

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)**

**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.**

Our international strategy is based on establishing long-term relationships with educational institutions and companies from other countries, especially from the EU. When choosing partners, we will value the possibility of improvement of linguistic skills for our pupils. We intend to establish collaboration with other academic and business institutions which have an academical offer similar to ours, or whose sphere of labour is directly related to professional families taught in our institution, in order to exchange experiences and learning.

We firmly believe in the need to internationalize our institution, provide our students and staff the opportunity to learn from others, and in other languages, in short, to be an active part of a common labor market in flux and constant need to adapt.

Unemployment in Spain exceeds 27% of the workforce. Youth unemployment is above 50%. There are a lot of micro and a reasonable amount of large companies which are competitive in the international frame, but small and medium enterprises are scarce. Technical training of our students is generally assumed to be good. However, most of our graduates are bound to join the ranks of the unemployed. We firmly believe in the need to link the academic offer to the European labor market,

establish agreements with educational institutions and business and to encourage, within the international framework, the development of entrepreneurial and innovative capacity of our students.

We believe that the European educational institutions must advance the recognition of study abroad and are prepared to make a commitment to seek agreements with other educational institutions to standardize studies of foreign students in our educational institution.

With the ECHE we could provide students and staff with the opportunity to learn directly how work is done in other countries. It is likely that, whatever the professional field in which a worker to unfold, there are exciting opportunities to learn technical, cultural spaces and different educational realities. A first priority for us is that our students and staff enter into direct contact with the business of other countries which are more competitive and whose labour markets show more dynamism.

Up to this moment, we haven't had the opportunity to act as a host institution for students or teachers interested in staying in our country. Given that the number of students or teachers who made abroad mobilities are a small percentage of our total institution, the receiving of participants from other countries could be an interesting way to bring together a greater number of people with different realities and valuable knowledge.

With regard to this, we are prepared for receiving teachers who provide training, students who can do an internship in companies or students who simply want to complete part of their studies at our center. For them, we will establish a procedure for receiving and a support network that will serve their administrative, accommodation and logistics needs.

We will articulate the mechanisms to favour that the repercussion of any action or mobility and collaboration with foreign institutions have the greatest impact on our institution and local level.

In short, in view of the employment situation of our country, the internationalization of our institution is no longer simply a desirable option, it is an obligation for us to open channels to our students, staff and business partners to learn with and from other academic institutions and business and gain in knowledge and competitiveness. We believe that the ECHE is an invaluable tool for this purpose.

**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.**

We find it a priority to establish a direct link between academic and labour worlds in the European framework. Our intention is to establish agreements and partnerships with other European institutions in order to insert our students and receive other foreign students in the companies that collaborate with our institution. This will establish communication habits,

pursuit of common goals, innovation and entrepreneurship. If we take the best of each academic and corporate structure, our businesses will gain competitiveness and our labor market will increase its dynamism and adaptability to new challenges.

Our Higher Vocational Training qualifications include a module in the final year which consists in performing internship in enterprises. There is, therefore, and a remarkable cast of companies collaborating with our institution which we could introduce to any interested foreign center. On the other hand, in the Spanish educational system, currently under renovation, there is a firm commitment with the Dual Vocational Training to be implemented during the term of the new Charter Erasmus (2014-2020). We want our students to be able to choose to perform their internship period in other countries and we would be delighted to receive students from other countries. Our center would monitor and track foreign

students here and would facilitate practical information for their stay.

The relationships established under the ECHE will have a long-term character. The use of ICT will maintain communication channels with educational institutions and corporate partners permanently open, even when there are not personnel exchanges in course.

**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.**

The European common labour market is now a reality and our students and general professionals, are going to live in a increasingly internationalized labour world. In this situation, the language skills, knowledge of other cultures, the updating on technological innovations in the professional field will be extremely valuable skills for workers.

Our participation in the programs made possible by the ECHE will definitely impact on improving various aspects such as:

- Access to education directly connected with the European labour market. Direct contact with industrial fabric of countries which are more efficient and productive than ours could only lead to the improvement our competitiveness in the international labour framework.
- The use of ICT and IT will be an essential element for the maintenance of relationships with other foreign institutions.
- To improve the chances to get a job of our students in positions commensurate with their background, since the data indicate that the mobilities to foreign countries facilitate their integration into the labour market.
- Keeping our professionals and students abreast of technological developments arising from research in companies or research centers and to promote among them the motivation in the face of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- To open channels of direct communication between companies collaborating with academic institutions.
- To promote the mobility of students and workers between countries in Europe.
- To encourage professional development of teachers and students.
- To promote collaboration and cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises
- To contribute to standardize the certification and accreditation of the achievement of basic skills in each vocational area.
- To allow less affluent students to benefit from the opportunity to learn other ways of working.
- To promote internationally the diversity of modes of study. Our institution offers regular, distance, modular, adults education and has a large number of students who have returned to school after leaving labour market. We think that we can bring our experience in this regard and to be enriched with other models.