

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy 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 Institut Esteve Terradas is committed to the modernisation and internationalisation of its educational offer (course catalogue), by participating in the mobility activities of the Erasmus Programme, thus enhancing the quality of its vocational training, the linguistic and transcultural competences of its students and academic staff, as a means to support mobility, and to increase employability, inasmuch as this favours social coherence.

The school board of directors will promote to the greatest possible extent:

- The mobility of its vocational training students, offering them the possibility to complete a vocational traineeship abroad in enterprises of other European countries.
- The participation of its academic staff in innovation, exchange, entrepreneurship and cooperation programmes with other higher education institutions or European enterprises aimed at improving curricular, organizational, pedagogical and methodological aspects of teaching.
- The participation of the school board of directors in European programmes for the purpose of analysing and sharing management and organization experiences in the field of the different educational systems and vocational training.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.Reinforce the quality of its training programmes by promoting the mobility and transnational cooperation of the students and academic staff.
- 2.Secure the social recognition of vocational training.
- 3.Increase the academic achievement and professional skills of its graduates.
- 4.Strengthen the relationship between education, innovation and business.
- 5.Improve governance and funding.

OVERALL STRATEGY

- Increase the number of traineeships mobility students, by submitting projects to the National Agency, and also by taking part in the programs of the Regional Ministry of Education (Catalonia).
- Increase the number of groups involved in mobility.
- Recognize satisfactorily completed activities of mobility, and inclusion in the final record of student achievements, in terms of credits awarded (ECTS), as equivalent to the Spanish traineeship (work placement) “módulo de Formación en Centros de Trabajo (ECTS)”. International Diploma Supplement or equivalent, signed by the home institution, the intermediary, and the enterprise.
- Online, external, diffusion of the experiences and results.
- Institutional recognition of students and teachers involved in the Erasmus programme.
- Full respect for the principles of non-discrimination set out in the Programme and equal access and opportunities to mobile participants (students and teachers) from all backgrounds.
- Selection of partners and businesses from other European countries that contribute with different and innovative aspects in comparison to local businesses.
- Fulfilment of innovative projects and transference of technology with transnational partners.
- Implementation of visits to educational centres of international relevance, to study their management and governance system.

SELECTION OF PARTNERS

The Institute Esteve Terradas selects their partners in different ways:

- Through contacts made by the teachers of the team of international programs:
 - The school receives a request for a visit from a foreign school. The offer is taken into consideration and if it is in the school's best interest, the school will be notified in order to prepare the visit.
 - The school contacts other schools of similar characteristics and asks if they are interested in exchange programmes.
 - The school contacts the partners and businesses with which the school has already participated in previous International programs.
- Through the agreements established by the Regional Ministry of Education (Catalonia).

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

From 2008-2009 the school has participated in International programmes with European schools in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Turkey. The reasons for participating in joint projects with these countries are diverse: Institutional agreements with the Catalan government, agreements to favour the mobility and exchange of students and teachers or interest in similar fields. In all these countries most of the population speaks English as a second language, which makes the mobility of our students much easier. Currently, we are planning to consolidate these relations and extend them to other European countries, such as Germany. Due to the great necessity of technicians in this country it is nowadays a very interesting destination for all fields of technical specialities.

MOBILITY TARGET GROUP:

STUDENTS

Our mobility target group is post-obligatory education students, basically vocational students.

BOARD OF TEACHERS AND DIRECTORS

We have extended the Erasmus+ mobility to teachers, with the purpose of exchanging professional experiences with other schools and enterprises. In a similar manner, the study and contrast of different educational systems and school managements will be favoured.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme.

If not applicable, please explain (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Our institution's strategy for the implementation of international cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme includes participation in projects with other European schools and institutions. Participation, through the Regional Ministry of Education, can be addressed both to students and staff.

Possible fields for international cooperation are:

- Collaboration with enterprises.
- Exchange of teaching experience.
- Exchange of innovative and inclusion practices.
- Exploit the potential of ICTs.
- Dual vocational training in Europe.
- Entrepreneurship.
- Reduction of drop-outs.
- Improve mechanisms of support to quality management and excellence.

In general, all types of cooperation leading to knowledge alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises promoting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering relevant learning opportunities.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda *and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.(max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

The growth of the internationalization of our institution will have a strong impact on quality, affecting the 5 following key areas:

1. TO INCREASE ATTAINMENT LEVELS:

- Increase the number of students who successfully complete secondary education.
- Improve the foreign language skills of our students and staff.
- Improve transversal competences.
- Increase e-skills.
- Provide students with better information on opportunities, so they can have a better career prospect.
- Provide students with the knowledge and competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations.
- Attract a broader cross-section of society into higher education, including disadvantaged groups.
- Tackle stereotyping and dismantle the barriers still faced by women in reaching the highest levels in education.
- Reduce drop-out rates.
- Develop clear progression routes from vocational education into higher education.
- Produce more researchers, to prepare the ground for the industries of tomorrow.
- Reinforce Europe's capacity to benefit from globalization.
- Sustain the European social model.

2. TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND RELEVANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

- Expand student numbers.
- Exploit the potential of ICTs, increasing the use of virtual learning platforms.
- Improve professional capacities.
- Improve research and innovation.
- Improve the motivation and competence of students and staff.
- Encourage a greater variety of study modes (e.g. part-time, distance and modular learning, continuing education for adult returners and others already in the labour market).
- Support staff exchanges.
- Provide better recognition of teaching and excellence.
- Include practical experience in courses to attune curricula to current and emerging labour market needs.
- Foster employability and entrepreneurship.

3. TO PROMOTE MOBILITY AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION.

- Increase the proportion of students completing a study or training period abroad.
- Build learning mobility more systematically into curricula.
- Recognize credits gained abroad efficiently.
- Improve access, employment conditions and progression opportunities for students.
- Enhance sensitivity and understanding of other cultures.

4. TO LINK HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH AND BUSINESS.

- Strengthen the knowledge triangle between education, research and business.
- Integrate research results and innovative practice into the educational offer.
- Stimulate the development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills in all disciplines.
- Provide interactive learning environments.

5. TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING.

- Improve the mechanisms which support quality management and excellence.
- Maximise the value of resources.
- Improve professional management, strategic vision and leadership.

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