

D Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

1. The ESAD of Extremadura was created in 2009 as a Higher School of Dramatic Arts with an international vocation. Among most outstanding strategies are both the possibility of carrying out student and staff motilities and the cooperation with a variety of public and private high schools, drama centres and different entities involved in the teaching of the dramatic arts throughout Europe.

This foreign affairs strategy resulted in the immediate incorporation of the ESAD of Extremadura to the Erasmus Programme the same year of its creation, 2009-2010, a cooperation with different centres of drama in Lívomo (Italy), and the participation in some international festivals of Dramatic Arts Schools as the one held in Jeicz Laskowice (Poland). Out of the Erasmus Programme, an exchange of students with a centre in Argentina was also organized, which resulted in the visit of an Argentinean student of dramatic arts to the ESAD of Extremadura, and the attendance of three of our students at a variety of learning courses held in Argentina.

When choosing our partners to cooperate with, not only does the ESAD of Extremadura search after an academic excellence but also a coincident with the teaching-learning and aesthetic interests, and even geostrategic ones. That is the reason why our main cooperation is and will be centred on High Schools of Dramatic Arte in Portugal and Italy. On the one hand, the border situation of Extremadura and Portugal its historical vocation for everything related to Iberia and the cross-border cooperation, and our students' interests, who for geographical, language, and artistic reasons are inclined to participate in activities held in Portugal, have made us centre our interests on the motilities in this country. On the other, the affinity between Italian and Spanish people, and the different cooperative activities held until now with Italian centres make us search for partners from Italy In the future.

At the same time, as our students' and staff s interests change and open lo new fields, the ESAD of Extremadura will try to extend the geographical area for the mobility to other countries which are already interested in cooperating and participating in the Erasmus programme with us.

Finally, the mobility centres on students of the second course of the first cycle and those of the first course of the second cycle. However, most of the students who have applied for the Erasmus mobility are those registered in the third year of both Directing and Performing Arts (that is, the first course of the second cycle), since this course seems to be the most adequate, from a pedagogical point o view, to centre the mobility activities on.

2. The overall strategy of the ESAD of Extremadura to organize and implement international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects is based on the search of centres whose syllabus and main teaching and learning aims coincide with ours. Apart from that, the educational objectives and the cross-border relationship with Portugal, which stimulates a great deal of coincidence in common interests, are also taken into consideration. We consider that both the participation in these international cooperation projects and the exchange of experiences they mean are of vital importance to the students' and staff's training.

3. The ESAD of Extremadura expects that its participation in the Programme and European projects of mobility means a great modernisation of its structure, its formative capacity and its aesthetic and academic aims, on the understanding that such modernisation means that the exchange of students and staff, the host of incoming students, and the cooperation with other European Higher Education Institutions of Dramatic Arts will have a bearing on a close and enriching contact with avant-garde theatrical and formative trends, at the same time that we contribute our own experience and our search capacity to the other Dramatic Arts Higher Schools we have a relationship with.

In this respect, the overall mobility strategy and the pedagogical orientation of the ESAD of Extremadura direct towards the achievement of the priorities pointed out in the Modernisation Agenda. We expect to attract a greater number of citizens to higher education in order to achieve the aim of reaching a 40 per cent of the youth with complete degrees. In order to do so, we publish the Dramatic Arts studies in Secondary Schools and try to make all society, mainly in Extremadura, know our teaching offer.

At the same time, and in order to improve both the quality and the pertinence of the Higher Education conveyed at the ESAD of Extremadura, close relations with the labour market are maintained, as there exists a mutual exchange of information and cooperation not only with the different theatre companies out also with the contests and public theatre festivals organised.

Our determination to encourage European mobilities and to improve cross-border cooperation is also present in the philosophy of the Modernisation Agenda. The relationship between Higher Education, research and companies is another aim of our High School. In this field, we are giving the first steps, which will grow and speed up as soon as the first students graduate from the ESAD of Extremadura next year. In this sense, the cooperation between our High School and the regional institutions is quite fluid and the participation of our School in the public theatrical projects in the Community is more and more important.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the autonomy in the economic administration and the strategic orientation of the ESAD of Extremadura not only help to optimize its resources but also stresses another aim included in the Modernization Agenda of Higher Education, namely a better management and funding of Higher Education Institutions.