

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (OVERALL STRATEGY)

In line with the principles of the Agenda 2020 for the modernization of higher education systems in Europe, the strategy of internationalization of our institution will focus on:

-Strengthening the internationalization of our educational activities at all levels, both in the intermediate diploma teaching and in the higher grade (short cycles).

-Ensuring that every year, a greater number of our students of Higher Vocational Training of Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory and Kindergarten, complete their education through placements or traineeships in enterprises or agencies from other countries in the European Union and in tertiary countries, in order that they can put into practice the skills and knowledge gained in our own institution about the workplace, to develop their abilities.

-To support our students and staff in improving the practice of other languages. In the case of our students this will improve their employability, enrich their European CV and increase their employment opportunities and training.

-To improve job opportunities of young people from Villaverde district, where our school is located. This district is characterized by a high unemployment rate.

-Contributing to increase of the prestige of the teaching of Higher Vocational Education for Institutions like ours in which this type of education is imparted.

-Increasing the number of students of Health and Community Services training engaged in the ERASMUS program.

-Providing our staff and teachers the opportunity to experience other educational and career realities to promote the exchange of knowledge and innovation between institutions in order to improve the quality of our teaching of Vocational studies and training of our staff.

-We are also ready to develop a host of students, teachers and professionals from other EU countries and other non european countries, in our centre or at our partner companies. We have an international relations manager dedicated to the implementation of the program and teachers specializing in the areas of Health and Sociocultural and Community Services.

Our institute also has a network of over 80 partner companies in the professional sectors of health and cultural services and community that can provide an interest network to our future Erasmus partners.

- Improving the quality of our higher Vocational training studies, to engage more directly with the European companies and institutions that collaborate with us to design training programs that our students will develop during their traineeships.

Our scope and our stakeholders will be Institutions which teach Higher Vocational Education of our professional faculties and universities, companies that develop their activity in health or education, and any other institutions of the European Union or of tertiary countries whose activity allows us to generate synergies that contribute to raising the quality of our training, to increase the number of higher vocational training students participating in mobility and cooperation programmes, to help cutting down our students unemployment rate, and for our staff to also benefit from mobility actions of the ERASMUS program.

By the experience gained over the past six years, we have established collaboration agreements with companies in the productive sectors in our educational offerings in the UK, Germany, France, Portugal and Malta. Our students have developed and continue to develop their practices in these countries, as well as our staff. Our goal is to continue working with these companies and increase the number of potential partners in countries like Italy and Finland. We also consider the possibility of establishing collaborative networks with companies and institutions from non- European countries whose activities are related to the training courses we teach.

The strategy of our institution for organizing and implementing international cooperation programs consists of:

-Strengthening the involvement of our companies and associates, through the figure of job training tutors and mentors from companies and organizations. In this task, the tutors are always supported by the staff management, the Head of Studies and the head of international relationships of our institution

Similarly, the other Institution teaching departments (English, Health, Community Services and FOL), actively cooperate to support the implementation of these programs.

-Promoting and encouraging the participation of companies and research Organizations in Europe and tertiary countries, in the development of our training programs, taking into account the advantage of benefits offered by ICT `s, either by developing e-learning platforms or other similar methods. Also we aim to maintain fluid communication channels with our European partner companies and institutions to contribute to the creation of a strong network of knowledge sharing and innovation.

-Increasing the number of VET students who wish to complete their training at our Institution in general and particularly in our companies and associates who are located abroad, promoting dissemination and awareness of the ERASMUS program and at the same time continuing to incorporate the European dimension in our teaching and learning processes.

-Integrating ERASMUS program actions as part of our strategic objectives in our Institution, incorporating the objectives of the Agenda 2020 document planning our short, medium and long term. To do this, we will review our Educational Project to suit the current needs of the teachings of higher professional training.

-Encouraging staff participation in mobility programs that contribute to improving the skills and motivation of our staff, especially our teachers.