

IPLeiria bases its strategic plan on 7 axes, education, research development and innovation, internationalization, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, regional enhancement and development, organization and management. IPLeiria will strive to focus its international cooperation on deeper and wider partnerships and strategic networks, resting on a stronger connection between student and teacher exchange, education and research. Regarding the internationalization axis the main target is to widen the geographic and thematic scope of cooperation, therefore some contacts are being made with European neighbourhood countries - Mediterranean, Middle East and Eastern countries including Russia and also with 3rd countries of Portuguese language (Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde; Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau) and with China through mainly Beijing and Macao.

Within the EU countries future partners are contacted in order to diversify the existing agreements with "traditional" EU countries. IPLeiria has now a diversified group of partners where Slovenia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Croatia and Turkey have such an important place as Spain, Italy, France, Germany or Poland. The University has a number of well-established student mobility programs. These have brought benefit to participating students in and out who have gained from the different perspectives brought. In order to develop new links and the internationalization of its programs, our Institute intends to support the extension of Erasmus exchanges to new subject areas. It will support academic staff setting up exchange programs in Europe and elsewhere, giving priority to equal opportunities and lifelong learning, supporting the inclusion in active life and follow the professional paths of its graduates, recognizes teachers, researchers and technical administrative collaborators for their merit and motivation.

For several years one of the most successful courses is a truly international one - Translation interpretation Portuguese/Chinese/ Portuguese. Chinese students come to study in IPLeiria and our own students go to Beijing and Macao. In two further programmes, students are given the possibility to obtain double degrees when completing a mobility period at the partner institution. In addition, we are starting with international Master's degree programmes conducted jointly with national partner institutions, leading to a degree awarded by one of the partners.

We are extending our master degrees to Brazil and starting Master degrees in English to the overall international market. At the moment we have 8 masters in English in 3 of the 5 Schools of IPLeiria. From Biology, to Business, from Technology to Design, most of the fields of study are covered by this new initiative.

On the other hand and taking in due account strategic partnerships the IPLeiria takes part in a big consortium between HEI's and business, including several international partners between corporates and academic centres to give the opportunity to students to do a placement, investigation period or project in other countries.

One of the main targets is an active participation in international networks carefully chosen to identify reference partnerships.

IPLeiria promotes 1st and 2nd level joint courses through national and international partnerships. These courses are focused on promoting interdisciplinarity creating knowledge alliances according with professional needs.

The Erasmus program is promoted through 1 session in each School before the opening of the application period held by International office. Normally the academic coordinators help out organizing small sessions per department.

The program is also publicized in the IPLeiria website. Later on students will have a new session to cope with bureaucratic matters related with the application. Regarding other international programs things run more or less the same way, with public sessions and information on the website.

Periods of study undertaken by students under the mobility for studies and placements have full academic recognition if corresponding with the subjects mentioned on the previous learning agreement or training programme and do not lead to an increase in the overall length of course of study. The International office will continue to work with partner institutions to ensure that incoming students issue the reports which enable them to receive appropriate credit from their home university. All students work under the supervision of a tutor, and are required to keep in contact with them while on exchange as well as with the coordination at home.

Regarding the student mobility we consider the learning agreement as the most important document and have been developing a special form to avoid misunderstandings and guarantee the quality and transparency of the study period. In the end we have a special committee to evaluate the academic path of the students.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

