

## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

IES Monte Neme is a public Highschool, located in Carballo, a medium-size town in the province of A Coruña, in Galicia(Spain). In our Highschool there are 60 students divided into Initial, Intermediate and Higher Vocational Training taught by 26 teachers. Currently, we are cooperating with over 30 enterprises where our students do their practical training studies.

IES Monte Neme belongs to the Autonomic Government Education Department (Consellería de Educación, Xunta de Galicia) and all the subjects we teach are aimed to obtain the Spanish official Professional Qualifications required for the labour market.

According to the Spanish regulations, all vocational training courses imparted at our school, include a compulsory period of practical training at an enterprise. A main objective of our school is to promote and encourage our students to do their training abroad, especially this compulsory period in a company.

The studies we impart belong to three Professional Families: Administration and Management, Electricity and Electronics, and Mechanical Manufacturing. The specialties in Administration and Management as well as Electronics offer our students the possibility of a degree in both Intermediate and High Level. However in Electricity and Mechanical Manufacturing only the Intermediate Level degree is imparted.

In Monte Neme Highschool, we have made up a team composed by vocational training teachers, entitled to inform and encourage the participation of our students in this program, in cooperation with our school headship.

The participation of Monte Neme Highschool in European mobility programs develops and allows us to fulfill our own a strategic line aimed to:

- Improve our students' technical formation and their employability.
- Improve our staff's professional development.
- Collaborate in Innovation and Knowledge Management initiatives in the EU area, which results will revert in the educational community.

We believe that this opportunity, would lead us to the achievement of the following objectives:

- To bring the European reality closer to our pupils, reinforcing the construction of an European identity and giving the students the chance to know other countries and their cultures.
- To foster the students' interest in foreign languages, and help them improve their linguistic skills from the oral and written point of view.
- To complete our students' theoretical and practical background acquired at our school, improving their competitiveness on the labour market

Our actions in order to achieve these objectives are:

- To maintain a constant search of active European educational partners.
- To obtain a fluent students' mobility for work experience in EU enterprises.
- To promote our staff's mobility for training or educational collaborations.
- To collaborate in both joint knowledge management and education projects with EU educational institutions (with an active role of IT technologies as a helping work tool).

For this purpose Monte Neme Highschool will choose partners according to the following criteria:

- Educational institutions which impart training in at least one of the same knowledge areas as we do: Administration and Management, Electricity and Electronics, or Mechanical Manufacturing.
- Training enterprises provided by educational partners which can develop learning agreements.

- Educational Institutions which can assign a Tutor for monitoring the student's progress.
- Educational Institutions open to a wide cooperation in education projects.
- Educational Institutions which provide support and facilities for incoming students.

The system we are to follow in searching for partners will be either through the European educational platforms such as e-Twinning, or by means of simple marketing techniques such as mailing and also via telephone contact with those institutions selected from their website profiles or as result of a collaboration between current partners. This search is focused on countries which match with the students' preferences: where English is the main communication language in enterprises and where students consider they can find the best professional opportunities.

Our geographical priorities for partnerships are European and non-European countries. Linguistic coverage is taken into account when selecting partner institutions. Our internationalization aims, based on mutual and reciprocal opportunities for the best cooperation between schools and enterprises in order to improve students' knowledge of working practices and competences.

Our highschool has recently become part of the "European Nest Station" mobility project, together with many other schools. This project is coordinated by our regional government, Xunta de Galicia, and is focused on allowing students of Initial and Vocational Training to complete their apprenticeship in European and non-European countries.

IES Monte Neme has taken part in the Europe Next Station Program along the current academic year. The above Program is a students' mobility project included in the Permanent Learning Program "Leonardo da Vinci" presented by the Autonomic Government Xunta de Galicia, increasing the number of mobilities from 51 up to 100 and which substitutes the late Leonardo Europe Next Station. This project was accepted by EEPAO (European Educational Programs Autonomic Organism) in June 2013. The program is addressed to Initial and Vocational Training students. During the academic years 2012/13 and 2013/14 Monte Neme Highschool has been involved in a Comenius Regio Program called "Échangeons notre échange scolaire!", which means a really positive life experience for our students.

In addition to the personal and private experiences, the exchange has led our school to keep in touch with the two Britton schools which participated on the French side.

Apart from this and due to the town-twinning Carballo has with the French town of L'Isle Jourdain, it will be easier for our Highschool to obtain a partnership with France. We also consider the possibility of getting in touch with British or Irish companies through the English Department of our school.

Because of the above exposed we believe that if Monte Neme Highschool were admitted into this Program, all these actions would be encouraged.

As for the staff's mobility our school has already had the experience with some teachers engaged in the Comenius Regio Program. These teachers belong to different Departments which makes this experience even richer to all of us.

In our school there are many teachers interested in mobility projects, that is why the Monte Neme headship and the Comitee for European Programs of our Highschool has as a main target to encourage this activity in the next years.

The general academic objectives our Highschool staff has designed will be partly fulfilled thanks to the participation of our students in European Programmes, since these projects reinforce the studies imparted in our school, first by

widening our future education offer and second by increasing the teaching quality and so the Vocational Training Education will acquire a higher social value.

We also believe the European Projects might even reduce the percentage of school leaving among those students who have either some handicap or any sort of academic, social or family problems, as they would feel motivated by these projects.

The European Programmes would allow Monte Neme students to acquire a better education from both the human and the training points of view. Through these projects our students would identify themselves as European citizens and our Highschool would become a piece to help the cooperation among countries institutions representing different cultures and situations. Thus international cooperation among Educational Centres will make differences diminish. Many concepts will be unified so that the homogenization of the European countries - and even countries from the rest of the world – will become possible.

The headship of Monte Neme Highschool wants that the students who take part in these mobility projects after they have acquired a high quality education both in knowledge and values manage to have more work opportunities. The mobility helps students be better prepared to work into a more globalized economy and also to be adapted to those needs created by enterprises all over the world.

Working for foreign companies will help our students to investigate those technologies being used by those countries and later they will be able to use these technologies in other European enterprises or bring the knowledge back home and set their own companies with all this acquired innovating learning. This is the way to link education to investigation and innovation.

We want our students to tighten the contents and values they have learnt along their education period and to acquire new abilities such as independence when facing problems, the acceptance of multicultural differences better, making them the least, and the handling of social relationships despite language differences. And so, acquiring social abilities as much as personal and work ones they might improve their competitiveness on the labour market.

To conclude just to say that the staff of Monte Neme Highschool supported by its headship is willing to help the European Union reach the objective of at least 20% of the Higher Education students involved in European mobility projects by the year 2020.