

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the

goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

STRATEGY:

Armeria Eskola offers an integral Vocational and Education Training project of excellence providing service to the current needs of the global society and **sees Erasmus+ as central to its internationalisation strategy.**

Participation in the **Erasmus Programme** is expected to have considerable **contribution to all four strategic worklines of our institution:**

- **up-to-date educational system implementation** (challenge-based methodology),
- putting **people at the center** stage by promoting **leadership and teamwork**,
- providing a wide range of **opportunities for professional and personal development**
- strengthening **relationships and cooperation** between institutions and organisations.

To satisfactorily achieve the objectives set out for Erasmus+, **Armeria Eskola has developed a structure for the management of the programme** and appointed an International Coordinator. The structure involves and mobilises **stakeholders from across the institution in its delivery of Erasmus+ internationalisation activity in line with the institutional strategy.** Staff within the school are given Erasmus+ duties in addition to their regular teaching and management tasks. In addition, there is an active and close **collaboration with Tknika, Basque VET research centre and Ikaslan, Basque association of VET state schools.** Together **we follow the guidelines of The 5th Basque VET Plan** in an ongoing effort to place Basque Vocational Training at the European forefront.

Deeply committed with the PDCA system, our institution is pledged to create an evolving culture of continuous improvement. **In line with the goal of building a European Education Area**, we focus on boosting the **development of key competences for lifelong learning** such as promoting entrepreneurial drive and innovation-oriented mindsets in order to unlock personal potential, creativity and self-initiative. As well as that, we concentrate on **developing the digital competences and skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation.** Special emphasis is being placed on **common values** such as strengthening social cohesion and contributing to fight the rise of populism, xenophobia, divisive nationalism and the spreading of fake news.

At the beginning of 2020 **Armeria Eskola signed its first Inter-Institutional Agreement for Erasmus+ mobility in the Engineering field** (Engineering Mobility in Europe-EMEU), based on the **compatibility of study programs and shared quality requirements.** It involves institutions from five different European countries and it is our aim to offer our students the possibility of broadening their perspective and enriching their study experience at home (incoming/ virtual mobilities) or in a different country (outgoing/virtual mobilities).

In the following years, **students and staff will be able to complete study programs, share**

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

experiences, create networks and participate in innovation and cooperation activities abroad. At the same time, our institution will host incoming students or peer teachers as well as organize and participate in virtual mobilities.

The list of responsible people is available on the website for contact and consultation purposes.

The **objectives** we pursue are, among others:

- To foster the **international dimension of the multiple services Armeria Eskola offers** furthering the goal of building a European Education Area
- To establish **ties of cooperation with other European institutions and companies**, making our students and teachers, the link to achieve this
- To offer **all types of students the possibility of carrying out the internships in other countries, facilitating such participation to students in more disadvantaged situations, avoiding social exclusion**
- To **encourage staff mobility for professional development and good practices and innovation cooperation**
- To **improve the use of European reference languages**, especially English
- To **collaborate with other European institutions in the reception of students from other countries** and helping them in the search for accommodation and jobs for internships in our geographical environment
- To make **better use of digital technology for teaching and learning**
- To **develop the digital competences and skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation**
- To **help students**, both visitors and those who travel to other countries, to **integrate into the daily life of the host centers**
- To **certify with the corresponding Diploma or Certificate the overcoming of the number of hours and tasks determined by the Training Plan in Workplace.**
- To **credit the teachers involved in the mobility process for their participation.**
- To **provide**, at no cost, to **students from other institutions the facilities of our center**, as well as **advise them in all the practical and academic aspects** they need.
- To **achieve long lasting relationships of collaboration between sending and receiving institutions.**
- To **actively engage in supporting policy development and cooperation**
- To **get more women to join VET studies, reducing the disparity still existing.**
- To **promote quality education for all pupils**
- To **enable students learn about Europe's common heritage and diversity and get a good understanding of the functioning of the EU**

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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ACTIONS:

It is our goal to take part in the following Erasmus actions:

- **Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1)** - Mobility of higher education students and staff will enable our institution to **expand our international projection as a global reach education provider**, in order **to broaden perspectives and smooth the path for the development of a European advanced and cohesive society and the creation of a sustainable business fabric.**

Our institution will organise **campaigns advertising the benefits and opportunities of Erasmus**. A **questionnaire will be delivered to all students and staff** about expectations and obstacles to mobility at the beginning of the academic year. Based on the results of the questionnaire, **promotional material** will be designed with information about mobility possibilities and will be **widely disseminated** and shared on multiple platforms to encourage students and staff to ask about possibilities.

