

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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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]

Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa (www.oteitzalp.org) is a vocational training institution. It trains its students in the fields of metal, electronics and maintenance. It provides for both initial vocational training and continuous training to employed and unemployed people. It is a member of HETEL (www.hetel.org), an association of 21 Vocational Training Centres set up in 1987 to promote and improve the vocational training provision in the Basque Country.

Since 1998, Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa has taken part in Leonardo and Erasmus Mobility European project for students and staff. We also take part in a project providing technical advice and training of teachers in the unique vocational training school in Sahara, in the fields of electricity and renewing energies.

As a member of Hetel association, Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa has counted with the support of the association in order to apply for, manage and disseminate Leonardo and Erasmus mobility projects both as a sending and as a receiving partner. The participation in International projects is recorded in our strategic and annual plans, with the aim to offer our students and staff the opportunity of taking part in European projects.

a) We participate in Erasmus and Leonardo mobility of students only for Traineeships in Workshops. For this kind of projects we select our host partners according to the kind of tasks they can offer to our students, so that we match the companies' needs and our student' profiles. As the course catalogue we offer belongs to the industrial field, the companies we choose are industrial companies. We also choose our partners according to their experience in international projects, as well as their supervising and mentoring possibilities.

If we are offered to become partners in a project, we first check whether the project follows our strategic guidelines and whether its implementation is possible both in our institution and within our network of associated VET centres, HETEL.

b) We work with partners all over Europe for offering our student Traineeship Mobility.

c) Our main goal in Erasmus Programme is to continue offering our short cycle students, with increasing quality the possibility of carrying out their compulsory module of Practical Training at a Workshop in an European company. The aim is to guarantee that at least 8% of our second year students will take part in these traineeship mobilities (every year between 4 and 6 students from the different disciplines taught in our school).

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]

Once a cooperation project that follows Oteitza Lizeo Politeknikoa's strategic guidelines has been approved, our institution, through its International Coordinator, Juanjo Aizpurua, implement the project both in our institution and within our network of 21 associated VET centres, HETEL (www.hetel.org).

The International Coordinators in all the polytechnics belonging to HETEL meet at least once a month in order to reach common agreements on how to carry out the mobility activities.

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]

1.- Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researches Europe needs.

Mobility helps individual's increase of the students' professional, social and intercultural skills and employability. Thus, our participation in the programme increases the quality and recognition of VET studies, and we aim to attract a wider part of the society into higher VET education.

2.- Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

As mentioned above, our participation in mobility programmes strengthens the quality of our institution and the relevance of VET centres within education.

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

In a global world like ours, the students who have the opportunity to experience a traineeship abroad will be better prepared for the challenges of the changing labour market.

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

The close collaboration with companies is essential for our institution. All our students spend a compulsory internship of 360 hours in a company in order to complete their education and get their diploma. By giving our students the possibility to do their traineeship in a company abroad, we are widening our companies network and improving future collaboration possibilities.

5.- Improving governance and funding.

Year after year, the financial support the students are given for Erasmus mobility is lower. Till now, we have been able to increase the funding provided by the Programme thanks to the co-financing of the Basque Government and the Spanish Educational Ministry. It's necessary for our students to carry on with this co-funding .

* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)