

# **The European Policy Statement of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics**

## **Institutional Profile**

The Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BUTE) is a teaching and research university, running undergraduate and graduate schools in all branches of engineering, mathematics, physics and economics. The campus is located in the capital city of Hungary. The historical buildings of the University was declared the part of World Heritage by the UNESCO in 1987.

The ancestor of BUTE was established in 1782 as Institutum Geometrico-Hydrotechnicum. Starting with Civil Engineering, the University continuously broadened its profile. In 1871 there were faculties for Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture and Chemical Engineering. In 1949 the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, in 1955 the Faculty of Transportation, in 1987 the Faculty of Natural and Social Sciences and in 1998 Faculty of Natural Sciences and Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences were established.

Today more than 110 departments and institutes operate within the structure of the eight faculties. About 150 full professors, 950 lecturers, 400 researchers and other degree holders, and numerous invited lecturers and practising expert specialists participate in education and research at BUTE. Approximately 600 of the university's 14600 students are from almost 50 countries abroad and about 800 of the students are PhD students. The BUTE issues about 70% of Hungary's engineering degrees.

## **International co-operation**

The BUTE is a member of the EUA (European Universities Association formerly: the Conference des Recteurs Européens (CRE)), member of the SEFI and the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAEER). BUTE hosts the Hungarian Committee of Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs (FEANI) and the Secretariat of the European Distance Education Network (EDEN). BUTE was invited to participate in the "Double Degree Program" (hosted by EC Paris). This means that students of BUTE, after studying both at home and at a foreign University, would receive a "double degree" from both Institutions.

The BUTE is one of the most important research centers in Hungary. The departments of BUTE were involved in 41 projects within the 5<sup>th</sup> RTD framework program of the EU (in 3 projects as coordinator).

## **Participation in the SOCRATES/ERASMUS programme**

Hungary and BUTE joined the SOCRATES/ERASMUS program since 1997, started this kind of co-operation in 1998 and has intensified student mobility and teacher exchange ever since:

### **Number of Bilateral Agreements**

1998/1999	40
1999/2000	56
2000/2001	88
2001/2002	114
2002/2003	129

In order to realise the SOCRATES/ERASMUS programme, a SOCRATES structure has been developed at the university. An institutional co-ordinator has been appointed by the Rector, and the faculties and the student organisations appointed the members to the SOCRATES Committee of the University. There are coordinators and committees also in Faculty level.

Participation in ERASMUS normally requires a balanced flow of students. BUTE thus has to attract as many foreign students as the number of students that BUTE wants to send abroad. BUTE has had difficulties in achieving the balanced flow, however thanks to the new strategy the balance was improved successfully:

#### Balance of the Student Mobility

	Outgoing students	Incoming students
1998/1999	49	13
1999/2000	104	42
2000/2001	119	65
2001/2002	113	92

#### **International Education**

The BUTE is proud to be a multi-lingual university. Several curricula are available in English, German and French. The English and French language courses cover all the faculties of the University, while the German language education is restricted to four faculties. The number of courses offered in English is 1179, in French is about 140 and in German is about 80. The student's requests for any courses can only be accommodated if the minimum number of students is met.

The education system of BUTE significantly changed in the last decade. The former fixed curricula has changed to an ECTS - compatible credit system in 1994. The faculties opened their doors for students from other faculties and universities, so the students of BUTE can now freely select their subjects and modules. This makes easy for them to study abroad, since the topics they study at other Universities can be accepted.

The complete English language Bulletin of BUTE with all the information regarding the education system and facilities of BUTE is available on the Internet at the following site :

<http://www.bme.hu>

The Bulletin describes all the programs and the courses conducted in English throughout the university's eight faculties. This information are updated annually. The number of courses offered by the Faculties in English according to the Bulletin 2002-2003 are as follows:

Faculty of Architecture: 104; Faculty of Chemical Engineering: 155; Faculty of Civil Engineering: 300; Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics: 270; Faculty of Mechanical Engineering: 118; Faculty of Natural Sciences: 62; Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences: 17; Faculty of Transportation Engineering: 153.

The International Education Center is responsible for the administrative functions connected with the Engineering Programs in foreign languages. The Orientation Program welcomes newly arrived students and introduces them to academic life at BUTE and to the details of studying and living in Hungary. Each student is assigned a personal adviser who assists the student in adapting both culturally and academically to the university environment.

The students of BUTE are very active in several international programs, like IAESTE or BEST, etc. The Student Centre and the Student Advisory Board help the incoming students to find accommodation and orientation, adapt to Hungarian life, etc.

#### **The European Policy**

BUTE participated in the Phare Multi-Country Programme in Higher Education, European Dimension of Institutional Quality Management Project (1999-2000). One of the key issues studied in the frame of the Programme was the European Policy Statement (EPS). A comprehensive strategic plan was developed, the EPS evaluated, revised and updated, based upon the information and experiences gained from the project-related activities.