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Innovation

In agreement with its institutional policy, **Armeria Eskola focuses on creating international networks and projects**, which apart from enhancing the school's prestige, also provide **opportunities to share experiences and strengthen spaces of cooperation between institutions to achieve excellence and development.**

The Internationalisation Team within the school will be allotted **time and resources to enlarge partnership networks, set up agreements and organize exchanges of practices and design cooperation projects for innovation.**

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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IMPACT:

Participation in the **Erasmus Programme** is expected to make a real **impact on our institution's strategy for modernisation and internationalisation.**

Firstly, it is expected that participation, through enabling student mobility, will result in **increased attraction of students and increased retention ratios**. This is because providing the opportunity to students to conduct part of their studies in another EU country will **increase the attractiveness of programs and will act as an additional incentive to engage and remain within higher education**. At the same time, **a positive effect on the institutionalisation of internationalisation and on the motivation of non-mobile students to go abroad** is awaited.

The impact in **quality improvement** is also expected to be substantial. Through mobility and participation in cooperation programs, school members will gain **invaluable experiences through exposure to students and educational systems of other member states**. This experience, as well as the interaction with colleagues from other VET centres will invariably **improve teaching and research**. Furthermore, with student mobility programs and mobility for placement, our students will greatly **improve their core competencies and contribute in high-skill occupations**. Additionally, through programs where collaborating institutions develop new programs of study, especially those involving **the use of ICT, such as eLearning**, **it is expected that Armeria Eskola will further advance in the use, adoption and provision of such technologies within its operations**, thus providing the society access to further forms of learning.

Participation will encourage **cross-border cooperation between individuals as well as educational organisations, thus boosting education performance**. Armeria Eskola fully understands the importance of strengthening the **links between education, research and business as this triangle is key to innovation and overall advancement of society**. Participation in the Programme further strengthens our institution's efforts towards the above goal. Importantly, students and staff from different countries can be expected to utilize the strengths of their varying backgrounds and **engage in innovation and entrepreneurship (KA2 projects)**.

Finally, increasing through participation the school's involvement in funded projects is expected to **improve the governance system of such projects and increase effectiveness**.

Timeline

By the end of 2021:

- Update the website information in order to ensure transparency and equality of opportunities
- Take the first steps in implementing the Student Card Initiative
- Create a strong logistic structure for surveillance of the main European initiatives
- create an international area on our website for dissemination purposes
- take part in at least one virtual exchange through e-Twinning platform

By the end of 2022:

- involve non-teaching staff in Erasmus+ activities
- support and look for adequate programmes to help staff improve linguistic proficiency, especially English
- create new ways of advertising the benefits of Erasmus+ programme
- participate as a partner in at least one KA2 project

By the end of 2023:

- increase the number of student mobility for study and traineeships from the current 1% to 3%
- introduce at least one international/ virtual study module

By the end of 2024:

- find new partners in European countries and sign collaboration agreements

By the end of 2025:

- create and lead at least one KA2 project
- increase the number of student mobility for study and traineeships from 3% to 5%
- increase the number of staff mobility from the current 10% to 15%

By the end of 2027:

- increase the number of student mobility for study and traineeships from 5% to 10%
- participate as partner or leader in at least three KA2 projects

Every year:

- organize Erasmus+ training/ sensibilisation activities with students and staff
- make a SWOT analysis (surveys, meetings) of the current situation and implement a continuous improvement plan
- participate in activities supported by our National Agency, SEPIE

