

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

### ***D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)***

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]

Bearing in mind of the new trends in Europe and worldwide, characterized by a global and highly competitive economy, the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (IPP) has developed a strategy for Internationalization and Mobility that is in accordance with the Europe 2020 goals and the current circumstances of the Portuguese Economy.

In 2012, IPP organized a Forum on Internationalization and Mobility. This event constituted a pivotal moment for reflection and the establishment of new goals. In the last 20 years, our policy has been mainly focused on mobility of students, professors, and other staff members in the EU region, which has resulted in the consolidation of an institutional European citizenship culture at IPP; now we felt it was time to engage in a thorough discussion on how to broaden the scope of our internationalization strategy for the next years. Three main strategic lines emerged from the Forum: internationalization for employability; new geographical areas; and connection with Research & Development with Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Furthermore, it was felt that it is of the utmost importance to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our international mobility effort. The seven flagship initiatives from the Europe 2020 strategy were also taken on board, especially the following: Youth in Movement; Innovation Union; and the agenda for new qualifications and new jobs. As mentioned above, one of the new directions of IPP is Internationalization for Employability. If employability is a main concern in Europe, in Portugal it is currently the main issue on the agenda. Thus, it is important to use the internationalization and mobility effort of IPP to improve the ability of IPP alumni and future graduates to obtain jobs, including jobs in Portugal (internationalization of Portuguese companies is the answer for solving the traditional problems of the Portuguese Commercial Exchange Balance), but also jobs abroad, because today the Economy is global and to work in another country raises far fewer logistical and cultural problems than before.

Another direction included in the IPP strategy is Internationalization in new geographical areas. CPLP countries (Community of Countries and regions using the Portuguese Language) are obvious privileged partners for cooperation, and indeed the EU expects Portugal the ability to establish an academic influence in this geographical space. Since 2010, IPP has geared its efforts to the cooperation with these areas - from just a couple of formal contracts with Brazil in 2010, IPP has now dozens of cooperation agreements in place, which include initiatives such as the organization of Master courses in Brazil, the enrollment of hundreds of Brazilian students from the "Science without Frontiers Programme" in different IPP schools, and the coordination of three FP7 projects for the mobility of researchers. BSc and MSc courses will also be organized in Angola, and other countries are also envisaged in this effort, such as South Korea, the USA, and China. A third new direction included in the IPP Internationalization strategy is the connection with R&D and Innovation and Entrepreneurship. R&D groups have their own mechanisms for international cooperation, but these are usually disconnected from the institutional Internationalization and Mobility policy. Therefore, we have defined as one of our main strategic objectives to encourage straight collaboration between people from the R&D and Internationalization structures. Currently, IPP coordinates 3 IRSES (International Research Staff Exchange Scheme Programme, from the Marie Curie actions). These projects involve EU R&D groups together with non-EU countries, such as Brazil, South Korea, and Argentina. Major steps have also been taken in strengthening the internationalization of our TTO (Technology Transfer Office) through cooperation with similar structures in countries like Spain, Germany, the Ukraine, and Brazil. Since Innovation Union has been defined as the main flagship initiative in the Europe 2020 strategy, it is indeed important to connect it with the Internationalization effort.

The main target groups defined in our mobility activities will be: students and graduates, who will be able to benefit from an international mobility experience to increase their employability; staff members, who will be able to exchange experiences that will benefit the institutions involved; and professors interested in starting new projects with the host institutions. IPP has been involved in some double/joint/multiple degrees (e.g. with Universidad Politecnica de Madrid in Spain, with Université de Bretagne-Sud in France, and with Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie in Brazil). Other programs will be developed with several European institutions, namely the Universities of Applied Sciences, and with CPLP institutions. The programs will be mostly oriented to vocational and professional training.

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]

As far as staff and student Learning Mobility is concerned, our current main concern is to gauge the potential impact of mobility in employability. Thus, our mobility strategy will be focused on how a specific mobility can contribute to improve the chance of finding or creating jobs. Previous projects like the Erasmus Consortium, Leonardo da Vinci, and special projects like PRAXIS are good examples of on-going projects that fulfill the goal of enhancing employability. Furthermore, IPP will pay special attention to vocational mobility (more oriented to finding a job), on the one hand, but also to mobility at masters level, with its stress on research, innovation and entrepreneurship (more oriented to creating jobs).

IPP has already established a set of strategic partnerships at national and international level. At regional level, cooperation with both municipalities and enterprises and other organizations, including the promoters of innovation and entrepreneurship, have been privileged. Several networks of international contacts (from academia, municipalities, and enterprises) will help form a stronger network from which Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skill Alliances will emerge.

The use of Information Technology platforms will play an increasingly key role in the development of any future collaborative work. For this purpose, IPP has created e-IPP, an innovative platform that promotes e-learning, blended-learning and mobile-learning activities and supports the development of new paradigms in teaching and training. Several courses have already been organized using this platform, and they will be used in our international MSc courses in Brazil and Angola. Some of our international projects use this kind of platforms, e.g. the MUTW project, created to develop international projects that allow students from different countries to work together.

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 modernization of the institution is also defined in our priorities. On the one hand, we are preparing the institution for the Modernization Agenda. On the other hand, we are following the trends of the European digital agenda flagship initiative from the Europe 2020 strategy.

It is important to notice that we are closely following the five main points of the new Modernization Agenda for Higher Education, namely:

- to increase the number of higher education graduates (IPP is one of the institutions in Portugal that has been steadily increasing this number in the last few years, including its international students);
- to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need in order to succeed in high-skilled occupations (the link between internationalization and R&D is now one of our priorities for this purpose);
- to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border cooperation to boost higher education performance (we are actively gearing our efforts in internationalization that will increase employability);
- to strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business (the connection between Internationalization and our Technology Transfer Office is running well);
- to create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence. In spite of the current severe funding constraints of Portuguese Higher Education Institutions, we have created several programs to stimulate excellence, such as: PAPRE, which encourages publication by our teachers, students and researchers in top-level international scientific journals; POLIEMPREENDE, a contest that promotes Innovation and Entrepreneurship amongst our students; and PIPED, which supports innovation in pedagogical practices using e-learning.

As to the European digital agenda, we strive to achieve a better integration of international students in our institution. IPP coordinated a major national project from the Portuguese Administrative Modernization Agency for the interoperability of Information Systems of the four Polytechnic Institutes of Northern Portugal. This experience has the potential to be extended to other national and European institutions in order to make the integration of international students easier at institutional Information System level. It is also important to refer here to e-Learning and special platforms developed for collaborative projects involving students and professors in different countries (like MUTW).

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

**E**

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

*Place: Porto*

*Name: Delminda Lopes*

*Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013*

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

*Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)*

*Delminda Augusta Pinto Gps*

*Original stamp or seal of the Institution*

