

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT. EPS

Strategy

The Francisco Alcántara School of Art is a public centre that specializes in teaching ceramics in its artistic and technical aspects and has more than 100 years of experience. The centre currently offers three cycles of Higher Degree: Artistic Ceramics, Models and Moulds Making and Ceramic Coatings. All of them have an important practical component that is completed with a high quality artistic and technical training.

The centre also offers two cycles of Intermediate Degree that participate in Erasmus+ VET projects

The School requests the renewal of ECHE as a means to achieve its modernization strategy and thus collaborate in the creation of a European Education Area, which strengthens European identity through education and culture.

With the participation in the Erasmus+ programme our school wants to promote its internationalization, in order to improve the labour integration of our graduates, the professional and linguistic competences of the teachers and, in general, to improve the quality of the teaching in our school. In order to achieve this, we propose that, in the medium term, at least 30% of the students in Higher Level Cycles should move to countries on the programme or to associated countries for both work experience and studies.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives that can be achieved by participating in the Erasmus+ programme are included in the Innovation and Internationalization Plan of the Francisco Alcántara School of Art and are as follows:

- To promote the contact of the students with the professional and cultural world of other countries
- Improve the labour integration of our graduates in the current difficult professional environment of the ceramics sector
- Improve professional, digital and language skills of staff and students
- Promote the recognition and validation of competences acquired in mobility actions are validated throughout the EU
- Improve the quality of teaching in our centre by supporting new innovative methodologies
- Link education to research and innovation
- Training in ways of working with multidisciplinary teams
- Create strategies and develop common projects with other study and work centres

- Respond to the needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special needs
- Strengthening the sense of European identity and cultural heritage within diversity
- Promoting the internationalization of our centre to increase the attractiveness of our studies

Erasmus actions

Our centre is small and has a maximum number of ninety students and fifteen teachers in the higher education studies and two people who carry out the administrative tasks of the centre.

The participation in Erasmus+ projects will be, both for staff and students, as well as for the administrative staff.

The Erasmus projects offer us various actions to develop these objectives. The ones that are most suitable to achieve them, given the characteristics of our centre, are

- Key Action 1: Learning mobility of individuals (student and staff mobility)
- Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of good practices

The strategy of our school has been to establish objectives and a timetable for participation in the different actions that are consistent with the characteristics of our centre and the human resources we have available.

For this reason we started participating in internship mobility activities in a work placement or in Higher Education Institutions for students and in training mobilities for staff (from the 2017 call).

Given the special characteristics of the curriculum of our studies, in which the period of internships in companies is only two weeks (50 hours), it is difficult for our students to use the mobilities provided by the KA103 action, of a minimum of two months, to carry out these internships, since it would mean that the students would miss classes during the second year. For this reason, our centre has chosen to promote the mobilities for traineeship to recent graduates, as they can do them during the year following their degree and provide students a extra labour experience that completes the short duration of their internship.

In this first phase, in spite of the reduced number of components of our educational community, there is a great interest in participating in mobility projects that is reflected in the number of mobilities carried out in the projects of the last two calls:

-2017-1-KA103-037378. Four staff mobilities for a training period and four student's mobilities

-2019-KA103-062036 (not completed) one staff mobility and two for students (one interrupted by COVID19)

With the management experience gained, the next goal is to expand our participation in the programme by undertaking study mobilities, as managing the recognition of these mobilities is more complex. Our centre is committed to training project managers and promoting systems of automatic recognition of qualifications and learning outcomes, in order to participate in the development of a European Education Area that follows the Bologna principles and tools.

In a third one, the centre intends to participate in projects for cooperation and exchange of good practices with educational institutions or companies that can be carried out using collaborative platforms. These projects will allow an exchange of knowledge and good practices that will favour innovation.

Our centre is committed to carrying out these actions following the principles of transparency, equity and inclusion established in the programme. To this end, combined mobilities will be promoted, which complete the face-to-face part with a virtual component that can facilitate access to the programme and provide greater flexibility. The current situation created by the COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted the possibilities of online education. Although it can never completely replace classroom training, it has been seen how the use of platforms such as Moodle or Microsoft Teams, allow the recording of videos of educational content, the possibility of online group sessions, the programming and delivery of tasks and many other actions for training.

