite special guests, who will tell us about their work, history or many other interesting things.

Meetings devoted to traditions and cultures of particular cultures – In the series of meetings we encourage project participants to share with us some interesting information about their countries, customs, or holidays they celebrate. The nearest plans concerns the „Ukrainian Day“.

Student's debates – debates with international students, during which students will discuss both local and international subjects.

A cycle of meetings „My best summer vacations“ – informal meetings, during which we will present pictures and interesting histories from our trips to other countries.

„Pizza days“ – integrative meetings with pizza, and where possible also with guitar.

...and much more!

Remember, that the events we organize depend also on your suggestions! If you have your own idea to organize events within the Common Room please contact us:

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KULnews

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Our university was chosen to host the 103rd edition of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on the 15th and 16th January 2017. On the first day of the events a mass was held in the Church of our University, celebrated by the Bishop Krzysztof Zadarko. A conference entitled “Aspects and challenges of immigration in Poland” was held on the second day of the event. The aim of the conference was to understand more the people who come from other countries, continents, with different cultures and traditions and to find the best way to help them. Migration is a global phenomenon with around 200 million migrants worldwide and 60 million migrants in Europe. People migrate because of wars or economic reasons, with the aim of improving their life. We should however pay more attention to the underage who are often victims of malevolent people.

Incredible exposition. Most valuable works of art for the 100 anniversary of KUL in the Royal Castle in Warsaw

KUL has started celebrating its 100 jubilee this year and for this occasion, an exhibition of the collection of our University of paintings, drawings and sculptures by famous Polish artists like Jan Matejko or Jerzy Nowosielski was held in the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The exhibition was being presented until 31st of January 2017 under the name “100 on 100. One hundred most valuable works of art for the 100 anniversary of KUL in the Royal Castle in Warsaw”. KUL has been able to collect many artistic pieces of work over the years. However the collection was seized by Germans during the war period. During the last 60 years, thanks to many donations by various institutions or private people, KUL could gather 1700 pieces of art. For instance, late Gothic sacred sculptures were presented in the exhibition.

A visit of students from the University of St. Thomas (USA)

On the 3-11 January 2017 the Open University KUL organized a visit of 22 students from the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota, USA). Students



participated in a special educational program entitled *Comparative Politics of Central Europe – Poland*. Under the program they took part in variety of meetings, visits and trips. They have met with the authorities of our University, visited the Lublin City Hall, and went out to see the City. Another interesting part of the program for our American guests were trips to Zamość and The Zamoyski Museum in Kozłówka. Students took part in a set of lectures during which, in brief, got to know the history of our country and the very basics of Polish language. They also had an opportunity to meet Polish students, among which were the volunteers of the Open Integration project. This is not the first visit of students from the University of St. Thomas, who regularly come to our University each year.

The students shared their opinion on their stay in Lublin in a short interview we conducted with three of them: David, Ryan and Mitch. All emphasized that Polish history and the transition of Poland from a communist country to a democratic country were one of the main reasons they wanted to visit our country.

“There’s a lot of Polish history I had no idea about and it was really good to learn more about it, to see there is more Poland than just World War II. When I talk with the Polish people they are very proud of their independence of who they are, it is not that they are exaggerating, they cherish it, this is something that they value. You fought very bravely to gain independence. Talking about the food I liked Polish soups, especially the one that had eggs in it (żurek). And “bigos”, oh my God, I can eat that all day long. Polish people are really nice, I had a false idea that Eastern European people are cold and stand-offish, that they don’t talk to people but when you break the first barrier they’re very open and kind, people here enjoy to talk about Polish culture so I’ve enjoyed the Polish people a lot.” – says David

Mitch told us something about his motivation to visit Poland and shared with us some impressions from his stay: *“I’ve always wanted to travel to Europe because I’ve never been to Europe. I like to see how the Soviet Union affected the countries, it really interests me just to see those changes after*

the fall of communism and how it made them the modern countries that they are. The people are friendly but before I thought they are a little bit harsh, just based on stereotypes. I think the people are great, I love the food. One of the biggest cultural changes is like the impact of catholic church, every time we've visited the church there were always some people praying or worshipping and that surprised me cause that's not something that I see very often in America. I enjoyed the trip to Zamość, it was awesome! The story that some guy pretty much built a town for himself is unreal. A visit to "Majdanek" was something that has opened my mind, there's nothing like that in America, that also changed my opinion of Polish people - seeing what they been through. That was probably what I'll take home with me".



