

# Erasmus Policy Statement

The IES Benjamín Rúa mission, as reflected in our Charter of Services holds the foundation of our European mobility project strategy: “We are a vocational public school which offers quality teaching and mentoring to prepare highly qualified professionals who will be able to fill the European labour market needs, by working closely with leading companies from different sectors.” On account of this, our school started to participate in the Leonardo Mobility Programme in 2007 and in the Erasmus Programme in 2008. Along these years, 68 student and staff mobilities have taken place.

The selected enterprises have guaranteed quality training for our students. They have much experience in hosting and training Erasmus students from different counties and they have proved themselves trust-worthy. These companies are located in different countries, one of our goals is offering our students a wide range of destinations to enhance mobility. The chosen countries are:

- Germany, which currently offers the largest number of employment opportunities for technical professionals and great experience in company training programs. It is also one of the few countries still investing in Research & Development.
- Italy provides a quick assimilation for our students due to its geographical and cultural proximity. It also offers many companies that match our teaching profiles: electronics, occupational safety and health.
- UK and Malta help improving our students language skills and also present an important industrial framework.

Our objectives are:

- o Make the enrichment of highly demanded skills possible for our students, such as autonomy, personal relations, responsibility, initiative and adaptation to new labour markets.
- o Strengthen the linguistic competence of the participants.
- o Acquire knowledge related to their professional profile by performing tasks according to their degree.
- o Establish relationships with European productive entities.
- o Cooperate and encourage mobility by approaching students and staff to other cultural and labour realities.
- o Know the methodology of vocational schools abroad.

- o Reinforce our school relationships with surrounding institutions.

This mobility programme is offered to all our staff and students of short cycles, i.e. Prosthetic Audiology, Clinical Diagnosis Laboratory, Electronic Maintenance, Occupational Safety, Environmental Health and Telecommunication and IT systems. We specially meet the criteria of non-discrimination by means of gender, race, age or religion and we try to benefit people from a low socio-economical background. The involvement of disabled students is guaranteed, areas and activities are fully adapted.

### **Our institution's strategy for the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects:**

Following the spirit reflected in our mission and our goal of achieving a quality and updated education, a basic strategy is the refreshment and improvement of our staff's professional competence. Since 2009 health and electronics teachers have carried out mobilities.

The Management team of the school and some teachers form a group that organises an information and motivation day to engage all school members into this project. Here the programme is explained to the staff, also participation requirements and information about our partners and host companies abroad.

We encourage them to look for new partners. Those interested would inform the management team and present a project in due time and manner. The Euromóvil Rú@ team revises, evaluates and chooses those projects of interest for our school. The selected staff agrees to spread newly acquired knowledge after their stay abroad to promote this initiative.

### **The expected impact for our participation:**

Our participation in the Erasmus Mobility Programme for both trainees and staff contributes to the achievement of the five principles of the Modernisation Agenda because:

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

Thanks to these mobilities our students improve their professional, personal and linguistic competences. They also get to know other labour and cultural environments, improving their employment opportunities. This project allows a permanent learning by exchanging experiences and knowledge among professionals. This is also achieved by having our staff cooperating with our partners, companies and high education institutions. They will use this new data in their daily teaching activities.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

In our experience, having an Erasmus Charter is a symbol of quality. This is the reason why many students choose our school among others.

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

Cooperation agreements among partners and hosts grants the “Europass Mobility” to our students in order to certify their mobility activities. This document is a quality feature in vocational schools. Participants can add it to their CV increasing their employment chances in Europe.

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

This exchange of information and knowledge among our students and staff and our European partners, both HEI and companies, will permit:

- To increase our quality standards.
- To spread our students’ experiences by using them in their manufacturing sector as future professionals.

### 5. Improving governance and funding.

The Erasmus management team, as part of its project strategy, has autonomy enough to:

- Look for host partners and sign new cooperation agreements.
- Organise stays.
- Provide insurance for participants.
- Supervise all different certificates (training certificates, language courses certificates and Europass mobility)
- Manage budgets.
- Raise complementary funds or new subsidies.

All these tasks are accomplished since 2006 with great approval among those involved and proven reliability.