



Joint Action Health Workforce
Planning and Forecasting



DEDICATED TO
HUMANITY

Education of medical specialists in scientific, project and mobility skills - experience of Medical University in Plovdiv

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Main topics

- Introduction to Medical University-Plovdiv - basic facts and figures
- Educating medical specialists in MU-Plovdiv:
 - Enrollment in PhD programs and focus on KNOWLEDGE
 - Changing the mindset
 - Information, training and support in preparing educational, research and social projects. Edutainment?
 - Stimulation to participate in different mobility schemes abroad
 - Increasing English level proficiency
 - Establishment of Career Development Center
- Concluding remarks



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**MU-Plovdiv is situated in the most
picturesque Bulgarian town,
with romantic ancient part**





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Medical University-Plovdiv – basic facts and figures

- **State high school accredited by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency**
- **Founded in 1945**
- **More than 35 000 local and foreign students from Europe, Asia, America, Africa**
- **5 500 students (1 800 foreigners)**
- **720 academic teachers (210 professors)**
- **Training in Bulgarian and in English**
- **Master degrees (medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy and health management) and bachelor degrees**
- **127 PhD students**
- **Diplomas recognized by EC**



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The focus of academic activity in contemporary medical universities - *three missions:*

EDUCATION



MU-Plovdiv

Dedicated to humanity

RESEARCH

**PATIENT CARE &
COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



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Our Concept for Education, Research and Clinical Practice:



- **To bring academic system to patient care and create the basis to translational medicine**
- **To integrate them together**
- **To internationalize them and to increase mobility**



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Medical specialists (bachelors) in:

- Nursery
 - Midwifery
 - Health care
 - Pharmacy-assistance
 - Rehabilitation
 - Laboratory technicians
-
- Enroll in master degrees in the Faculty of Public Health and PhD programs for obtaining a doctorate in the field of public health
 - The outcome of PhD education is **KNOWLEDGE** – familiarity gained by experience



What we need is ...

KNOWLEDGE

- **Know how**
- **Know why**
- **Know what**
- **Know who**
- **Know where**
- **Know when**



- Procedures for how to accomplish the degree and other activities
- Strategic insight
- Facts and activities to complete a task
- Networks and communication
- Navigation and finding information to achieve the skills
- Sense of timing

Research solutions create **Critical mindset** and transform it to
Clinical/market share

Mindset – a set of beliefs or a way of thinking that determines one's behavior, outlook and mental attitude.

Strategic
Proven
Effective
Action orientated to
Knowledge



Changing the mindset

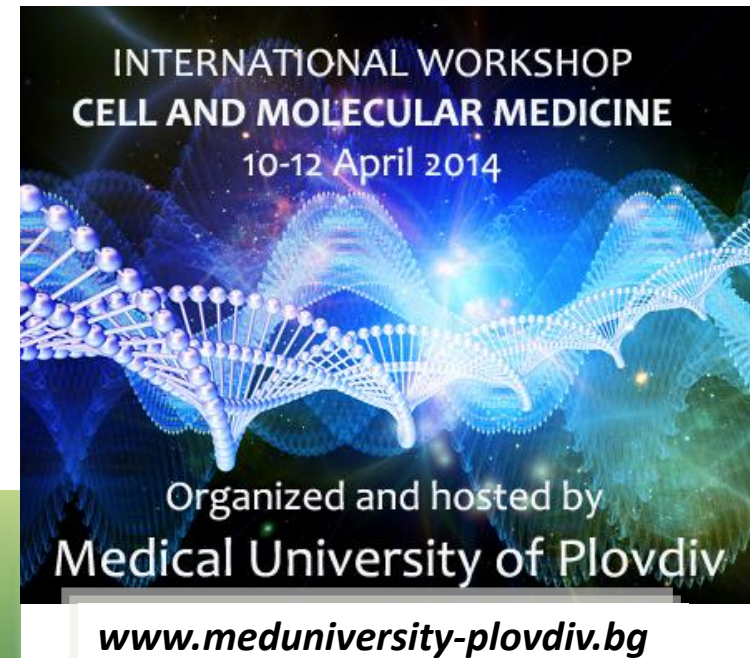
- DOCTORAL SCHOOL in MU-Plovdiv
 - 57 accredited doctoral programs, 12 in English
 - Practical seminars in small groups – *culture of critical thinking*
 - Monthly lectures by invited international and national scientists
- Inter- and multi-disciplinarity – intra-university project team
- Annual research project competition “Start of doctoral thesis”
- Youth Scientific Association “Asclepius”
- Annual competition “Science and Youth”

Target groups
Undergraduate students
PhD students
Young scientists



Changing the mindset

Annual Competition for best research presentation
Annual collection of peer reviewed papers





➤ Community thinking

➤ the University as a place of education and entertainment

➤ **EDUTAINMENT**
Researchers' Night



MU-Plovdiv activities to support medical specialists

- Enrollment in PhD programs
- Information, education and support in preparing educational, research and social projects
- Stimulation to participate in different mobility schemes abroad - Erasmus+ program and European Nurse Module (ENM) exchange
- Increasing English level proficiency
- Career Development Center

