

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Participation in Erasmus+

We are planning our participation in Erasmus + programme in the type of Erasmus + activities Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals: Mobility project for higher education students and staff.

IES Politécnico started with the Erasmus adventure in 2008 so our history is long.

We seek to promote the student mobility at short cycle level between participating countries for studies and/or traineeships in European companies. Therefore, we encourage the students from our three study areas; Chemistry, Security and Environment and Electricity and Electronics, to participate in a mobility programme to any of the European countries participating in this international European scheme. We focus on Europe because we intend to raise awareness of the importance of being part of the European Union, whose policies and programmes play a major role in our lives. Besides, it goes without saying that the Canaries is tourist hub and most of our foreign visitor come from Europe. Being tourism the main source of income of our economy, it is a must for our students to get to know and acquire a comprehensive understanding of our European neighbours.

On the other hand, right now our Local Government is promoting innovation and the settlement of new companies in certain market areas in order to develop other sectors in our economy such as the industrial sector. This fact is connected to our programme since during their internship, our students will enjoy the opportunity of observing and working in different foreign companies so that they can learn from their know-how then they can put into practice their acquired knowledge here on the Canary Islands. For instance, they may help these companies to set up a branch of their host company here. Also, their stay abroad might contribute to encourage them open their own business.

Needless to say, this mobility programme to or from those countries of students and staff (teachers or expert workers) can become a key element to their studies also giving them greater chances to find their first job. Furthermore, we intend to show the new students the experiences that previous Erasmus students enjoyed. Our aim is to spread the core ideas of this international programme to as many students as possible. This part of the publicity policy of the Programme has proved to be an extra motivation for them, contributing to reduce the dropout rate.

For the same reasons and objectives, we will also continue supporting the mobility of academic and non-academic staff from and to other relevant organizations or companies in participating countries to teach and/or to be trained, especially oriented towards put into practice the argument treated in their lessons or competences. Thus, our target groups are students, teachers and administrative staff, and the most important objectives we pursue are to give students the opportunity to expand their working possibilities either to find jobs in other European countries as well as to return home with broader capacities and tools, such as foreign languages or new pioneering working methods. As for the staff, the main objective is to learn other new methodology and techniques and tools in order to apply them for the benefit of the students.

Our institution is doing their best to reach out to students from underrepresented groups such as immigrants and to 'nontraditional' learners, including mature students (we have several students coming especially from Latin-American countries and many mature students, especially nowadays when a high number of unemployed people are coming back to studies looking for new qualifications to find a job). On this front, we follow an equal opportunities policy, giving all applicants -with the appropriate academic level to enter the Short cycles- the same chance to get a place in our institution. Through our webpage we provide transparent information on educational opportunities and outcomes from our studies as well as personal tailored guidance aiming to reduce drop-out to a minimum. Besides, we encourage the participation of students from lower income backgrounds in the Erasmus programme, facilitating them the access complementary financial grants from other local and national institutions in case they are selected to take part in the programme.

The selection criteria are clearly present in our website and are in accordance with the Erasmus Charter guidelines.

In order to guarantee a well preparation for the activities abroad of the outgoing participant, including blending mobility, we promote the use of the OLS tool. The participants should have a minimum level of the host country (usually B1, if different we inform the participant). If they need an extra course, we provide it. The proficiency level is defined in the Learning agreement. We indicate the level adequate for each mobility in the semester directly before the mobility takes place. We allow beneficiaries to learn the secondary language that will be used in the host country.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Our strategies and correlating objectives and their impact on our school and other agents involved are mainly:

1 **Improve and strengthen the relationship between our institution and the foreign and local labour market.**

Objectives:

- a **Internationalization of local companies.** We will try to foster the local companies' participation in the Programme by receiving European students willing to carry out their internships here. In order to achieve this objective we intend to involve the different coordinators of internship students in local companies (FCT-formation in working centers-tutors).

Impact: The receiving local enterprise will obtain new ideas from the European students and will open new channels of communication and development with the sending country and partners. Timeline; 2021 (0 student incoming) 2022 (1) to 2027 (5)

- b **Increasing the number and quality of international relationships between companies and educational institutions. We have new formative courses, so we need new European contacts in different sectors.**

Impact: Having a higher number of agreements with foreign companies and foreign educational institutions will increase students' and teachers' participation. We want to have at least two agreements for each short cycle in 2025

2 **Incorporate innovative practices in our educational system.**

Objectives:

- a **Modernization of our educational methodology.** Those teachers who take part in a mobility programme will attend theoretical and practical courses and visit companies. Consequently, they will obtain new knowledge and new ideas to share with their colleagues and their students. We intend to organize meetings and workshops in which the members of the staff who have enjoyed stays abroad share the skills, European values, knowledge and innovative practices they have been exposed to during their stay. The idea, therefore, is to acquire innovative procedures and methods. This way we also spread visibility of this mobility programme to whole departments within our school.

