

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]

The period of transition, we are living in, towards an economy based on knowledge demands an education system and a vocational education, in particular, which meet the needs of our changing economy and society. We consider a lifelong learning programme to be the answer to improve both systems. A lifelong learning programme increases employability and the integration of disadvantaged groups.

Europe 2020 and the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade highlights higher education as a key policy area where collaboration between the EU and Member States can deliver positive results for jobs and economic development.

IES MATEO HERNÁNDEZ, as a Higher Vocational Education Institution, supports and encourages European updating and international partnership in higher education. Consequently, we are willing to commit to contribute and work to achieve these goals by implementing the following measures:

Student's mobility: students will carry out their compulsory training period in a company abroad.

Teacher's mobility: Teachers providing lessons to the Higher Vocational Education and teachers belonging to the school board will take part in training courses and workshops.

In the curriculum of the Vocational Education that regulates the Spanish Higher Education System, it is stated that students will have to spend a certain number of practical training periods in companies before being granted their degrees. In this sense, students from IES Mateo Hernández have had the opportunity to benefit from work placements abroad as part of their education. In addition to student's mobility, this scheme facilitates teaching abroad for professors and business staff, exchange of students and staff, development of cooperation with higher education institutions or other types of institutions, participation in Erasmus multilateral projects and networks. We are also interested in co-operation with higher education institutions through intensive programmes, networks and multilateral projects. In order to develop our educational syllabuses, it is essential for our school to have the opportunity for our students to complete their training with the mobility actions in the new program Erasmus for All.

One of our school's main educational aims is to provide our students with the opportunity to enhance their theoretical knowledge in a real working setting in a different country. Living and working abroad for a period of at least three months is an enriching experience at personal, professional and academic levels. It does not only enhance communicative competence in a different language, but also stimulates the capacity to adapt to different working environments and contributes to establish intercultural links among members of the European Union. The specific activities will be implemented in the framework of the Erasmus programme and there will be exchanges of students and staff, development of cooperation with higher education institutions where our teachers will learn new methods for vocational training.

Our Institution follows the measures taken by the Castilla y León Government Policy to ensure non-discrimination objectives regarding gender equality, integration of disabled students, and enhancement of social and economic cohesion, as it is stated in the annual action plan of our Institution.

The IES Mateo Hernández is working towards a society respectful of cultural diversity and open to the world because people from different backgrounds and cultures are now mixing more than ever.

The school will guarantee the maximum quality of this experience: the students will be selected according not only to their academic records and linguistic competences but also according to their maturity and ability to adapt to different cultural environments.

Foreign companies will be selected, countries in or out EU, according to the professional profile and specialization of each student from the starting point of the Project. The school will provide students with full information about placements, length of their stays, transport and accommodation conditions, linguistic training activities, job interviews, contacts etc. Tutors will be available when required.

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]

IES Mateo Hernández aims to take part in Strategic Partnerships to encourage intense, structured and long-life cooperation between our institution and other establishments, social partners, youth organization in order to fulfill those Agenda's objectives related to the modernization of Higher Education.

Our main aim focuses on enhancing the relations with non-specific teaching institutions, companies organizing extra-curricular activities, sports and free-time activity firms. We also want to reach a permanent agreement with professional sports people and specialist in healthy life style.

Cooperation between the school and companies is essential to adapt contents to companies' needs. This partnership will improve our students' employability. In Spain, an important number of students get a qualification, but they are not able to find a job. On the other hand, employers find that young people don't have the skills the labour market demands. We would like to support, develop and encourage a collaborative approach for employers and young people.

At the same time, we share most EU members' goals, mainly those connected with Knowledge Partnership. We are deeply interested in promoting creativity, innovation and enterprising attitudes by offering a challenging and effective learning. We can't deny that certain discouraging factors to set up a business exist. We need to develop a more enterprising culture, being our young people the ones we should convince first. It is in all our interest to take part in activities, meetings, forums, seminars, summits, where successful experiences can be discussed to solve our common problems and find a way to design strategies to stimulate the enterprising attitude. European Commission has lately encouraged those initiatives and we are interested in sharing those experiences to promote creativity, innovation, an enterprising attitude and develop successful teaching training systems to give an answer to comcompanies' demands and initiatives.

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]

Taking part in Erasmus For All Programme will contribute to achieve the main goals stated in 2020 Europe and will have a positive impact on the new measures highlighted in the programme. IES MATEO HERNANDEZ will benefit from the following aspects:

1- Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates' and researchers' Europe needs

The approval of this new programme, Erasmus For All will make it possible for a significant number of student to take advantage of these facilities.

Erasmus For All programme's target is to improve the education's quality by the cooperation of the countries involved and by encouraging other ways of learning. As a result, we believe the number of graduates will increase.

2- Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

Cooperation among the institutions, sharing experiences and strategies with the countries committed in new programmes will improve the quality of teaching and learning. The already mentioned contribution will increase transparency and will reinforce the development of a global strategy to enrich the quality of higher education

3- Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation.

It's our main goal to give our students the chance to train in a real work place abroad. Working and living in a foreign country represents an enriching, both professionally and personal experience. Improving the communicative skill in another language, learning how to fit in different places and establishing new connections with EU members will be some of the greatest advantages of the programme.

Taking part in the programme will give our students the chance to test and improve their adaptability and problem-solving skills. Besides, it will also enhance their knowledge of the European labour market, of validation systems and of learning assessment.

4- Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development.

IES Mateo Hernández has always collaborated with the Town Hall, Town Council, Administrations, Salamanca University sports section, health clubs, youth organizations, non-profit organisations and other school centres. In the Spanish education system structure, it is compulsory for our students to complete a minimum three-month training period in one of these institutions. It is our interest to enhance labour relations with other companies and offer these possibilities to EU partners through Erasmus For All programme.