

## 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)**

Internationalization is a main strategy of Polytechnic Easo Institute. We want to give the opportunity to both students and staff of improving their knowledge in one specific area, of practicing the studied subjects, of collaborating in projects with partners from other institutions outside our own country and of learning about other cultures, languages and ways of doing things. In the selection of partners, we are open to any proposal. The following considerations should be taken into account.

The partner institution is on an academic par with Polytechnic Easo Institute and/or can offer workplacement internships to our students, provided it is related to their study area.

There must be a designated coordinator or tutor that can give advice to the student throughout the mobility. The mobility of students and/or staff for study should be possible in both directions if desirable.

We are always keen to open to new collaborations coming from departments, companies or individuals. We are willing to establish strategic, long-term partnerships, however, we are also open to short and punctual collaborations if students, teachers or the institution may benefit of it. We have established partnerships and collaborations in Europe, but we are not closed to collaborations from institutions in any other country or region. The direction board is the only authority that can sign bilateral agreements, but any member of the staff can propose one as a start to further cooperation. In the implementation of the projects the candidates are responsible for organizing all practical arrangements, but they will always have the support and help of the international department and the direction board if required. In Polytechnic Easo Institute we only have short cycles, and both students and staff are the target groups of our mobility activities. We encourage teachers to take part in a mobility project in order to attend to courses (with the approval of the headmaster) or to collaborate with other institutions either in projects or in teaching activities. These are usually week-long placements (minimum teaching time of five hours). Placements are not limited to current Erasmus partners because, often, these collaborations are done with companies. Being part of different networks opens the possibility of long term partnership after punctual collaborations. With regard to students, the programs are focused for the second and last year of studies of the short cycle. We recommend students to take part in 12 week

mobility projects. Finding peers in our short cycle for studies is very difficult, but it is easier if we want students to practice the skills obtained; therefore they are encouraged to take part in workplacement mobility as an approved and recognized part of their studies. The aim is to promote trans-national co-operation projects, to ex-change different working skills, to strengthen the collaboration between the educational and enterprise system and, above all, to give the student the opportunity to experience this knowledge transmission during the mobility and to be able to work with people from other countries. All staff and students have the protection of Equal Opportunities policies which guard against any discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, age, race and religion. All mobilities (staff and students) will have a learning/training agreement to ensure clear and sustainable targets. (Subject areas priorities, geographical areas and implementation possibilities will be taken into account). Our programs will be strengthened by forging better links with or partners. We will encourage students and staff to make visits and invite their staff in return. One of the objectives is to make students be aware of the importance of international cooperation in their near future by experiencing a mobility and later in their lives by strengthening educational and business cooperation. The foreseen results of these projects will be visible to all the Polytechnic Easo Institute community leading us to a sustainable modernization and internationalization of our institution.

**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)**

Easo Polytechnic Institute is actually a member of a national network (Ikaslan) and actively collaborates with it. We have been participating in innovation projects whose international dimension is one of the targets. Clear and transparent aims are stated before taking part in any project, thus cooperation foreseen results become reality. The first step is analyzing the needs and targets of an educational department. Proposals reach the direction board, and they are accepted if they are within the strategic frame of Easo. For the implementation of the project, candidates and the international department work together in establishing tasks, roles and targets so as in helping organizing all practical arrangements. Being an active member of different networks allows Easo to participate in projects whose aim is the internationalization and modernization of the institution. Sharing information is the basis for transference and innovation projects such as TOI under the Lifelong Learning Programme. We have also participated in VETPRO-Leonardo projects out of which several collaborations have come out. We are open to any cooperation possibility which broadens our expectancies and possibilities staff and/or students to learn within context, facing real-life situations and not only academic aspects. These innovation projects are targeted on the strategic aim of modernization education contents and techniques which will make our students be better prepared to face the labor world. Internationalization and finding peers is a mean to suppress the barriers made by using different languages and to enhance multicultural transference of knowledge.

**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)**

The impact of participation in European programs goes beyond the individuals. Polytechnic Easo Institute will obtain direct benefits by being aware of new innovations countries and by sharing this knowledge the teaching-learning process will be constantly improved and modernized. The benefits go beyond the participants; partnerships and cooperation with both educative institutions and/or enterprises increase the youth employability. By setting clear objectives for mobilities, new skills will be acquired; we want students to be critical and brave in front of the new targets set by the labor market and globalization; we want to boost internationalization and strengthen the cooperation among institutions and individuals. In other words, we want to enhance creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training. No participant will be discriminated due to gender, race, ethnicity, disability, age, race and religion. Furthermore, an important foreseen impact is enhancing cooperation in the area of voluntary activities for young people; democratic and cooperation values will become part of their formation. High level education will improve its relevance, because such mobilities will always be fully recognized as part of their way towards final degree. Transparent and clear objectives will be stated before any mobility. No personal aims will be accepted, all targets must be set within the educational frame and the program's principles. Students and staff have the opportunity to gain new skills and competences that will ensure high quality formation. Among others, having the opportunity to learn about cooperation and research will set the basis for further cross-border relationships both at educational and business level and will lead to the modernization of institutions. It should make vocational education and training more attractive to young people and, by helping people to gain new skills, knowledge and qualifications, the program also boosts the overall competitiveness of the European labor market. Outgoing students will have the opportunity to overpass the barriers and fears that the use different languages rise; promoting multilingualism is relevant for cross-border partnerships. The results of any participation in cooperation projects should be sustainable and balanced and should lead to future development of the Easo international involvement.