Impact

By participating in the Erasmus+ projects our centre will achieve the following impacts:

ON STUDENTS

Short term:

- Obtain recognition of mobility (Europass, ECTS credits...)
- Increase in theoretical and technical knowledge and skills that enhance their professional qualification
- Knowledge of business activity by increasing their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- Improved knowledge of the language and culture of the host country

Medium and long term:

- Increase in employability.

By participating in the Erasmus+ projects our centre will achieve the following impacts:

ON STUDENTS

Short term:

- Obtain recognition of mobility (Europass, ECTS credits...)
- Increase in theoretical and technical knowledge and skills that enhance their professional qualification
- Knowledge of business activity by increasing their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- Improved knowledge of the language and culture of the host country

Medium and long term:

-Increase in employability.

-Participation in the training of the other students who will carry out mobilities

-ABOUT THE TEACHERS

Short term:

-Integration of the knowledge and experience acquired by the staff who have carried out the mobility into their teaching activity, both in technical and didactic aspects and in knowledge of professional opportunities.

-Obtaining the Europass mobility certificate

Medium and long term: increased interest in participation in new international projects by other teachers in the centre and participation in the centre's international activities.

-OTHER STUDENTS OF THE CENTRE (who have not made any mobilities)

Short term:

-they will benefit from the experience gained by the school's teaching staff.

-Thanks to the media, they will be able to know the activity developed by the students and teachers who carry out mobilities.

Medium and long term: increased interest in participating in new international projects.

-ABOUT OUR CENTRE

-Short term: improvement in project management

-Medium and long term:

-Increasing the quality of education. Offer more attractive studies. The possibility of carrying out mobility actions in our centre will create a greater interest among prospective students in carrying out our studies.

-International projection of our centre.

-Improving the visibility and external image of the centre thanks to the dissemination activities.

For the management and coordination of all activities a new department has been created this year: Innovation and Internationalization (i+i) with the following structure: a head of department (with six years of experience in international projects) and five teachers (including the English teacher)

Those in charge of evaluating the impact of these actions will be the members of the i+i department who will carry out an analysis of the following aspects:

Impact indicators for STUDENTS The following aspects will be assessed:

-Information generated by students for the school's social media (web, Instagram and Facebook).

The figures of updates, visits, consultations and cross references will be analyzed to check if they are effective means of dissemination.

- Quality of the students' presentations in the exhibitions held after the mobility
 - Improvement of the language spoken in the host country. To be assessed with the results of the OLS tests (pre- and post-mobility)
 - Increased employability. The activity of the participants will be monitored to check if the mobility has favoured their integration into the labour market in Spain or in other countries.
- Impact indicators for TEACHERS. The following aspects will be assessed:

- Final report delivered by the teacher
- Documentation collected on your stay: visits and contacts made, graphic documentation
- Information generated for the centre's website and social networks
- Proposals for the use and dissemination of acquired skills

To achieve the objectives this department will organize the following activities during each academic year

1-First months of the course (September-November)

- Publication on the notice board and on the school's social media (web, Instagram and Facebook) of the Erasmus actions planned for Higher Education
- Surveys among Higher Education teachers to know the number of people interested in participating in the following mobility calls
- Call for and selection of participants in student and teacher mobility activities

2-During the whole course all the necessary activities for the management of students and teachers' mobilities will be carried out:

- Contacts with companies and centres in the ceramics sector to expand the possibilities we already have
- Organization of the calls for applications and selection processes
- Signing of the documentation necessary for the implementation of the mobility: learning agreements, insurance...)
- Organize talks by students and teachers who have participated in mobility activities in the previous year to increase interest in participating in international projects.
- Training of the members of the i+I department through their participation in training courses organized by our National Agency (SEPIE) or our Educational Administration.

3-During the last months of the course, meetings will be held to evaluate the activity carried out by the department, identifying the aspects that need to be improved for future projects.