Impact: Increase the quality of teaching

- b **Internationalization the educational offer by establish relationship with European partners.** We plan to have intercultural-classes and event to share projects and information with other similar schools. We will get involve more members of the community not only who enjoy a mobility period or work in the programme.

Impact: More and better information access and more availability for the internationalization of the courses and the relationships. An initial preparation for the student before his mobility and an extra encouragement to apply for the grant.

3 **To increase the number of student and staff mobilities.**

Objectives:

- a **To give the opportunity of an abroad experience to more persons.** Each year (except for the years affected by the pandemic) we have had more applicants than places available. Over time we have increased the number of mobilities. In the 2020 project we had twelve students mobilities, five staff mobility for training and three for teaching.

Impact: As for students, they have increased their chances of finding a good job in Europe, by improving their level of foreign languages and their ability to connect with other European citizens and institutions.

As for our educational institution, we have increased the quality of our teaching method and contents and getting more European contacts and bonds

Timeline: 2022(13)-2027(15)

- b **To internationalize our school.** For the next academic year, we are planning to receive a group of students from Portugal so that they can spend a month studying with us. This and other ideas like to get a partnership for cooperation, Action 2, an experience that we already

carried out in 2019-2021 (with two projects Ka229), will make our school more international. We are changing our Erasmus area on the website so that it is more user-friendly and accessible for foreign students and foreign teachers who may be interested in our institution. We have in program offer a bilingual website.

4 To work hardly in inclusion and diversity.

Objectives:

- a **Reaching out to school students from underrepresented groups** such as immigrants and to 'nontraditional' learners, including mature students. Our institution also defends transparency when it comes to selecting candidates. In addition, we help those students with special needs or financial difficulties by supporting and encouraging everyone to apply for the different grants available
- b **By following an equal opportunities policy, giving all applicants** -with the appropriate academic level to enter the Short cycles- **the same chance to get a place in our institution.** We provide personally and through our webpage transparent information on educational opportunities and outcomes from our studies, and tailored guidance aiming to reduce drop-out to a minimum. Besides, we encourage the participation of students from lower income backgrounds **in the Erasmus programme**, facilitating them the access to complementary financial sources from other local and national institutions in case they pass the selection procedure.
Timeline: 2021 (1)-2027(3)
- c **Providing a different mobility experience to people that cannot enjoy a stay abroad.** Blending mobility, hosting professionals and students from other countries.
Impact: the Erasmus Programme will be extended to the entire educational community.
Timeline: 2021 (0) 2022 (1) 2023 (2) 2024-2027(3)

A last and important objective that involves all the strategies is to get all the educational community involved in the Erasmus Programme. We strongly believe that every member of the staff and every student can contribute positively towards the good development of the Programme.

Indicators

Internationalization of local companies: At the end of each academic year, we will create a survey for our local companies involved in the programme so that we find out about the results and their experiences. Then we will introduce this data in our data base to check the impact of our actions.

Increasing the number and quality of foreign relationships with enterprises and educational institutions: We can compare the number of enterprises or institutions and their characteristics with the same indicators for the previous academic year.

Modernization of our educational methodology: teachers will be encouraged to write a report in which they reflect the new content or methodology adopted after their experiences abroad or those of their colleagues.

Internationalization the educational offer by stablish relationship with European partners: By the agenda of the development of the courses. Where we could find new argument and new inter-cultural experiences in class.

To give the opportunity of an experience abroad to more people: At the end of each academic year, we will list the mobilities carried out and compare these with those of the previous year.

Encouraging to outreach to school students from underrepresented groups: Each year we will find out the percentage of students in our school and the proportion of them that undertake the Erasmus experience.

By following an equal opportunities policy to all applicants: We will analyze the applications and the process selection rules. The aim is to hone some of the criteria if we notice that there is something that could be improved. Our criteria to select candidates will make sure that non-discrimination prevails in all our selection process.

Providing different mobility experiences to people that cannot enjoy a period abroad: By asking the involved persons about their experiences and their new innovative ideas and by the increase observed year over year of this new kind of mobilities experiences.