Each of the Faculties of BUTE formulated its own European Strategy within their wider short and medium term developing plans which are included in the University's Medium Term Strategic Plan. In this way a realistic SOCRATES/ERASMUS application can be developed, which is based on an action plan for each Faculties with clear priorities and realistic objectives set for European activities, agreed by the staff of the Faculties.

BUTE used to have a stand on Information Markets organised in the frame of the Annual Conferences of the European Association for International Education and the representatives of BUTE have been taking part of the meetings of the EEPC (European Educational Programme Co-ordinators). The ideas the programme co-ordinators presented and examples of similar systems and their implementation in other universities gave useful ideas for elaboration and future implementation the SOCRATES/ERASMUS activities at BUTE.

BUTE has begun to realise the main goals of the Bologna Declaration. An Action Plan for the development and implementation of a policy for the Europeanisation and Internationalisation of teaching has been developed. The foremost objectives of this policy are to bring about an increase in the number of European students at BUTE and an increase in Hungarian student mobility. The Action Plan addresses the procedure for temporary or longer-term integration, the recognition of credits, the registration of student mobility, and also tutoring and supporting students.

### **Priorities for 2003/2004 – 2006/2007**

In this policy document, the University Senate sketches the outlines of the European Policy of BUTE based on its internationalisation and Europeanisation policy. The Senate considers internationalisation to be a great strategic importance to BUTE and especially the Europeanisation as Hungary in the next SOCRATES/ERASMUS period will join the European Union.

As BUTE's European policy is focusing on the improvement of the quality of education and research, and thereby to the university's reputation and image, it should be a structural component of all primary processes. In addition, it should focus on five priority areas:

1. European relations (with regard to education, research and administration)
2. The mobility of staff and students,
3. International accreditation
4. Courses taught in English, German and French (i.e. the development of international curricula)
5. Central and Eastern European relations

### **Strategic Options and the key points of BUTE's European policy to ensure high quality in student and staff mobility and in Erasmus co-operation projects**

- The internationalisation activities currently under way at the university are reviewed. On the basis of the current situation, new choices are made, and proposals are put forward for the improvement of the process of internationalisation. This means that the highest priority is attached to Europeanisation.
- BUTE wishes to prepare its students for an international career and improves the level and content of their curricula with an international dimension. The primary objective of the European Policy in educational terms is to improve the quality of education by giving students opportunities to become acquainted with other European cultures and educational systems.
- The quality of education at BUTE can be improved if the students and staff of BUTE spend some time at foreign universities, and by the temporary or long-term appointment and enrolment of foreign researchers, lecturers and students. There should be a considerable measure of staff and student mobility. It is only in this way that staff will achieve the broader professional horizons, and that students will gain knowledge and experience necessary for working in an international environment.
- Nowadays, too many students of BUTE still graduate without having had the benefit of a study period outside of national boundaries. At both undergraduate and graduate level, students should be encouraged to spend at least one semester in universities outside Hungary.
- The entire spectrum of activities will be placed within an international context, where English is used as the second official language.

- The use of English-language course materials will be stimulated as much as possible.
- The number of collaboration agreements made with foreign universities will be reduced. With a limited number of European partner institutes, the existing collaboration with regard to education and research will be intensified and extended by the development (also at a strategic level) of a common policy with regard to quality control, curriculum development, distance learning and the recruitment of international students.
- Those agreements with partner institutes that have led to limited practical results with regard to student exchanges should not automatically be extended. Discussions on this will take place with the faculties and the relevant partner institutions.
- Each department or faculty is free to conduct its own independent policy with regard to educational europeanisation. However, this policy has to be congruent with central BUTE policy.
- The partner EU institutes and the deployment of visiting European professors will act as a source of additional expertise, and will make it possible for students to gain experience of collaboration in an European context. Priority will be given to nominations of professors from selected partner institutes.
- The SOCRATES/ERASMUS Office and the institutional SOCRATES/ERASMUS committee will develop new and more efficient procedures for better co-ordination between all parties involved in the europeanisation policy, i.e. not only those at a central level, but also those at the level of the faculties.
- The integration of European students into student life in Budapest will be stimulated.
- Possibilities for attracting students from Central and Eastern European countries in the frame of CEEPUS programme will be given further examination.
- Discussions will take place with a number of foreign partner institutes on options for a joint ‘sandwich construction’ for the training of PhD. students.
- For the purpose of promoting BUTE, an English summary of BUTE’s most important research themes is compiled. This will be updated annually at a central level, and also published on the Internet.
- International experience is a factor that will be taken into account in the policy of staff appointment.
- Progressive harmonisation of the overall framework of degrees and cycles of BUTE will be achieved through making capital out of already existing experience, joint diplomas, pilot initiatives, and dialogue with all concerned.
- The budget of the ERASMUS program has a high priority, but BUTE also want to support the student and staff mobility from other sources. BUTE has a strategy to improve its activities to get more complementary funding in the future.