



Polish aid

IDEA



Evaluation for
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EVALUATION OF SELECTED INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED WITHIN POLAND'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION – SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR SPECIALISED EASTERN STUDIES AT THE CENTRE FOR EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

The objective of the study was to evaluate selected initiatives implemented within Polish development cooperation. The subject matter under analysis was the Scholarship Programme for students of Specialised Eastern Studies (SES) at the University of Warsaw (UW), conducted at the Centre for East European Studies (CEES).

The project is aimed at candidates from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Most initiatives are implemented within the framework of a two-year MA study course.

The scholarship programme comprises various initiatives of academic and educational nature. Their objective is to create a group of educated and competent "leaders of change" in the countries covered by the initiative. Having acquired knowledge of history and processes occurring in Eastern European states, the programme graduates are prepared to actively participate in building the future of the region.

"What the Vatican is to Catholics, the SES is to academics of the post-Soviet region. At the SES, we learn a different way of thinking; we initiate other interesting projects, and simply get to know each other"
Programme Graduate

The evaluation covered the results and effects of initiatives taken in 2013. When analysing the context, consideration was also given to earlier initiatives, as well as to selected current initiatives within the programme of Specialised Eastern Studies at the University of Warsaw.

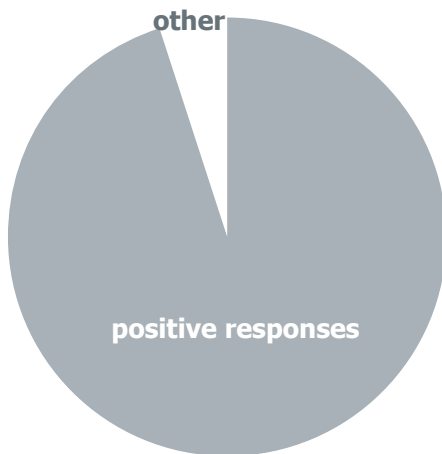
The point of reference in the study was the evaluation criteria of relevance, sustainability, effectiveness, efficiency, and utility of intervention.

The evaluation was based on a compilation of multiple research methods and techniques. These included desk research, in-depth interviews, CAWI survey, expert panel, SWOT/TOWS analysis, case studies, focus groups, and bulletin board discussion.

What is your assessment of the opportunities for academic or professional development after graduation from Eastern Studies?



How did the study curriculum of Eastern Studies contribute / has contributed to expanding your knowledge of processes occurring in Poland and the region?

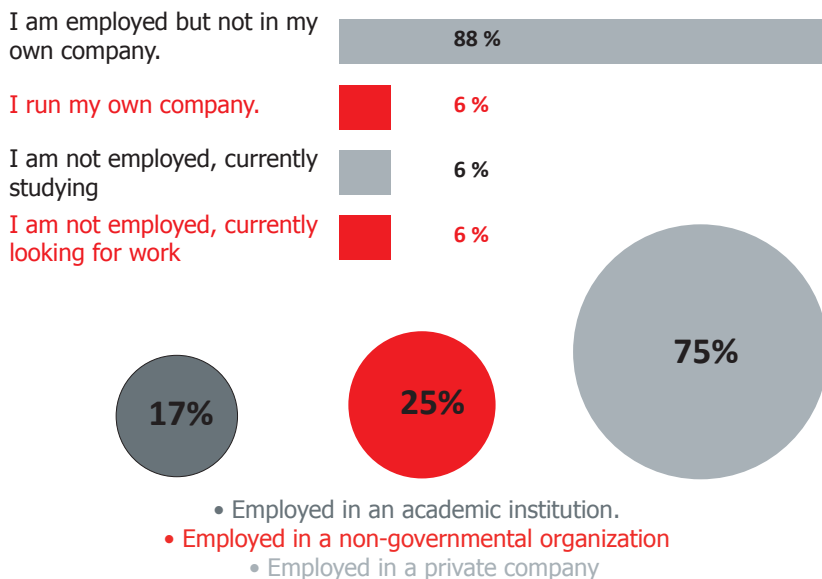


“SES helps to build the image of Poland as a friendly country fostering the development of young people”

Programme Graduate

The general assessment of the implementation of the Scholarship Programme for students of Specialised Eastern Studies at the UW is positive. It meets the actual needs of the beneficiaries. Graduates continue or have begun their academic and professional careers, thus proving the initiative's sustainable nature. The Programme prepares "leaders of change" in the scholars' home countries. One notable result of the Programme, although not yet fully used, is a network of several hundred graduates. They are frequently members of the intellectual elite. As such, they can have a significant influence on the changes occurring in their countries. They also contribute to promoting a positive image of Poland.

Employment of graduates of SES UW



Source: CAWI survey, graduates only. The results do not total 100% as respondents could give multiple answers.

One of the greatest strengths of the initiative is the powerful, recognisable brand of the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw as well as the Specialised East Studies scholarship programme itself that took years to build. The programme has won high renown in the potential beneficiaries' countries of origin. Its strong point is the high quality of its educational offer with an interesting programme relevant to educational needs and instructed by experienced staff.

The Programme is implemented in an efficient manner. Nonetheless certain changes with regards to the method and scope of its operation are possible. One of the main areas requiring modification could be its management, specifically an optimisation of the scope of initiatives taken within the programme and a systematisation of cooperation with graduates. The lack of systematisation with respect to this activity results in, among other things, underusing the potential of scholars. A properly organised cooperation with former scholars could contribute to a substantial enhancement of the quality of the Specialised East Studies programme.

The key recommendations of the study identify the following requirements:

- performing an analysis of the project objectives, followed by an optimisation of its scope and method of implementation,
- building a comprehensive system of cooperation with the scholarship programme graduates,
- introduction of a cyclical survey of educational needs and career plans.

The Specialised Eastern Studies programme adequately addresses the needs of its beneficiaries and has opportunities for further development. However, the recommendations formulated in the evaluation study should be introduced.

The full version of the report is available at:
www.polskapomoc.gov.pl

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