



Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

The Instituto de Educacion Secundaria “Pontepedriña” (IES Pontepedriña) is a public secondary school that teaches Vocational Training Courses for the Commerce and Marketing family.

Our institution has 64 teachers in this school year (2019/20); 9 non-teaching staff; students of vocational training courses: 204, Bachillerato and ESO students, 398, making up a total of 602 students.

With a vocation to open up to Europe, our institution was from the beginning betting on internationalization. Bilingual education sections, Comenius, ECHE Charter since 2014, multilingual subjects in VT, etc.

The educational offer of Vocational Training began, precisely, with the Advanced International Commerce Cycle (2 year course), in the academic year 1998-1999. In addition to this 2019-20 course, the advanced courses of Sales Management in Commercial Spaces were taught, both in ordinary and DUAL modalities, cycles of Commercial Activities, ordinary modality, and Marketing of Food Products in DUAL modality. And the basic professional cycle of Commercial Services.

Since the academic year 1999-2000, bilingual Biology-Geology and Music courses have been taught on the 3rd and 4th ESO. In fact, the IES Pontepedriña was one of the two institutions in Galicia where the European Sections program, as it was called at the time, began on an experimental basis and is currently called Bilingual Sections.

People from many European countries and other nationalities participated in the IES Pontepedriña, as linguistic assistants or as university students in training: British, Portuguese, French, Germans, Romanians, Italians, Armenians and Irish collaborating, in most cases, with teachers of foreign languages.

The IES Pontepedriña is a center that educates for coexistence in a framework of tolerance, equality and respect for freedom, fulfilling the objectives of non-discrimination. It is committed to promoting equality between the sexes, cultures and religions. The defense of human rights and democracy is promoted, fueling the fight against any form of racism and xenophobia. The center is fully aware that we are part of a society that is increasingly global and open to other countries and that it needs to expand its knowledge of teaching methods, language skills and the areas of organization of teaching, management and learning.

On the other hand, the Curricular Project of the Cycles of Higher Education, as well as the official curricula of Galicia and the current legislation in force in the Spanish State, establishes as compulsory the so-called “on the spot training” in companies.

Our institution participates in programs and actions that promote European citizenship and student mobility among our students and teachers. Vocational training students undertake compulsory “on the spot training” in companies or institutions, some of them in companies in other countries of the European Union through the Erasmus + program included in the modernization and internationalization strategy of our institution. Specifically, the key action in



which it participates is KA103, Mobility of Higher Education between program countries, sending students within The Consortium of the Xunta de Galicia since 2014 to different countries and companies in the European Union (Ireland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Poland, Malta, Romania, United Kingdom).

EXPECTED RESULTS

In the academic year 2020-21, we will carry out mobilities of recent graduates for the first time, because several students who had been awarded the scholarship within the KA103 for this course, due to the pandemic Covid 19, chose to graduate first and then carry out their "on the spot training" period in Europe.

Precisely for the academic year 2020-21, the IES Pontepedriña requested a project to directly manage these mobilities. We also request the incorporation for the 2020-21 mobilities for both, teachers and students, both incoming and outgoing, within the action KA107, due to the interest aroused, especially among the teachers of the Department of Commerce and Marketing.

On the other hand, during the academic year 2019-20 and 2020-21 we participate in an exchange of good practices with our partner, the Johann-Philipp-Reis-Schule in Weinheim, Germany, within action KA229, with the title "Traditions and Economic Challenges of two European regions: Galicia and Baden-Württemberg".

Since this academic year 2019-20, the subject of International Transport of Goods is being implemented in English, in the Advanced cycle of International Commerce.

Right now the Department of Commerce is planning to apply for the next academic courses a Cycle in Portuguese, so close to the reality of our environment, because Galician is the vehicular language of teaching in Galicia.

With the application for the renewal of the Erasmus Charter, our educational institution wants to show its desire to continue in the program, as part of the strategy to carry out the modernization and internationalization of the education of our institution. Our internationalization strategy is designed so that both, students and teachers increase their academic and professional skills, in addition to intercultural and interpersonal ones.

