

IPT Erasmus Statement

a) Please describe briefly your institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013).

All the goals established in the European Strategy Statement presented at the early beginning of the Institutional Contracts have been achieved with the many exchanging programmes for students and teachers which took place in the last few years. Despite its scarce financial dimension, the Socrates Programme is still a polariser between all the other projects and networks. CURRENT GOALS are mainly the following: extend the number of partners (countries and institutions), consolidate the European intensive programmes; create at least two European post-graduation programmes; connect the European programmes (intra EU) with the international ones (PECO countries, Portuguese-speaking countries, and others).

The IPT STRATEGIC GOALS are based on the consolidation of the existing European networks and the setting up of networks in new areas.

Since the late 1980's, the IPT has steadily increased its European links, namely in the areas of archaeology, natural sciences, chemical engineering and graphic arts. The strategy of the Institute, being a Polytechnic, is to combine the offer of regionally oriented courses with some courses of national impact and even international scope. The IPT has been able to promote various European networks (e.g. on prehistoric art, heritage management or graphic arts) and to foster mobility involving its students and staff. The second cycle programme, that hosts more than 50% of non-Portuguese students in one of the courses, is a result of such strategy. The PRIORITIES of the IPT are to consolidate the existing networks and to launch new ones, namely in the fields of arts and conservation. Moreover, LLL has been elected as a strategic priority, and mature students represent, already, an import part of the students. Entrepreneurship is, in this context, a major focus of IPT's programmes. The full implementation of the Bologna process, with a flexible credits system, will facilitate the achievement of such option. The Lisbon strategy acts as a global framework for our strategy, including CD in association with enterprises and the non-profit sector, and a major attention to distance learning.

b) Please also provide information on the following points:

- **What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what type of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS?**
- **What kind of arrangements, if any, does the Institution ensure to comply with the non-discrimination objectives (eg. Actions related to gender equality, integrations of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism?)**

The International Relations Office regularly disseminates information on all Erasmus and related programmes. The IPT has designated an institutional co-ordinator, but also each of the three schools has its own co-ordinator and each department as well. This chain of co-ordination is contributing for the VISIBILITY of Erasmus in the whole institute. The existence of an *Erasmus Mundus* programme also contributes for it.

FIGHTING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (psycho-motor, social, economical, religious, sexual, national, racial or other) is a reality in the IPT in compliance with the policy of Portuguese government.

Quality of academic mobility activities:

- **What kind of specific measures are implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities?**
- **Details should be provided on recognition and credit systems, the provision of information on curricula, information and counselling of outgoing students, tutoring and integration of incoming students, provision of student services (in particular accommodation), preparatory and refresher language courses, support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.**

QUALITY control is ensured by internal mechanisms as well as by the national higher education evaluation system and finally by the exchange of teachers and students which work as a monitorisation of the polytechnic's internal procedures. At the institution level, and through some of the teachers, we are involved in several quality control projects in fields that range from chemistry to cultural heritage.

The IPT has fully adopted the Bologna recommendations. So far, all courses are ECTS based, and a large part of them have integrated networks that also contribute for the European recognition. There is no independent accreditation system in Portugal, so far, but some departments have designed their curricula discussing it at national and European level with other institutions, as well as with students, professionals and other relevant stakeholders.

All information on tutorials, curricula or other is being made available in the web, a process estimated to be completed this academic year.

Tuition in the polytechnic is mostly in Portuguese, although some intensive or second cycle courses may be taught in other languages (English, French, Spanish, Italian). A major attention is paid to foster language skills and language diversity, namely in the second cycle. Students may attend technical foreign language lessons which are compulsory for some courses.

Languages courses are also provided as part of the curricula. Incoming staff and students are welcomed by the IRO.

The research programmes in the polytechnic are largely integrated in European research networks.

Quality of student placement activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in student placements? Give details on how the work-programme and the placement agreements are prepared and implemented. Please describe the practical arrangements agreed between the parties. Please specify also the monitoring and evaluation of the placement(s) period as well as its recognition in the curriculum.

OUR COURSES have taken on a national character from the very beginning, but always with a special interest on the region where we are integrated. In fact, we think that mainly in the framework of the European integration and globalisation planning the development of a higher education institution is not possible without considering those aspects.

The existing degrees and the ones that have been proposed cover almost all higher education training fields: Conservation, Archaeology, Engineering, Management, Accounting, Communication, Tourism, etc.

At IPT, mobility and Student placements are not only the opportunity of enlargement of our curricula but specially a way of preparing the students to the future and flexible work market and to assure them personal growth, active citizenship, intercultural and language competences, in just a few words, personal and professional competences. We have established AGREEMENTS with different entities in our region to assure the incoming students the highest standards of quality, especially in reception, accommodation and food facilities, transportation and in linguistic support. These agreements also include the MONITORING and EVALUATION of mobility and work placements. IPT assures the INFORMATION and RECOGNITION, through the ECTS, Diploma Supplement and Europass. These are also the criteria for the evaluation and selection of our partners and a guarantee of quality for our outgoing students too. The WORK-PROGRAMME and PLACEMENT AGREEMENT are prepared according the objectives of students' curricula, defining and distributing the tasks among the partners and assuring a clear match between the partners selected and the students' training needs.