

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

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]

We would like to continue participating in Erasmus activities to give our students the opportunity to open to the general European framework. We believe that it is a priority for our institution, in order to promote the exchange of experiences, cooperation and mobility of the European systems.

We choose our partners paying particular attention to the quality of the compromise. We have been sending students to the same area in Germany for the last five years and the host organizations value our effort in choosing the proper students to get the most of the experience. The possibility of finding a job in the host country is very important to us, due to the economical situation of our country, and the high rate of unemployment, we focus on that, and in fact, we have students that are working in host organizations right now. Therefore we are trying to choose our partners taking into account the possibility of future job offers for our students.

We really value the level of development and technological advance of our partners and host organizations, because the relationship between the Vocational training school and the enterprises should be a priority nowadays, as a counterpart we offer well prepared students ready for a quick incorporation to the productive system.

Our main objectives are the following:

Promote the mobility of our students and teaching staff throughout Europe and cooperate with European counterpart Institutions in Higher Education.

Encourage the access to new professional, working, cultural and linguistic knowledge for both teachers and students.

Increase the degree of transparency and compatibility between Higher Education and Advance Vocational Education qualification in Europe.

Improve the quality and increase the cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises and to favour the international working nets.

Facilitate the development of innovative practices in education and training from one participating country to others.

Support the development of innovative service pedagogies and practice for lifelong learning.

We would like to continue with the same number of mobilities we did until now, between 4 and 6 per year,

For the next year, we would really appreciate the incorporation to the programme of our new academic families that we have introduced in our school this year.

We do not consider to go further in the number of mobilities because, in terms of logistics and effort of the staff involved, it is really hard to organize everything properly and preserve the quality of the host organizations.

Our priorities will be the following:

Improve the quality and attractiveness of vocational training among students and enterprises through education in other European countries.

Promote creativity, competitiveness and employability.

Encourage cooperation between institutions and enrich the educational environment of host institutions.

Raise interest in Lifelong Learning.

Promote the feeling of European citizenship and a free mobility among the participants.

Enable students to benefit educationally, linguistically and culturally from the experience in other European countries.

Contribute to the development of a pool of well-qualified, open minded and internationally experienced young people as future professionals.

Learn about other educational and training systems in Europe as well as work markets. Increase the motivation of the educational community.

To participate as part of the globalization chain in the elimination of sex, race, religion, physical disability, cultural and linguistic differences.

Gender equality, integration of disabled people, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating xenophobia and racism are highly respected and promoted through many activities into our institution. We pay special attention to ensure the participation of disabled people providing special facilities according to their specific needs.

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]

We would like to start an international cooperation project with institutions of the area where we have sent our students in the last years. We will use our contacts and mentoring to elaborate a project focused on three basic pillars:

1º Our country is implementing the Dual System for vocational training education, and our institution would need as much information as possible in order to adapt the new system gradually, therefore the help and advice of experts in the enforcement of this system could be very useful.

2º Sadly our country is suffering from a serious economical crisis, and employability is a priority for our students. We could create a frame of cooperation with a country of the UE that needs skilled workforce. In addition, we could improve the quality of assistance to our students in the hard way to find a job abroad.

On the other side, we could understand the needs of foreign enterprises better and establish a fluent communication with them.

3º Implementation of new technologies related to the specialties we teach in our school.

According to that, we would like to receive formation about the new technical advances from teachers or enterprises in order to improve the quality of our knowledge and to apply it to the teaching. That way we could provide the best formation to the students so that they can compete on equal opportunities.

4º For all the above explanations we need to improve the level of foreign languages and we will develop a strategy to do it. We will collaborate with the Official Language School of Ribadeo so as to prepare some kind of adapted courses and we will use online tools too.

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]

We expect to achieve the following goals:

1° Increasing attainment levels to provide the skilled workforce Europe needs.

The CIFP Porta da Auga belongs to the net of Integrated Centres of Vocational Training of Galicia, that means having additional competences to create close links with the needs of the enterprises, we offer courses to adults, and we develop procedures for recognising learning and experience gained outside formal education and training. We have an specific Department of Information and guidance in our structure, so that we can inform the students properly about the choices they have and reduce the drop out. Therefore we are pretty aware of the importance of the implementation of the European Qualifications Framework and Longlife Learning Programs.

The Erasmus programme is directly linked with all the above mentioned and it is a very important tool in the development of our objectives.

2° Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

Our school has a responsible person for coordinating the innovation and teacher training, this allows us to do courses aimed at the teachers' needs, and to establish a direct link with enterprises of the sector, tranfering the knowledge and the new technologies to the school.

Through the Department of Information and guidance our students have updated news about the labour market and the active labour market policies.

The Erasmus programme allows us to compare the different systems in the UE, therefore we can be conscious of our strengths and weaknesses, to share the first and improve the second.

3° Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation.

The mobilities in our school are incorporated to the Annual plan, and we consider the Erasmus programme as an important part of our educational offer.

We supply full recognition of credits gained abroad through the use of ECTS and Diploma Supplement in close relationship with the European Qualifications Framework.

4° Making the knowledge triangle work: Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.

We consider the Erasmus programme as a wonderful means of knowledge-transfer. Our students work in workshops which are in avant garde of technology implementation. In addition, it is a very good opportunity for the staff involved in the programme to compare, share experience, documentation etc.

A further step could be taken with a Cooperation Project, that way we could collaborate closely with regional institutions and value all these experiences, reducing the administrative barriers to improve a fluent collaboration.

5° Improving governance and funding.

Our School has an ISO 9001 certificate, this provides useful tools to optimize the resources and transparency.

The Erasmus Programme provides extra funding that allows us to encourage the students to do the mobilities.

The final report of our Erasmus mobilities 2011-12 was considered as positive by our national agency.

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