

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Institution's international strategy.

a) Partners choice

b) Geographical area

c) Objectives and target groups of mobility activities

The Mercurio Center for Specific Vocational Training has arranged the higher grades of the vocational training courses of Assistance to Management and Administration and Finance. One of the aims of the Erasmus + Program is to improve the inclusion of our young people in the professional world , by means of offering the possibility of carrying out the compulsory training experience of their respective cycles , corresponding to the FCT module, in companies and institutions in countries different from the one of origin. This is one of the issues our center has in mind: to expand the options of our students from a professional, intellectual and personal point of view. These training activities abroad, in our case in countries belonging to Europe, not only enhance the linguistic proficiency already worked in the classroom, but also promote, in a framework of cooperation and exchange of knowledge, the values that are the basis of our society: equality, democracy and freedom. They also allow the concept of mobility not to become alien, both from an academic and professional point of view, but to be, instead, an option that falls within its most basic parameters: any country, whether it is the country of origin or not, is a land fertile to develop future activity.

Why do we stick to the European countries first? A very high percentage of our students have not had previous experiences outside Spain, not even outside their autonomous community. As an academic institution, we must broaden their vision, but we must do it responsibly providing satisfactory experiences, both for them and their families, so that they can extend their prospects without causing a significant break. The linguistic proficiency in English and German acquired from the first year of the cycle together with Spanish as mother tongue, enable them to express with ease in any of these languages. These skills coupled with their implicit maturity provide the basis for making this an enriching and rewarding experience, both from a personal and professional point of view.

On the other hand, the managing team of our institution consider that the continuous training of the teaching staff is fundamental to maintain and improve our educational standards. We bet for the internationalization of this training that will enable us to know the new didactic methodologies developed in other countries, and to observe and implement the complementary educational structures used in other centers, in the field of professional training, in order to modernize and manage our educational model in a more effective way. In short, carrying out training courses abroad for teachers and a work of monitoring and

assessment of other methodologies (job shadowing) in order to import significant improvements from both a didactic and methodological point of view.

All this ambitious and realistic work would be very complicated if we did not have the priceless cooperation of two consortia that have been working in our province for several years. When we started to get interested in the Erasmus + Program, we got in touch with the Provincial Office of Education of León and after some informative sessions of the program, they put us in contact with the SEPIE and opened up the doors of the two aforementioned consortia:

– One of them, coordinated by the General Foundation of the University of León and the Company (FGULEM) and integrated by the University of León and eleven vocational training centers, manages the project "European program of internships in companies Erasmus + León " Through this project, students of Higher Vocational Training Cycles can perform the FCT module in companies of the European Union. While graduated students can carry out extracurricular experience in companies of the European Union, within a period of one year from their degree.

– The second is ERASMUSFPCASTILLAYLEON. It is linked to the Junta de Castilla y León and has a selection and management committee and a monitoring committee whose specific objectives are, among others, first to support the professional development of the teaching staff of the member centers in order to improve the quality of teaching in the training cycles. Second, through the realization of FCTs in companies in other countries, to support the acquisition of learning achievements (knowledge, skills and competencies) of the students of the member centers in order to improve their personal, professional, social and employability development. And third, to improve the proficiency of the participants in foreign languages and enhance their learning.

Institution's strategy and implementation of international cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program.

The Erasmus + Program provides our center with a highly valuable tool to achieve the internationalization of the entire educational community. For this, and with the supervision of the management team, we have designed the following action plan:

1) Creation of governing bodies. Before starting the program, properly speaking, it has been necessary to gather as much information as possible about it in order to know the steps necessary to become part of the consortium and to prepare all the necessary documents. Therefore, it was essential that part of the staff of

the center were dedicated to undertake all this previous work. The following figures have been appointed to ensure the continuity of the project:

