

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]

IPP international cooperation is part of the Action Plans included in the Quality Management System and Social Responsibility Programme of the institution.

These documents state IPP cooperation network as based on a national and international dimension.

Nationally, the IPP has several specific and sectoral agreements with various entities and pursuing diversified purposes.

Internationally, cooperation will be based on the conclusion of agreements on the one hand, with higher education institutions and, on the other hand, with other institutions in order to materialize the actions referred to below.

The internationalization policy at IPP aims to consolidate the institution in international cooperation, to strengthen the quality of its training offer, to better prepare their graduates for the global labor market and to ensure the scientific and technological skills to better meet the needs of the surrounding community.

This policy is based on the following Principles:

- Quality
- Solidarity, without dominance or submission
- Sustainable
- Carried out by all
- Global, spanning to four continents

The internationalization of IPP develops over two complementary levels:

- 1st Level: Strategic partnerships with systematic and constant commitment
- 2nd Level: Occasional partnerships

The internationalization of IPP materializes, among others, in the following priority actions currently under operation or being planned:

- Mobility of students in all courses of study (for studies, internships, research) and of teachers
- Joint degree programmes
- Cooperation, research and dissemination of results projects (publications and conferences)
- Organization and management of higher education institutions

At the operational level, IPP intends to:

- Update / Renew existing agreements
- Establish partnerships and cooperation agreements that allow exchanges of students and teachers for all EU27 countries and associated countries participating in the Programme, so as to guarantee at least 5 partner institutions for each programme awarding a degree
- Stimulate the participation of schools in exchange curricular projects that do not run out and restrict to the mobility of students and teachers, but extend to multilateral projects with other institutions foreign counterparts, European or not;
- Support the integration of IPP in national or international networks that foster national or international cooperation;
- Integrate institutional associative national and international structures ;
- Establish /consolidate privileged relations with a limited number of foreign (3 or 4) and national (1 or 2) institutions in field of operation of each School, for the development of joint regular projects;
- Allocate regular financial support for mobility grants to students and teachers for missions in third countries (this can be articulated with the previous in order to finance missions to / from any of the institutions);
- Consolidate the organization of Junior Polytechnics, summer courses for domestic and international secondary school students.

The European Space of Higher Education will continue to deserve a privileged attention for the purpose of international activities. However, IPP will strive to consolidate the already existing relations with other parts of the world, mainly with the Portuguese-speaking countries and territories. IPP currently has cooperation agreements with Macao, Brasil and Africa: mobility and other cooperation projects with Macao and with Brasil are already in place and will be consolidated and extended.

A pilot experience in the field of joint degree with a neighbouring Spanish University has been carried out already, in the area of Agrarian Studies and is currently under assessment.

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]

The organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects is one of the priorities of IPP, following the defined policy of internationalization to go beyond mobility only. One of the roles of the Cooperation and External Relations and Office (CER) is to support all units of IPP in applying for international cooperation projects, particularly in the context of the new Programme, including cooperation with third countries.

The policy framing this kind of activities follows these principles: cooperation should be geographically spread and not restricted to the European space; however, a special focus should be given to the consolidation of cooperation with institutions of neighbouring Spain; priority should be given to cooperation with the institutions included in the list above mentioned.

In accordance with the the institution's international strategy and with the above principles, the participation of IPP units, teachers or students in international cooperation projects may be achieved through the submission of applications to centralized or de-centralized European funding in the relevant fields of operation, or through their participation as partners in cooperation projects submitted by a partner. This has already led to the successful coordination of European-funded projects (three currently under operation, two of them coordinated by IPP and one coordinated by a partner) and to the submission of 4 international cooperation projects led by IPP and to the participation as partner in another one. On the other hand, the consolidation of international partnership networks has led to the participation of IPP in cooperation projects beyond centralized or de-centralized European funding, through the signing of specific agreements for that purpose, as it is the case with some projects with Spanish cross-border institutions and to Brazilian Institutos Federais (Federal Institutes) and Universities.

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]

The participation of IPP in the Programme will have a decisive impact on its modernisation. Although most of the priorities defined on the Modernisation Agenda of Europe's Higher Education Systems already are part of its internal policy, as stated under the Quality Management System and Social Responsibility Programme, where IPP is a pioneer in Portugal, the Programme will allow for their consolidation and strengthening. The increase of attainment levels of graduates will be better achieved through attracting new attendees, particularly those from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. In line with this priority, IPP already offers these groups opportunities for attending its programmes, namely adults and those seeking a vocational pathway, and makes use of clear procedures for recognising learning and experience gained outside formal education and training. On the other hand, the participation of IPP's researchers and teaching staff in international cooperation projects and of those disadvantaged groups in international activities will offer them new professional and cultural horizons.

Quality issues are also one of the priorities of IPP (see above). The participation in the Programme will allow for the exchange of best practices in order to improve quality in course design, taking into account the needs of the local, national and European communities, in fostering a greater variety of study modes, the use of ICT, particularly through the consolidation of e-learning, also as a way of strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border co-operation. One of projects submitted in the 2013 Call deals with these issues, in an attempt to build learning mobility more systematically into curricula and eliminate unnecessary barriers to mobility. In addition, the recognition of credits gained abroad through the use of comparable and consistent use of ECTS and the Diploma Supplement promotes effective quality. One of the priorities of IPP is to apply for the ECTS and Diploma Supplement labels.

IPP is a member of one of the most successful Consortia at national and European levels, which has allowed, and will continue to do so, to link higher education and business in a wide geographic national horizon, putting together the most representative and important businesses, thus contributing to excellence and regional development. The participation in the Programme will strengthen this link across Europe and provide students better opportunities to integrate into the labour market.

Governance and, particularly, funding are key issues currently under discussion and under a great political and financial pressure. The participation of IPP in the Programme will help alleviate those pressures, on the one hand by searching for alternative sources of financing, and, on the other hand, by helping modernise its human resource management.

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