

Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027

Erasmus Policy Statement

As a leading public university, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon has a mission of producing and disseminating knowledge in line with the highest international standards and training well-qualified professionals in the areas of management, sociology, public policy, the social sciences, the humanities, information technology and architecture. This mission is evident in: our highly qualified staff of professors and researchers; our efforts towards internationalizing teaching, research and knowledge-transfer, supported by the mobility opportunities available to the entire academic community; and our work of transferring scientific and technological knowledge to the public, as demonstrated in our development of new products and provision of services to the surrounding community.

Throughout its extensive experience in international cooperation, Iscte's participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is and has been fundamental to its Internationalization and Modernization Strategy (IMS). In alignment with the EU Modernization Plan for Higher Education, the IMS of Iscte is based on the objectives central to its Erasmus+ projects, which are the following:

- To contribute to the EU objectives of promoting open and participative citizenship and science and constructing more inclusive, peaceful, just and sustainable societies and communities;
- To promote multidisciplinary institutional collaboration with other universities in sustainable partnerships aimed at implementing the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- To increase the number of paths to mobility for students, teachers, researchers, and technical and administrative personnel;
- To integrate the European values of inclusion, diversity, collaboration, respect and tolerance into its practices and Curricular Units;
- To reinforce and provide visibility for its strategic partnerships, involving students, teachers, researchers, administrative personnel and other stakeholders in them;
- To improve the conditions of reception for students, teachers, researchers and administrative personnel from other member-universities of established consortia;
- to attract excellent students and teachers from other parts of the world;
- to develop long-term strategies for creating curricula and exchange programmes aimed at regional and territorial cohesion;

- to contribute actively to the production of innovative solutions for mitigating climate change;
- to ensure social inclusion in all its activities, fulfilling one of the basic principles of its Charter;
- to address the challenges of digital transformation as they apply to methodologies of institutional management and the activities of teaching and research;
- to prepare students for accelerated changes in the job market, the knowledge economy and society through the approaches of work-based learning and challenge-based learning;
- to develop and share pedagogical innovations that offer opportunities to students on part-time schedules or in non-traditional forms of study in all cycles of study, with the goal of promoting life-long learning;
- to participate in the creation of flexible curricula (BMD) based on a transdisciplinary and cross-sectional approach that aims to promote sustainable urban citizenship, green mobility and environmentally sustainable industry;
- with our partners and the CE, to implement the European Student Card, as well as the principles of the Bologna Agreement, for the purposes of quality assurance and automatic recognition of academic qualifications and periods of academic mobility;
- to share resources and skills with our university Partners in the Open Education, Open Science and Citizen Science initiatives;
- to strengthen the skills of transdisciplinary teams who will jointly prepare proposals for transferring the high-calibre knowledge produced through research to the education system and society at large;
- to strengthen our cooperation with other countries and regions of the world, primarily the Portuguese-speaking countries, in fulfilment of the EU guidelines for building upon the Europe – Africa bonds.

To these ends, the Erasmus+ Programme in its various actions is fundamental as a strategic tool of the institutional policy of Iscte's IMS, a commitment made in Iscte's previous Charter in 2014 and reinforced in this Charter with new principles included. As a part of this strategy, Iscte has been pursuing the systematic integration of the student and staff mobility projects that have resulted from its experience of developing Erasmus KA1 projects. The recent implementation of the Erasmus+ ICM KA107 projects has enabled the spread of the framework of internationalization put into place in the Erasmus+ KA103 projects to the rest of the world, paving the way for the European Space of Higher Education to attract individuals from around the globe.

In the next two years, Iscte's priority is increasing student and staff mobility, both in Program Countries and in the enlarged number of Partner Countries through the ongoing Erasmus Mundus programmes, as well as those to which we are applying and the ICM actions. In the latter, the geographical areas included have been growing, incorporating strategic partnerships with Portuguese-speaking countries (primarily Brazil and

various African countries), as well as China. We hope that these Partners will share in the growth made possible by the next Programme.

In a similar vein, Iscte has been creating a path for the expansion of its international cooperation projects since the beginning of the programme in 2014. Starting as a partner in two Strategic Partnership projects in 2014, Iscte has embraced objectives of increasing ambition. At the current moment, Iscte has projects in place developed through the actions Erasmus Mundus, Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education, Vocational education and Training, and school Education and Capacity Building. It intends to develop new applications to Strategic Partnerships for Innovation projects within the Framework of the new Programme (2021-2027), continuing its growth in these activities over the past three years. The purposes of these applications will be:

- 1) to strengthen the multidisciplinary approach that been developed in Iscte's research centres, translating it into an operational, experimental plan for producing innovation with the objective of professional capacity building in different sectors of activity, the education world and the business world.
- 2) to expand its cooperation with other sectors of the business and education worlds in other areas of education, with particular focus on School Education and Vocational Education and Training.

Our strengthened cooperation with Partner Countries is also made evident by our Capacity Building projects in collaboration with universities in Latin America and Africa. We hope that this investment will be affirmed by our recent application for a Capacity Building action with African countries. This project, 'Human Act' (2020), responds to the need for strengthened Europe-Africa alliance. The projects under this action will enable greater cooperation with the Partner Countries, supporting them in their processes of internationalization and innovation, as well as conferring on them greater academic coherence and connection to the European education systems. This action will therefore be one of the key instruments for executing 3 of our main strategic objectives: a) increasing the appeal of the European Space of Higher Education; b) broadening Iscte's strategy for internationalization outside of Europe; and c) modernizing our education system, as the collaboration with Partner Countries allows us to pursue a trajectory of institutional development and pedagogical enrichment with reciprocal intent. This is one way in which Iscte intends to strengthen itself in the next 7 years with ongoing projects and new applications.

Our recent application to the Key Action 2 European Universities "PIONEER" (EPP-EUR-UNIV-2020) will permit us to advance to another level: the construction of a European Space of Higher Education through the development of joint education and research programmes and projects, which will contribute to the competitive advantage of European universities internationally and the modernization of their pedagogical approaches, both in virtual and face-to-face teaching. This project is one of the main challenges that Iscte will face in the next 7 years. The strategic value of including Iscte in this partnership is based on its fulfilment of the objectives of the IMS (enumerated above) and its efforts towards expanding its physical and virtual campuses. This expansion, in connection with the Iscte-Knowledge and Innovation project, is intended to contribute the "Sustainable Cities 2020" Strategy.