



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Centro Universitario de Educación (ESCUNI) is a HEI dedicated to bachelor's teaching training programs, social education, and pedagogy. With a commitment to excellence, we enrol approximately a thousand students each year. ESCUNI has recently integrated academic programs with UPSA (Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca). The introduction of the Erasmus Without Papers phase gives us the opportunity to request for our own ECHE letter and take the initiative in this management. The institution's recent growth is eager to explore new innovations under the Erasmus+ Program.

Our internationalization strategy and objectives will be carried out within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program via specific actions:

Key Action 1 (mobility of Higher Education students and staff).

Participating in this action will involve:

- Maintaining and expanding partnerships with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). We particularly prioritize institutions with academic programs closely aligned with ours, fostering mutually beneficial agreements. This approach ensures that our collaborations are advantageous for both parties, contributing to a reciprocal exchange of academic experiences.

- Our institution currently holds agreements with some European, African, and Latin American countries, facilitating enriching traineeships for our students.

- We are eager to expand our network by establishing new connections, particularly with additional European countries, the United States, and Canada. These regions are highly demanded by our students, understanding the importance of English learning and experiencing different education systems to prepare for future roles in education.

- Enhance the mobility of teaching and administrative staff. Teacher mobility is crucial

because it allows educators to bring valuable international experiences into the classroom, enriching students' learning. It also strengthens partnerships with other institutions, fostering collaboration and enhancing the overall global outlook of our university. Our teachers are highly interested in mobility for teaching abroad, but they are also deeply interested in mobility for training where they can acquire new skills, exchange best practices, and stay updated with the latest advancements in their fields.

- Introduce blended mobility programs, incorporating a mix of online classes and in-person education. We have prior experience with simpler COIL activities (Collaborative Online International Learning), and we aim to expand these initiatives further, considering the high interest and participation of students in such projects. Possibly through BIPs, students and teachers may engage in a highly valuable international experience, especially those who may not have the opportunity for individual mobility.

Key Action 2 (Cooperation among organizations and institutions).

- Partnerships for Cooperation: We will build relationships with research teams abroad. Our emphasis is on engaging in Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects and research initiatives that align with the interests of our researchers.

- We will strengthen ties with the Comenius Association (European Higher Education Network of Teacher- and Social Education), which we are part of. We plan to enhance these connections by organizing International Weeks for both students and teachers and nominate students for other partners' short programs. These events will provide a platform for sharing international learning experiences in focus groups, involving participants from various countries. These activities, already initiated at ESCUNI and other member institutions, will be expanded to benefit students who may face challenges in pursuing longer-term mobility experiences and to start establishing COIL projects.

- Partnerships for Innovation: We will collaborate with international universities to bring an international perspective to innovative teaching methods and projects led by ESCUNI research groups. This initiative aligns with ESCUNI's priority of participating in international projects that engage teaching staff.

Key Action 3 - Support to policy development and cooperation:

- By engaging in this initiative, our aim is to enhance collaboration among partner universities by establishing joint projects. Additionally, this participation will enable us to extend the impact of ongoing research conducted by various research groups at ESCUNI on an international scale.

Internationalization Goals at ESCUNI:

1. Increase and promote student international mobility: Enable students to experience international mobility.
2. Internationalize high-quality academic programs and internships: We seek to internationalize our academic programs and internships, ensuring they meet global standards and provide students with diverse and enriching educational experiences.
3. Enhance professional development via international mobility for professors, researchers, and staff to acquire new skills and share enriching experiences with other institutions.
4. Establish cooperation agreements and partnerships with international institutions to facilitate exchanges.
5. Actively participating in international research projects through multilateral partnerships is key to contributing valuable insights to global knowledge and advancing our institution's research agenda.
6. Explore opportunities to join Erasmus+ Teacher Academies and similar programs to ensure our educators stay abreast of best practices.

Envisaged Impact:

1. ****Achieving Institutional Objectives:**** Participation aligns with our goals, fostering international citizenship and multilingualism, academic excellence, and a robust network of international partnerships.
2. ****Modernization:**** Actively engaging in international mobility, collaborative research, and educational innovation propels our institution towards modernization. This includes adopting cutting-edge practices for teaching and administrative staff, educational methods and trends, and innovative approaches into our academic offerings.
3. ****Internationalization:**** Broadening academic programs, internships, and research initiatives contributes to a diverse educational environment, preparing students for success globally and hopefully attracting more international students.
4. ****Building a European Education Area:**** Active involvement in initiatives like Erasmus+ Teacher Academies positions us as a key contributor to the development of a European Education Area, aligning with shared goals in the European education landscape.

Indicators:

Participating in Key Action 1 aims to double individual mobility for students, teaching, and administrative staff while ensuring the highest quality in each mobility experience. Special attention will be given to participants from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our goal is to provide an enriching academic and professional experience for each beneficiary, fostering valuable contributions to their future endeavors. In order to do so, we will also implement satisfaction questionnaires that can help us identify best practices, ensuring an improved service for students and staff participating in mobility programs of any kind. We expect to increase individual mobility starting 2025 and have doubled the number of total participants in 3 years.