

Lviv Polytechnics as Mother of Polish Technical Universities

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The first technical institution on the territory that now belongs to Ukraine was opened on 4.11.1844 in Lviv. It was the Emperor's-Royal Technical Academy (Kaiser-Koenigliche Technische Akademie in Lemberg) located in so called Darowski House at Armenian street 2. This three years school had at the beginning only the technical and the trade departments. The lectures were given in German. However just before 1948 (Spring of Nations) the six Chairs were founded: mathematics, physics, mechanics, chemistry, civil engineering and geodesy. The school was extended in 1847 to four years and had at that time only 21 teachers and 220 students (98 Polish, 50 Jews, 48 Austrians or Germans, 19 Ukrainians (so called Ruthenians), 4 Czechs and 2 Hungarians).

After the lost war with Prussia in 1866, the Habsburg monarchy was transformed in a dual parliament Austrian-Hungarian monarchy. Galicia got the autonomy in 1867 and Polish language was introduced in judicature, school system and administration. Other technical schools in the Habsburg state were modernized in four Faculty Polytechnics: Prague in 1863, Graz in 1864, Vienna in 1865, and Brno in 1867. The territory in Lvov close to Saint Maria Magdalena church was bought from Maria Fredry in 1872 (today Stepan Bandera street). Architect Julian Zachariewicz proposed the main building plan of new Polytechnics inspired by Technical University in Munich in 1873. Docent Roman Gostkowski gave the first public lecture on 7.10.1877 in the big hall of finished main building about the Alexander Bell's discovery – the telephone. Julian Zachariewicz became the first Rector of new Polytechnics and the Emperor Franz Josef gave him the Nobleman's title with the Surname "from Lion's city".

The Civic Committee started to collect money for the planned Warsaw Polytechnics with Polish lecture language. However, the Russian Authority changed its promise and declared the organization of Russian Tsar Nikolai II State Technical University in 1898. The first lecture started in 1901. The young Polish people boycotted this Russian Polytechnics and went abroad to study in Austrian Lemberg, Darmstadt, Berlin or Paris. Tsar Nikolai II Polytechnics was evacuated to the East before the Warsaw was occupied by German troops in 1915. Finally, on 15. 11. 1915 the Polish Warsaw Polytechnics was opened in the building of Physics. In the beautiful main building of the Russian Technical University the German Army opened the hospital. The staff of new University was organized with a strong support from Lviv. To the most famous scientist who moved to Warsaw from Lviv belonged chemist Ignacy Moscicki, the later President of Poland or Kazimierz Drebnowski, the first Professor of high voltage engineering in Poland. Also the opened on 20.10.1919 by Josef Pilsudski the Mining and Metallurgic Academy (AGH) in Krakow got a help from the older sister from Lviv.

After the WW II the Polish professors of Lviv Polytechnics who survived the dramatic years 1939 – 1945 went to Gliwice (e.g. Prof. Stanislaw Fryze), to Wroclaw (e. g. Prof. Kazimierz Idaszewski), or to Gdansk or Warsaw. Therefore, the Lviv Polytechnics is called as Mather of Polish Technical Universities.