Information, education and support in preparing educational, research and social projects

Project activity at MU-Plovdiv develops at the *Project Center* - the place where

- Intra-university
- National and
- International projects

are designed, coordinated and controlled



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Focus on Erasmus+ and students' practice abroad

- **Bilateral Erasmus agreements** for academic exchange mobility with 96 universities from 22 countries
- **We participate in Erasmus+ with tendency to extend European contract to non-European as well**
- **Erasmus Nuclear Pharmacy Intensive Course:**
 - 57 participants (students and lecturers) from 9 countries
- **Other non- Erasmus academic agreements for education:** with medical universities and colleges from Israel (Hadassah), Ukraine (Zaporozhie), UK (London), Austria (Wien), Kazakhstan (Karaganda), USA (Tennessee), Japan (Nagasaki)



Bilateral MUP academic agreements with foreign universities

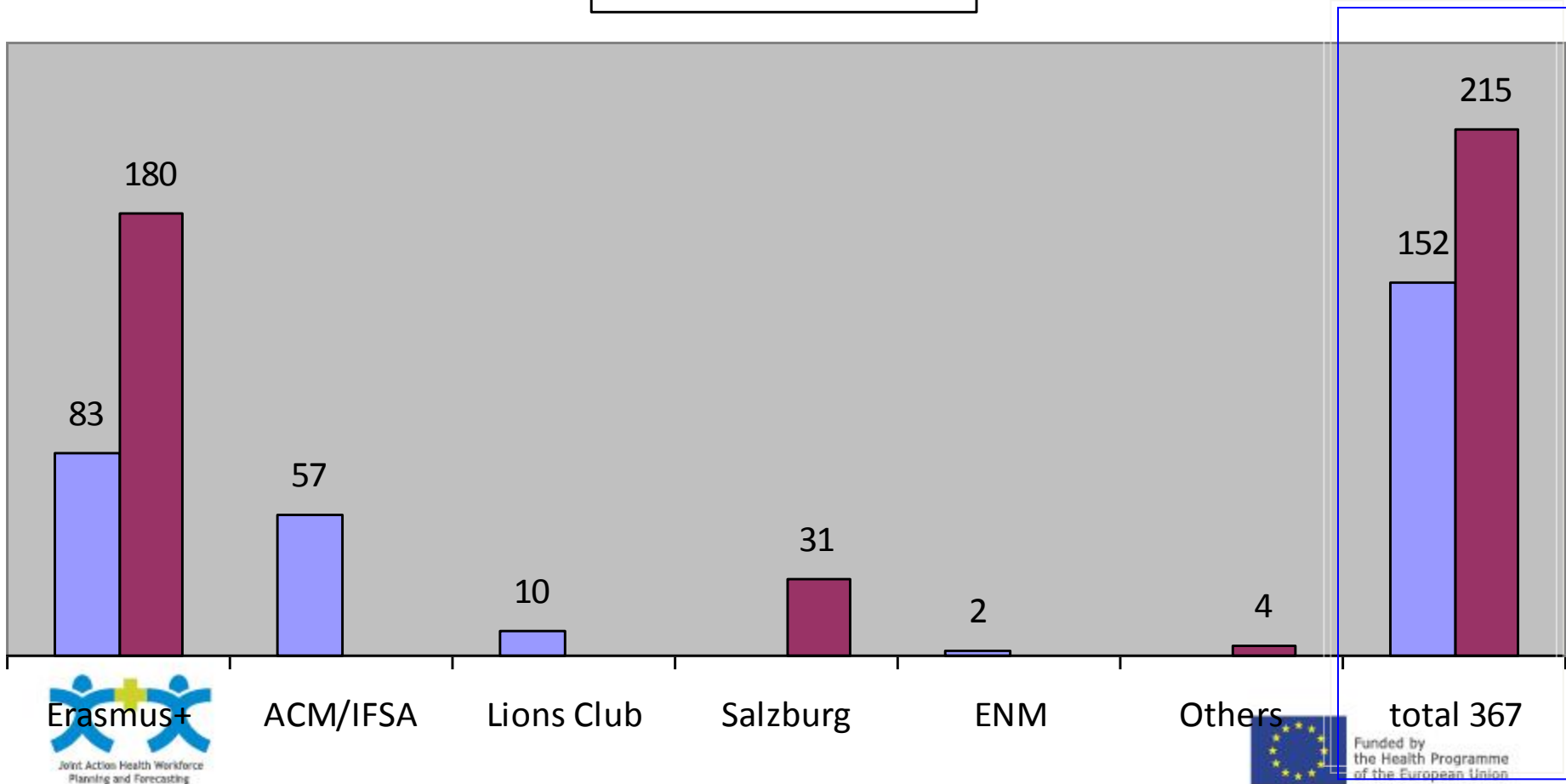
In Europe:	
-Erasmus	96
- non-Erasmus*	9
Outside Europe*	14
TOTAL	119



