

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### Participation in Erasmus+

“Escola EFA Quintanes” is a legal High Educational Institution (HEI), its legal name is: Escoles Familiars Rurals d’Osona, S.L. and it is a limited company of 28 full time employees (teachers, administrative, cooking, cleaning staff), and 5 part-time employees. It is not owned by other major organizations. This institution has more than 50 years of experience. The aim of the EFA Quintanes is to promote the development in the rural areas and environments and offer both Vocational Education and Training (VET) and High Education (HE). See page number 6 centre’s mission of the Centre’s Educational Project (PEC):

<http://www.quintanes.com/educational-project>

The courses taught in Escola EFA Quintanes, hereafter called HEI, are in the following fields: agricultural and farming, forestry, gardening and landscaping.

The catalogue of high education courses offered by the HEI can be found on the HEI website:

<http://www.quintanes.com/cicles-formatius-grau-superior>

- Forest and environmental management.
- Livestock and Animal Health Assistance.
- Landscaping and rural environment.

In Escola EFA Quintanes we deeply believe that the mobility experiences of young people, staff, and internship supervisors across Europe are important and contribute to Education and help to reach the goal of building a European Education Area. In order to achieve that, in our HEI we carry a diverse and varied activities such as: study trips abroad, internships and exchanges. The mobility experiences allow HEI participants and therefore their families to open up on new socio-professional realities and this strengthens their skills. For internship supervisors, this European mobility opens them up to new professional realities. For the Escola EFA Quintanes, this opening and these actions with their European partners enrich their teaching practices.

The centre’s priority objectives include the next one:

“Promote Educational exchanges and travels, as well as relationships with other HEI and other institutions”. See page number 10, of the Centre’s Educational Project (PEC):

<http://www.quintanes.com/educational-project>

We Escola EFA Quintanes plan to initiate and participate in the next 2021-27 Erasmus+ following actions:

- KA1 - Learning mobility of individuals (Mobility project for higher education students and staff)
  - Student mobility for traineeships:
    - Internships - Outgoing mobility students for internship purposes
    - Internships - Incoming mobility students for internship purposes.
  - Staff mobility for training:
    - Internships - Academic staff in incoming mobility.
    - Internships - Academic staff in outgoing mobility.
  - Blended intensive programmes.
- KA2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:
  - Partnerships for Cooperation.

## **Strategy, objectives and impact**

### **Strategy focuses on these main areas:**

- The inclusion of mobility in the curriculum of each course. Fully encourage and integrate students' mobility actions into educational plans, as well as into youth assessment plans, validation and learning recognition.
- Searching international cooperation institutions, and implement mobility actions within the framework of prior agreements concluded between international institutional Agreements (IIA). These agreements will establish the respective roles and responsibilities of the different parties, stakeholders, as well as their commitments with regard to the quality criteria shared under the selection, preparation, reception and integration of mobile traineeship.
- Promote and highlight the willingness to open up rural family homes for all young foreign people internship accommodation.
- Promoting and valuing language learning.
- Give students and staff equal opportunities to live an international experience through an international internship, irrespective of their socio-economic background.
- Proper mobility actions' information will be provided to the students and their families. The mobilities actions and information will be announced and promoted among the Escola Quintanes' students and their families by different means: a) Digitally in the HEI's website, and in the social networks. b) Parent's meetings. c) personal or group meeting will take place directly between students themselves supervised by a teacher. d) Pupils will benefit of mentorship before, during and after the mobility actions. The aftermobility mentoring is also important to give recognition and help the student to realize and reinforce the positives values results of their recently finished mobility action, and overcome the possible drawbacks experienced.

