

Erasmus Policy Statement

The Don Bosco School of León is both a secondary and vocational school in northern Spain which caters for higher levels of vocational training. The location of our Center on the outskirts of Leon, in a neighborhood that was once a village of León, in a sociocultural context medium - low, and surrounded by a population formed by little occupationally qualified people, it powerfully influences in the level of education offered at our Center: training studies of Mecanic-Maintenance and Electricity-Electronic. We currently have 365 students and a teaching staff made up of 40 teachers

Our international strategy aims to develop the generic, intercultural and foreign language competences of both students and staff in order to support their development of active European citizens and an awareness among staff and students of the European work context. Our international strategy is present from secondary to Higher Education. Both students and staff are involved in this strategy. The main objectives of our international strategy are:

- To develop the foreign language and intercultural competences of both students and staff
- To internationalize the curricula at secondary and vocational level
- To promote student and staff international mobility through short visits to centers of innovation in other countries
- To increase awareness among staff of innovative teaching approaches
- To raise better understanding of the European workplace through traineeships and periods of work practice in European companies

The most important target groups of our mobility activities are:

- Staff working with students of Vocational education. We believe that by providing staff with the opportunities to learn foreign languages and engage in international mobility programmes, that this will have a knock-on effect on their students and their approach to teaching.
- Students studying higher Vocational education. We believe that it is vital that students at this level gain first-hand experience of working abroad and have the opportunity to complete their work placement module in an international context. This will support them in their future attempts to gain access to the European workplace.

In order to implement this strategy, we choose international partner using the following networks:

1. The Salesian European network of Vocational schools (www.salesians-europe.org) which is present in 23 countries. This network is specialised in Vocational training.
2. The network of international offices or our partner companies
3. Schools and institutions in Ireland and the UK who we have collaborated with in

the past

4. The European networks including etwinning and School Education Gateway.

We currently give priority to institutions and companies located in English speaking countries but also in countries such as Germany, Portugal, Poland and Italy.

In order to implement new Erasmus+ cooperation projects, the following steps are taken by our organisation:

1. Identification of new partners using networks such as eTwinning and the Salesian network of schools.
2. Language training for students and teachers so they can effectively take part in exchange programmes.
3. Participation in training and information workshops related to the Erasmus+ programme which are organised in our local area or in online platforms.
4. A European cooperation steering committee has been set up to identify new project and exchange opportunities and to identify members of staff and students who are particularly suited to taking part in each particular initiative.

The priorities of a renewed EU Agenda for higher education include:

1. Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development. Don Bosco is working towards this priority as we are aware that our students need transversal skills and key competences that will allow them to find employment in the global workplace. With this in mind, all our courses integrate transversal competences such as digital competence, numeracy and problem-solving. We also work closely with employers and our partners in local business in order to inform the design of our course curricula.

2. Building inclusive and connected higher education systems;

The León Don Bosco school has worked hard to develop an inclusive environment where students from different cultural backgrounds and different social strata can study together and succeed in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration. Our school welcomes many students from the local Gypsy community as well as integrating students from a wide range of different countries such as Morocco, Romania, Senegal, Colombia.