This can be achieved by exchanging knowledge and resources, creating strong collaboration networks with both educational and work centers, inside and outside the EU, so that the spirit promoted by Erasmus + programs is part of all areas of the Center.

The strategic objectives of the IES Pontepedriña established in the Internationalization and Modernization plan in general are:

- To internationalize the entire educational offer of the center, making it more attractive and relevant, developing actions aimed at its excellence, modernization, technification and, to increase enrollment in the Institute.



- To increase the participation of students and teachers in the different international mobility programs offered.

- To manage the different international programs, making the actions carried out under criteria of equity and transparency visible, improving the skills of the educational community.

To these we must add the strategic objectives for Vocational Training:

The vocational training offer must be able to adapt to the new needs of companies, leaving aside the more industrial profile to fully enter professional families and content directly related to technology. But in addition, the definitive change in the image and reputation of this type of study must take place, so that it increases its capacity to attract new students, an attraction that should increase the fact that the possibility of developing traineeships abroad is offered from the center to all students.

We also want to be part of the implementation of the European Education Area that allows our young people to benefit from a better level of education and training to improve job insertion, in a more collaborative environment, with a vision of a cohesive Europe but diverse, helping to respect different languages, cultures, a European space with common and inclusive values.

Furthermore, our institution is committed to fully respecting the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion established in the Program, and guaranteeing equitable access and opportunities for current and potential participants of all origins, paying special attention to inclusion of those with fewer opportunities, tailoring an environment adapted to students with special needs, providing additional time during exams, courses, if necessary, or also considering mixed mobility, combining a short physical stay with an online exchange, using collaborative tools, mainly e-Twinning.

In order to achieve the strategic objectives of internationalization for the period, we will carry out a plan that includes the following actions, some of them already explained in the previous point:

-To implement strategies for the dissemination and publicity of mobility, in order to increase the participation of both students and teachers, beginning by reflecting the commitment to internationalization in the PEC (Educational Project of the Center) and in the centre's Annual General Programming.

-To improve the organization and communication between the different departments and bodies of the center through the implementation of experiences and resources derived from the different mobilities, reinforcing the internationalization commission with the participation of representatives from different departments (Commerce and Marketing, Languages, Training and Labor Orientation and FCT Coordinator, in addition to the person responsible for international programs and representatives of the board of our institution).

-Develop transversal skills in all the people involved in these mobilities, positively impacting the life of this institution through its dissemination and generalization to all areas.



-To promote student mobility, both for training in Work Centers and for recent graduates as a means of improving access to employment or increasing the sense of European belonging. During the stay of the students abroad, there will be a continuous monitoring by the coordinating teaching staff, tutors of the sending and receiving partners (companies and intermediaries).

-To encourage exchanges that promote the incorporation of innovation and IT in our educational programs, with the possibility of mixed mobility using tools such as e-Twinning to support the development of content, services, pedagogies and innovative learning practices in order to create a feeling belonging to the European Union.

- To value positively the internationalization as a necessary means of continuous improvement that incorporates greater linguistic and cultural competence of students and teachers, as a commitment to quality.

- To recognize academically the activities carried out by students with ECTS credits. Similarly, granting the staff of the institution (teaching and non-teaching), making more flexible their hourly load to collaborate and participate in scheduled activities.

-To promote the mobile application of the Erasmus + program among participants in mobility.

- To use and promote environmentally- friendly practices within the framework of the Erasmus + program, implement Erasmus without Papers, avoiding as far as possible harmful movements for the environment, giving priority to online advertising on web pages, email, etc., reducing ink or paper consumption.

-To promote civic engagement and active citizenship among incoming and outgoing people before, during and after mobility, preparing information that helps immersion in another country, with culture, meals, different hours, or accompanying and guiding incoming people for a better use of the stay both in the center, in the city or in Galicia. This commitment must include the organization of the reception of the incoming staff (accommodation, recreational, cultural, academic activities, guided tours, etc.)