- Program Coordinator, who groups the different lines of action, keeps informed of the deadlines in the different calls for the acquisition of documents or those established by the different agencies linked to the program, meets with all team members and informs the management team on progress and / or difficulties.
- Internationalization Commission, formed by the administrative staff of the center, the head of studies and the heads of the English and German departments. Its aim is to spread, support and monitor the members of the center who intend to enter the program, as well as improving the linguistic proficiency in the different cycles, so that all of them possess the necessary knowledge for the maximum use of the activity from a linguistic and cultural point of view.
- Selection Committee, formed by the principal, the program coordinator and the first- and second-year tutors of the higher education training cycles offered in the center. Although only second-year students may choose to complete the FCT module through the program, we consider it necessary to monitor from the first course of all those who are interested in the project. Therefore, it is essential that all tutors establish the basis of the Erasmus + Program from the beginning and start to assess potential candidates from the moment they show their willingness. The selection made in the center, based on the parameters set by the consortia mentioned in the previous point, will be sent to those who, in turn, will proceed to the tests established in their bases for the concretion of the appropriate candidates.

2) Spreading the Erasmus + Program among the entire educational community. Once the program is known by the aforementioned commissions, it is necessary that the rest of the community know the center's involvement in it, what is to offer at a didactic and cultural level, what values are intended to be transmitted and what requirements are necessary to become part of it. We believe that this information should not only be limited to the training cycles involved and their teachers, but it must reach all members of the educational community: parents, tutors, workers and all students enrolled. It will be done in several ways: detailed information on the center's website, informative posters in the common areas and seminars to give information about the program. For this, we have the support of the CFIE of Ponferrada, the Provincial Directorate of Education of León and the consortia.

3) Process of selection of the students and teaching staff participating in the project. As we have pointed out previously, it will consist of two phases: the first, carried out by the center's selection committee, will result in a series of candidates that will be sent, in the second instance, to the consortia, which will proceed with the final selection of those candidates.

4) monitoring and support to the students selected to be part of the program. Carried out by the program coordinator and the internationalization commission, in cooperation with the corresponding departments of the consortia, so that, in the event of any problem, they receive the advice and the precise help. This not only refers to possible setbacks that may arise during the stay, but also, to any doubt that appears before or after it.

5) Evaluation of mobility. Together with the receiver of the program, the coordinator will carry out an assess after the stay with the objective of evaluating the experience and thus be able to make a feedback for future mobility.

Expected impact of our participation in the Erasmus+ Program on the modernization of our institution referred to each of the priorities of the renewed EU Agenda for higher education.

Our engagement with Erasmus + will have a great impact on the modernization of our educational center as the inclusion of mobility projects in the Vocational Training cycles produces a great motivation among the students. Vocational training becomes more attractive, since it offers a personal, linguistic, educational and / or professional experience that is essential for young people. Our students will be the main beneficiaries of the program, obtaining educational, cultural and linguistic advantages, improving their professional qualification and providing them with the opportunity of a unique and enriching experience. Through the project, the students will discover, many more personal and professional possibilities. With this new perspective, the demand of Vocational Training students in our center can be increased in successive years.

We intend to instill a European scope among our students with the aim of preparing them for a globalized society. In line with the general objectives of the Erasmus+ Plan we also want our students to know other ways of teaching and learning. The engagement in cooperation projects and mobility of students and staff make the teaching-learning methods change, fostering the use of ICT and new technologies. In addition, the different experiences of both students and teachers involved in mobility, will provide new methodologies that will enrich teaching methods, thanks to the international circulation of ideas, driven by cooperation between students, staff, and institutions, and this way we will be able to increase the quality of education.

The improvement of the quality of education will offer students the knowledge and basic skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly demanding and competitive labor market. Their possibilities of professional insertion will increase and their working conditions will improve.

The advantages being involved in the program also imply an improvement in the teaching practice. This is achieved through the creation of a more modern and dynamic environment open to new educational practices and to the cooperation with other educational centers and institutions. The improvement of the

educational offer of the center and the qualification of its teaching staff will be also achieved. In accordance with the EU's priorities for action, we want to contribute to promoting the excellence in the development of skills and experiences by means of the advantage of opportunities and learning offered by cooperation, exchange and international mobility. We also want our students to open to the world and to face the new opportunities and current challenges And through the modernizing of the center to stop the brain drain and to innovate in the economy in general.

In short, the international mobility projects of students and teachers will mean a substantial change in the development of the center's activities, which will tend to modernize and adapt to the new needs that may arise.