Academic agreements aim to establish systemic connections with leading foreign universities and are sources of methodic, project and qualification help

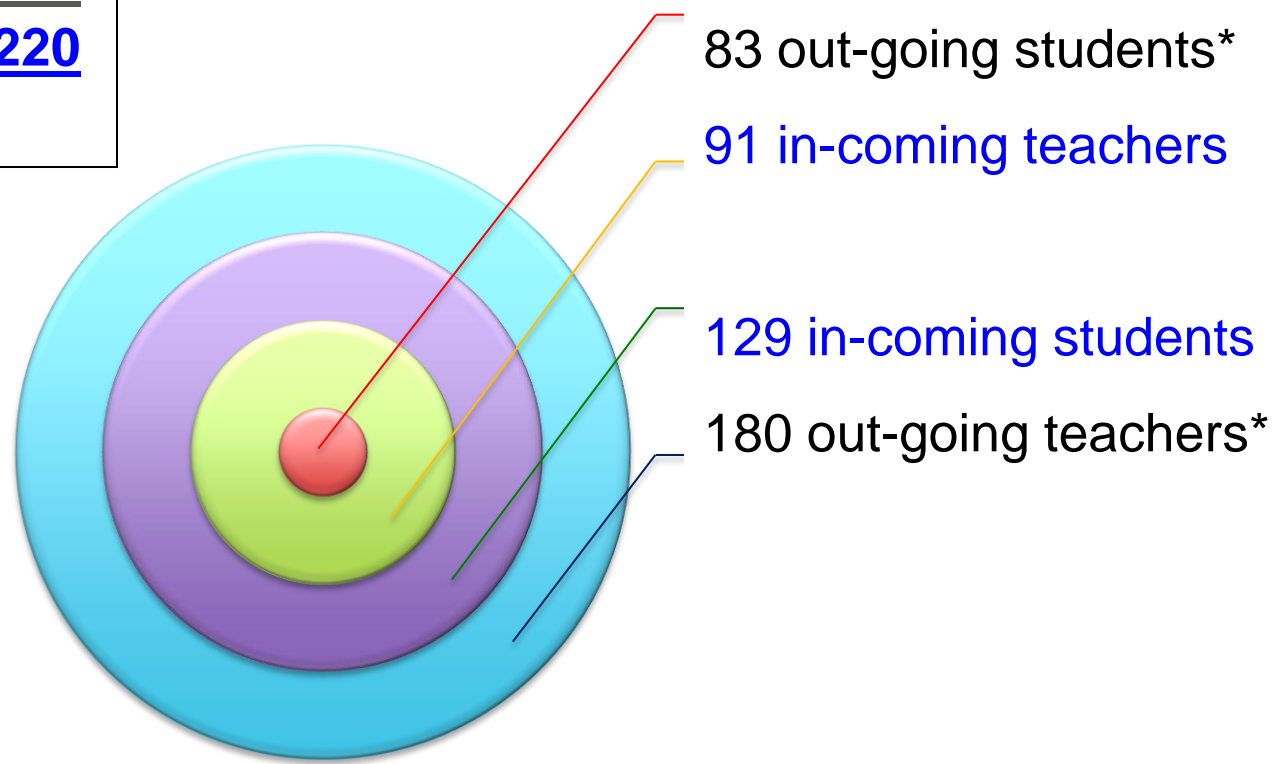
Out-going mobility in MUP (2011-2015) - total

Students Teachers



Erasmus mobility in MUP (2011-2015) - total

- **Out-going:** 263
- **Incoming:** 220



Erasmus out-going mobility in MUP (2011-2015) – medical specialists

- Students: 24
 - education - 4
 - practice - 20



Physiotherapists:	11
Nurses:	7
X-ray technicians:	4
Health (others):	2

- Teachers: 96
 - Training - 14
 - Teaching - 82



Nurses:	51
Midwives:	14
Physiotherapists:	11
X-ray technicians:	5
Assistant pharmacist:	5
Clinical lab technicians:	4
Health care management:	3
Dental technicians:	3

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English level proficiency

specialized language courses for PhD students and academic teachers



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Career Development Center

- facilitates and encourages students in their career development
- organizes presentations, meetings and communication between students and employers



- works on European programs for practice in foreign universities
- a decisive factor for professional orientation of students and successful implementation of the knowledge and skills they have acquired.



Concluding remarks

- There are problems in education of medical doctors and specialists regarding international mobility exchange - lack of good English proficiency and non-formal restrictions in Erasmus+ program*
- A complex approach of academic activities is necessary to stimulate competence and motivation of health care specialists - enrollment in PhD programs, enhancing mobility exchange, project involvement, edutainment...

Solutions for successful education in Medical Universities?

- 3 spoons competence



- 100 grams of team-work



- 100% responsibility



- A pinch of enthusiasm



- Generously served

