

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

'Valle del Jerte' High school in Plasencia is a public school under the Ministry of Education of Junta of Extremadura, where students receive official education.

The development of an European dimension among students is one of our main strategies to prepare our students for a global society. We consider highly important to have the opportunity to participate in European mobility programs as a way to promote the exchange of experiences and cooperation.

Our partner search strategy focuses on those schools, enterprises and institutions in areas related to professional training course taught at our school, showing interest in the academic, profesional and cultural exchange, and commit as partners with our center to the development of projects that enrich both students and staff from both of us.

Although our school has targeted mainly European countries so far, we do not exclude other continents. Nowadays, the new methods of communication allow us to establish contacts with schools, businesses and other organizations anywhere in the world, being able to perform both the organization and the development and monitoring of the mobilities practically under the best possible conditions.

The Erasmus Charter gives our students of higher level training courses the opportunity to study at schools in other countries, as well as to carry out traineeships abroad to complete their education.

Our aims about this project are specified in the following:

- Provide students the knowledge of foreign languages and a direct contact with the culture of foreign countries,
- Contribute to the creation of a community of young and future well qualified professionals with international experience,
- Improve attitudes regarding entrepreneurship and international occupational mobility,
- Develop in the students skills and competences required in the European labour market,
- Shorten the distance between education and enterprises at an European level and know the professional profiles demanded.

The Erasmus Charter will also involve the teachers, as their experience in mobility activities will be critical in the internationalization and modernization of the center. Teachers may participate for both teaching and training. Our aims regarding the mobility of teachers are:

- Exchange information regarding traineeships and its modus operandi,
- Improve the skills of teachers acquiring new knowledge,
- Develop new teaching methods which encourage learning by students,
- Improve the quality and attractiveness of education within vocational training.

'IES Valle del Jerte' high school is interested in international cooperation projects. We believe that cooperation among national and international institutions provides an important knowledge and cultural values transfer, necessary in a global society as ours. Nowadays cooperation needs to be developed with all the resources we have at our disposal. Internet and new technologies contribute greatly to cooperation providing easier ways to work communicate. Cooperation with other educational institutions through joint projects provides a critical tool to increase student motivation and make the whole school community more global and modern.

But cooperation does not only focus on that aspect, the school is also interested in establishing agreements with companies in order to promote activities that encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity, increasing learning opportunities, while students get more motivated and closer to the nowadays high demanding labour market. Moreover, the school seeks to encourage cooperation with companies and other institutions in order to increase its own modernisation, developing research and innovation activities and opening our school to other countries. Cooperation with other schools, businesses and institutions to develop different projects opens a door to the internationalization and modernization of our institution, of teachers and students, enhancing capacities and academic, professional and personal skills in order to face an increasingly competitive Europe.

Participating in the Program will have a great impact in our school Valle del Jerte from different points of view. The incorporation of cooperation and mobility projects in the studies contents implies great motivation for the students. They discover through the project a lot of personal and professional possibilities. Vocation training gains attractiveness, it offers a personal, linguistic, educational and professional experience, highly important for young people. In this way, the number of our students would increase during the following years. One of the results of cooperation projects and students and staff mobilities is the change in the teaching and learning methodology, increasing the use of information technologies. It will be necessary to promote online education, where the students can personalize their learning process and timing. They have also easy access to all the information, so that they have time for investigation and development. Moreover, the experience of mobile students and teachers will provide new methodology which will enrich learning and teaching techniques, as well as increase the education quality. A better education quality will offer the students the basic knowledge and competences required to success in the more and more demanding and competitive labor market, so their opportunities to find a job will increase as well as the labor condition they may get.

The connection among Business, Research and Education will be reinforced by mobility and cooperation projects. Not only will they enable the knowledge transfer among the three parts, according to the business and labor market needs, but they also will allow the improvement and internationalization of the three of them. Promoting students and staff mobility and international cooperation projects will involve an important change in the development of activities at our school, which will approach towards modernization and adaptation to the appearing needs.