### **Objectives of our participation as a HEI in the Erasmus Program:**

- The participation of academic staff in searching partners and to ensuring that the selection of partners meets the HEI's intended internship mobility actions.
- Signing Inter-Institutional Agreements (IIA) with international partners on areas of mutual interest to initiate KA1 actions addressed to students and staff. The IIA will reflect the expected outcomes and impact on the mobility students and the professional development of the staff member at both institutions.
- Implementing KA1 projects for learning mobility of students and staff. Letting learning experiences, that reinforce both vocational and personal skills, including adaptiveness, communication and language skills, citizenship, and international cooperation and reciprocity.
- Provide any educator and particularly newcomers with mobility experience in teacher training. Likewise, this experience can be integrated into improvement actions for instructors. The initial objective is that in the near future, every year, 5% of HEI staff, carries out a period internship abroad in a HEI or in a company in the professional sector which is related to their current teaching activities. Send staff abroad to live an international experience causes an impact in their careers, and facilitate learning from partner institutions, and reinforce partnerships and resources sharing.
- Commit to ensuring that each willing student has the opportunity to live a mobility experience, thorough his training program. The initial objective is that in the near future, every year, 5% of the second-year High Education's students, carry out a period internship abroad in a company in a sector of their interest that is related to their current studies.
  - the internship period will take minimum a two months' time.
  - the internship period abroad will be carried out preferably at the end of the 2nd year.

- Every student should be able to access to mobility experience irrespective of their socio-economic background: the lack of financial means is not an obstacle to access to the HEI's mobility programmes.
- In the following years the HEI will review and reset the objectives and the percentage of mobility participants, intending an increasingly steadily percentage of the outgoing participants.
- By joining the Erasmus Program, the HEI will contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.
- The participation in the Erasmus programme will also contribute to digitalize our procedures by joining the initiative Erasmus Without Papers (EWP).

### **Impact**

- The students will learn the practices, techniques, characteristics of foreign organizations.
- The students will live with a foreign host family that will allow them to gain experience and practice their communication skills, and they will gain knowledge of the customs, culture and values of the country.
- After an international traineeship mobility period, the students have a broader educational experience, they will become more job skilled, and they will also have experienced a personal growth that will increase their employability and entrepreneurship skills.
- The international established liaisons will reinforce the European's citizenship sense of identity, which will awaken the interest of both parts promoting futures contacts and mutual recognition of their cultures, languages, and business practices.
- The students will pay special attention on the way the companies apply digitalisation, and how the renewable energies are implemented in order to reduce fossil fuel dependence, and CO2 emissions and carbon footprint.
- The students will pay special attention in reducing energy's consumption by using machinery energetically efficient and passive facilities using proper construction isolators that reduce energy losses which results also in energy saving.
- The students will include all these observations in their final internship's resume.
- After the traineeship, the new open mind and the background acquired by the students will be transmitted implemented in their country of origin.
- When the students return, they will give a talk of their experience to their classmates, which will open their classmates' minds and encourage them to take future mobility actions. After their return, the next academic year, the students will make a talk of their mobility experience to new students one year younger than them, also explaining the previous process that was followed to access the Erasmus+ scholarship program. Mobility coordinator, class tutor and personal mentors and counsellors will be in charge to provide support and give extra talks. All this student talks will impact and encourage other students to take mobility actions, and will transfer learning experiences and knowledge.
- Send staff abroad to live an international experience causes an impact in their careers, and facilitate learning from partner institutions, and reinforce partnerships and resources sharing.
- Staff mobility activities and experiences are used to support institutional development, and personal development during the annual plan discussion.

## **Indicators**

In a timeline, the mobility process and activities will provide quantitative and qualitative information:

- After mobility actions students will fill a valorisation form and survey.
- After mobility actions tutor at the host company/organisation will fill a valorisation and certification.
- Number of students who have applied to participate in the mobility program in the current academic year.
- Number of students who have been admitted to the mobility program in the current academic year who are preparing for the next year internship.
- Number of students who were admitted to the programme the previous year and who have completed their mobility internship in the current year.
- Number of internal teacher's mobility information meetings.
- Number of mobility information meetings addressed to parents.
- Number of mobility information meetings between the students and its class tutor or mentor.
- Publication on the HEI web of the lists of accepted and rejected applications.
- Publication on the HEI web of the number of places and grants awarded for the mobility internship in the current academic year.
- Number of articles, images, posts, videos, published on the web or in the social network.
- Number of annual mobility claims, kind, and cause.

All indicators shall be analysed and interpreted to learn from them and take proper corrective actions, when necessary, to improve the future results.

Each indicator will have an Initial Value, a Foreseen Value, an accomplished value and a percentage; a ratio between the accomplished and the Foreseen value