

Erasmus Policy Statement

According to some of this institution priorities agenda – namely, openness to diversity and flexibility of pathways and the promotion of the European dimension through training and research –, the ESEPF's internationalization strategy establishes the following criteria in European and non-European partners' selection:

- a) institutions where studies offer is similar to ESEPF offer in all study cycles, allowing satisfactorily studies recognition after students mobility period return and increasing students employability chances in those places, once graduated;
- b) partners who develop study or research activities analogous to ESEPF, promoting teachers and researchers integration in joint research networks and creating possibilities for their future participation in joint programs;
- c) according to the specific function of each employee, for non-teaching staff mobility are sought institutions that adopt standards of excellence in quality management.

As the most probable choice for students' mobility activities, Spain is a privileged partner. The need to empower teachers, students and non-teaching staff in the language of academic work, as well as teachers' integration in networks of scientific excellence, make ESEPF also focus on partners in European countries where English is accepted as work language. Brazil – as an additional possibility of professional opportunities for new graduates and as an important student's recruitment area for ESEPF – as well as the Portuguese-speaking African countries (where an experience of enhanced cooperation in the training of teachers and educators is already happening) are important ESEPF partners. The academic potentialities in scientific areas of excellence and the opportunity of diverse non-European cultural exchanges make the United States a relevant strategic partner.

The key objectives and/or target groups of the ESEPF mobility activities are:

- i. promote an intercultural perspective of teaching and learning processes and methodologies;
- ii. empower students, teachers and staff with new professional skills;
- iii. enlarge students employability opportunities;
- iv. integrate teachers in teaching and research international networks;
- v. allow the staff to adopt in ESEPF best management practices identified among partners.

ESEPF's participation in this program will mean its modernization in each of the *Modernisation Agenda* priorities, since this HEI proposes:

- a) to contribute to achieving the 40% goal of people with higher education in Europe by 2020, forming the students with a set of transferable skills that will enable them simultaneously greater employment opportunities and active citizenship exercise;
- b) to consolidate a lifelong learning culture, expressed in the frequency of post-graduate and advanced training appropriated to mobility and employability contemporary demands;
- c) to attract adult audiences for formal and non-formal short-term training skills environments;
- d) to integrate a larger number of teachers in national and international education, social inclusion and innovation research networks, contributing with solutions to school failure and social exclusion related problems;
- e) to promote a greater ICT inclusion in education practices;
- f) to encourage distance teaching models to international audiences;
- g) to develop research projects geared towards training and social inclusion/cohesion;
- h) to implement a management quality system of excellence - in the framework of the European standards of reference – in order to ensure greater efficiency in credits recognition enshrined in the Diploma Supplement;
- i) to promote teaching activities in other languages in order to prepare medium term European mobility teaching periods;
- j) to integrate education for entrepreneurship in transversal students skills, adopting appropriate methodologies and incorporating this theme into their curricula, particularly in teachers and social educators training;
- k) to cooperate in local development projects based on the so-called "research and innovation strategies for smart specialization" (RIS3), within the Future Cohesion Policy 2014-2020;
- l) to adopt management and leadership strategies consistent with higher education best practices;
- m) to include ESEPF's research center in excellence research centers network and in useful social projects;
- n) to consolidate ongoing economically valued research projects and increase projects funding with public and private sources.