Ryan was especially moved of what he saw at “Majdanek” museum:

“I’ve been to Poland before, seven years prior, so I had some knowledge but I was really the young man and I didn’t have the opportunity to understand some more of a deeper meaning behind some aspects of the politics. Being able to come back older, wiser and to understand better what’s going on, to get more perspectives from around the world was definitely a good motivator for me. We’ve got to see a concentration camp, for me personally that was one of the most important aspect of this trip. Obviously I would wish not to see something like that because it was atrocity against humanity. I think that this is what every human should at least once in their lifetime see, simply because it’s a humbling experience. When you learn that you’re standing in front of the monument with the ashes of 80 thousand dead people - for many that’s completely impossible to comprehend. People were killed just for something they believed in, I think this is a lesson for us to learn from. When you go there, you see the gas chambers, cyclone B, the walls, wracks of shoes from people... there are no words for that. I personally think that this experience will make me visit other camps like this in the future, I think it is my personal duty, to try explore that and to make myself a better person through that.

Apart from that I do have an appreciation for Polish culture. Poland as a state didn’t exist for so long but Polish culture managed to survived even through all of that, through centuries of different political unrest.

Saying about the food, “pierogi” are delicious. I love the cuisine here. We even occasionally do some Polish food at home. I do definitely want to come back to Warsaw again. When I was here years ago nobody had an ipad, everything was different, the world has changed so much since then. It is actually genuinely impressive. This is definitely one of the friendliest countries I’ve ever visited and I do want to come back very much”.

CULTUREnews

Lublin beyond University

In the new year Lublin offers another range of inspiring cultural events. Despite the winter weather outside, it is worth going out of your warm nest and experience the city life.

The Centre for the Meetings of Culture is a place, in which everyone can find something for themselves. When we watch their schedule, we can find out, that lots of interesting concerts, performances, exhibitions and ballet shows await for us. The events which are worth seeing are: concerts of Kuba Badach, Lady Pank and Kult; theatre performances Weekend z R. and Pozytywni; exhibitions of Bohdan Butenka's posters and ballet shows "Swan Lake" and National Ballet of Georgia.



The Lublin Philharmonic, as a home of music culture, will develop us spiritually by inter alia Chopin's concerts (celebrating composer's birth) and an incredible event, which undoubtedly will be a 4th International Festival of Wieniawski Brothers.

In the Musical Theatre, a lot will be going on as usual. For the fans of Lucy Montgomery's books, the Theatre proposes participation in the musical "Anne of Green Gables". Also, the lovers of the Jewish culture will find something ("Fiddler on the Roof"), and those, who want to live an incredible fairy tale story ("Cinderella").

Don't forget to visit our Lublin cinemas! Cinema City in Plaza and Felicity, Multikino in Olimp and cinema "Bajka" constantly magnetize us with their fabulous repertoire.



ORGnews

Login:Lublin

The Rule of Law Institute Foundation in Lublin offers local foreigners a great opportunity – one card and a variety of discounts and special offers! You can use it to discover the city and feel settled in here for good with only three steps. To know more visit the official Login:Lublin website or Facebook.

Contact:

Rule of Law Institute Foundation

Chopina street 14/70

<http://loginlublin.pl/>

<https://www.facebook.com/lognlublin/>

Homo Faber Association

The Association stands up for those who feel helpless against the authorities, excluded or discriminated. Anyone suffering from any kind of pressure resulting in social, racial, ethnical, religious, sexual or political discrimination can find help there. The main aim of the team of lawyers and supporters is to make sure the government and public authorities do not violate rights and freedoms of the individuals

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LAWnews

Discrimination?

According to human rights standards in the world, equality is considered as a situation in which we all have equal rights but on the other hand, government helps a person who is in objectively worse situation to equally satisfy his/her basic needs and to respect his/her rights. Discrimination is irrational and disproportionate differentiation of people. This means that the person with the authority makes decisions about another person on the basis of his/her stereotypes and prejudices. In addition, the government is not able to justify the decision by reasonable arguments.

Stereotype/prejudice + government = discrimination

Discrimination can occur in different areas of our lives for example at work, at school or at the office. What can you do when you feel discriminated?

First, you can report the crime to the police or to the court. If you are not sure whether it is a discrimination, you can get a free legal advice in a number of different organizations and institutions, for example: University Legal Clinic KUL, Foundation Rule of Law Institute or the Homo Faber Association. Discriminatory treatment is illegal- do not be afraid to report it.



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