As can be seen from the actions developed in the previous points, this Internationalization Strategy seeks to invest in the improvement of knowledge, skills and key and specific competencies present in our center, benefiting people, institutions and society, in a globalized world in which the demands of companies are increasing.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected impact of participation in the program for the modernization of our institution, respecting the five key points are:

Teaching teams: Mobilities will improve individual skills around the specific characteristics of each of the reception centers (companies or educational centers), so that new techniques and / or ways of working can be incorporated into our teaching system- learning that have a positive impact on the educational community, mainly on the students, promoting the inclusion of innovation in our daily work. At the same time, an improvement in communication



skills in other languages will be achieved, as well as the exchange, always positive, with other cultures different from ours.

Students: The students will face, during the development of their traineeship, the different working conditions and techniques in companies from other countries, which entails a necessary improvement in the socio-labor skills and capacities typical of the specialty of their training cycle. In the case of the Basic Level students, short stays in these companies will increase their socio-occupational insertion and their motivation to continue within the educational system through the intermediate cycles. In any case, the students will improve their linguistic competence in other languages, and will develop transversal competences such as autonomy, creativity, talent, responsibility, problem-solving capacity and self-esteem.

IMPROVEMENTS WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE.

The improvements that are expected to be achieved with the implementation of this Internationalization Strategy are:

To contribute to improve the labor insertion rate of students.

To increase the number of students and teachers participating in mobility by 20%.

To increase the teachers and students who improve their language skills in a foreign language by 20%.

To establish an acceptable percentage of Basic FP students who participate in mobility and continue their training in Intermediate cycles.

To increase advertising by 50% related to the projects, activities and results achieved to increase the European dimension of mobility.

INDICATORS

To measure the results of our actions, we will use indicators foreseen in the Internationalization Plan of our institution, such as:

Planning and monitoring of internationalization activities in the Annual General Programming.

Elaboration of improvements in information to students and teachers about mobility programs.

Management of the ERASMUS + Charter to be able to provide mobility.

Training of the students in the elaboration of their own Curriculum Vitae and in the writing of Presentation Letters.

Search for companies and educational centers with which to carry out mobilities in the EU countries.

Organization of documentation related to mobility activities.



Dissemination of the official information brochures on Erasmus + to teachers and students, through a bulletin board or posters but prioritizing the website.

Information to families on the international activity of the educational center.

Use of online tools: videoconferences, virtual classroom, website, Drive.

Communication to the Pedagogical Coordination Commission, Faculty and School Council.

Control of the stays linked to the realization of the Training in Work Centers with a monitoring of the tutors.

Collection of data on incoming and outgoing mobilities.

Inclusion of information of the international nature of the center in the open days.

Collection of testimonies from students and teachers who have carried out international experiences.

Interview advertising (center website, local magazines, center magazine, press)

Updating the information on the website about international activities.

Establishment of a reception protocol at the Center for foreign students and teachers.

Design a plan of cultural activities and visits to companies.

A calendar scheduled for the next academic years:

Key action KA103, Mobility of Higher Education between program countries, sending of recent graduates in the 2020-21 academic year if the circumstances derived from Covid19 allow it.

Key action KA103, Mobility of Higher Education between program countries, sending students to complete the curriculum of the advanced cycles, with the completion of the FCT. We hope to be able to manage it from the center or, where appropriate, through the Xunta de Galicia consortium.

Action KA107, we apply for mobilities for students and teachers belonging to the Commerce and Marketing and English departments, both incoming and outgoing for the 2020-21 academic year.

Within the KA1 actions, we value offering mobilities to the students of the Basic FP of Commercial Services and the Intermediate cycle of Commercial Activities, starting from the 2021-22 academic year.

Action KA229, we will finish during the course 2020-21 the Exchange of good practices with our partner, the German center Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Schule, from Weinheim, with the title "Traditions and economic challenges of two European regions: Galicia and Baden-Württemberg". Two mobilities are planned, sending a group of 12 people and 2 teachers in the 2nd term and receiving 12 students and 2 teachers in our center during the first term.



Within the key action KA229, we have contacts to expand collaboration with other centres for the 2021-2023 courses, specifically with centers in Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Portugal.

Right now the Commerce Department is valuing the possibility of requesting a Estrela Plurilingual Cycle in Portuguese for the next school years.

Santiago de Compostela, 24th May 2020

Legal representative of the Institution

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