

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The idea of our institution is to participate and collaborate in various European projects. Besides being a vocational training centre, we also have a secondary education curriculum. So, we have participated in Comenius common projects in which we have acted as coordinators. Students of all levels, including vocational training, as well as teachers have been involved in them. We have requested a new Comenius project for the next few years, which is pending approval.

Regarding Erasmus mobility, one of our main goals is to reach inter-institutional agreements with schools in other countries to cooperate and have staff mobility. This would allow us to modernize our centre in the sense of improving the training of our teachers and, also, to offer those students that, for some reason, cannot get involved in student mobility the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of academic staff from other European countries. Besides, these collaborative relationships will help us to exchange students for internships because we would provide internships for students of the foreign institutions in companies located in Spain. In the same way, these institutions could help us to find companies for our own students in their countries. The way to choose these centres is determined by the preferred destination of the teacher who wants to take part in a mobility or by the type of teachings of a specific centre.

Another of our main ideas is to expand the number of companies abroad where we can send our students. The goal is to have a broad portfolio of contacts in as many countries as possible in order to offer our students the opportunity to go to a different country for the last module of their studies, which is "Training in the workplace." In principle, any company in the IT sector which is dedicated to web application development or systems and network administration could be a candidate to participate in our training program. Any other companies not belonging directly to the IT sector but having a large IT department could also be selected.

For finding these companies, we use all available resources. We started with the contacts we have with companies in Spain, in order to locate and get in touch with their headquarters or branches in different countries. Also, we have resorted to international chambers of commerce in order to locate companies that we considered suitable and contacted them via e-mail. Finally, we have also searched the Internet to locate businesses in a particular country.

Regarding geographic areas we do not have any restrictions. Any of the 27 member states of the European Union can be the target destination of one of our students if we find a company that meets the requirements to perform the practice. The main objectives we seek to achieve are to train our students in the abilities that Europe needs by allowing them to have well-trained teachers and giving them the opportunity to stay for a period of time in a company in another Member State, which will help them to acquire a number of specific skills and understand the economic and social development, while gaining work experience. Moreover, in order to facilitate their incorporation into the labour market. In addition, beneficiaries will have an opportunity to develop second-language knowledge and learn about other cultures and ways of life. This last idea is also extended to staff mobility, that will also allow teachers to exchange experience on pedagogical methods.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Our organization of international cooperation projects has focused primarily on the coordination of a Comenius project (Multilateral Partnerships) during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 course. The title was "Viae Vini" and distinct institutions in Italy, France, Belgium and Portugal participated. In the development of this project, a large majority of teachers, Secondary Education students, Bachelor students and Vocational Training students were involved.

Nowadays, we have requested the coordination of a second project, "The Cinema, window of our culture". In this time, if the project is approved, we will work with schools in Turkey, Poland, France, Belgium, Italy and Portugal.

In parallel and in order to enhance communication and student participation in that project, we requested the assistance of a Comenius Assistant in English for the course 2013/2014.

Finally, the center participates in an E-Twinning project with an institute of Portugal, under the project entitled "New Times, New Challenges".

Our motivation to participate in European projects is very high, and we are very interested in offering the opportunity to participate in them to our students and teachers, either through Erasmus mobilities or through Comenius project.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

By participating in the Erasmus program, our institution seeks to adapt to the modernization agenda as follows:

Facilitating the exchange of expertise and experience on pedagogical methods, encouraging the mobility of teachers.

Bringing the knowledge and expertise of academic staff from higher education institutions in other European countries, to students who, for whatever reason, cannot participate in mobility.

Increasing the number of students who complete their studies successfully. In addition to performing for them a thorough orientation program, to invite them to continue with graduate studies, once they finish vocational training, thus providing the graduates and researchers that Europe needs.

Strengthening the links between education, training and the world of work in any EU country.

Supporting the internationalization of European higher education by encouraging students to take the practical module in any of the member countries. This will allow them to get to know other working environments and to master other languages, which is a fundamental need in finding a job in another country. In this way, our students will expand their potential job offers.

Convincing students that internships in another country are an important mechanism for matching the skills they have achieved in their studies with the needs of the international labour market, and to enhance their personal development.

Using the necessary time to inform about the European Qualifications Framework, and to recognize and capture the experience of students who have already taken mobility for working practices in other countries. Within this line, to inform students about Europass Supplements to their degree, to help them define their career profile, and thus to seek work in other countries. Acknowledge the participation of students in the program by applying for the Europass document.

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)