

## D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission. ☒

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

ESG is located in the North of Portugal facing Spain, in the town centre of Vila Nova de Cerveira, the "Village of Arts in Portugal". Vila Nova de Cerveira is known for its distinctive art culture and creative tradition, which is presented in the internationally recognised "Biennial of Arts Exhibition", held here. One of the most unique features of ESG is its location, which creates a transcultural environment of Portuguese, Spanish and international professors and students. The teaching and learning techniques are varied: tutorials, seminars and presentations from noted artists, designers, architects and urban designers. The faculty is composed of architects, artists and design professionals who are dedicated to stimulating and reinforcing students' progress as motivators and facilitators of students' skills and competences. ESG prides itself on the ability to provide a personalised educational experience with personal tutoring, teaching in small units, personal interaction with faculty and highly effective hands-on approach to teaching. The students have the unique opportunity to participate in Arts Exhibitions, architectural workshops, other cultural and artistic events. The Institution's mission and international strategy aims at disseminating and producing knowledge with a strong humanist bent. The skills developed in its study cycles are structured within the arts, the science, the technology and culture, and deepened in teaching and research activities. The institution focuses on the exchange between the various branches of knowledge. Since 2005 ESG integrates the UNESCO Chair-Earthen Architecture and Sustainable Development, performing an active collaboration with ICOMOS-ISCEAH, ICOMOS-CIAV, and as co-organizer of the Mediterra Network. As a result, 4 international workshops were co-organized in Portugal, Italy, Morocco and Algeria, with the participation of faculty staff and students. ESG also integrates as Institution the Iberian-American Network PROTERRA (18 countries), with which ESG develops activities and research. The exchange of students and faculty of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil) – Minas Mundi Programme - results from this partnership, as well as the research within the Iberian-American context. The CI-ESG (ESG Research Centre) has research projects funded and integrated R&D programmes, both national and international. CI-ESG is constantly required for research partnerships for projects' applications, proposed both by national or international bodies. The funded research project VerSus, from the Culture Programme of the European Commission, has ESG as its project Leader. The European partnership in research activities has also increased the mobility of both faculty and students, enabling the enlargement of Bilateral Agreements within the Erasmus Mobility: Universities of Florence, Venice, and Cagliari (Italy); Louvain Catholic University in Brussels (Belgium); Technical Higher Education School of Madrid and University of Vigo (Spain); and University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). The Institution does not limit, or restrict its field of action, neither in research terms, nor in what Mobility and Exchange are concerned; bearing, however, in mind its main fields of expertise and knowledge. ESG focuses on each and every activity that develops, among which the mobility has to be referred to, considering the following correlation of values: culture of knowledge as a good in itself, consolidated in the framework of the respect for human dignity; culture of pedagogical, scientific and technical excellence; internal culture for development of interpersonal skills; external culture to support the community and the development of inter-institutional and interdisciplinary knowledge. It is this Institution's purpose to continue developing, enlarging and widening cooperation protocols and joint-actions and activities among European and non-European counterparts. Currently ESG organises outgoing and incoming mobilities concerning the first cycle degrees of Arts, Architecture and Design, and the second cycle degree of Architecture, in the scientific fields of Architecture, Heritage and Urban Design. ESG is also Host Institution for students' internships of International PhD Diploma. The Information package is available on the website of the Institution, including all the useful information on the requisites and eligibility criteria for Erasmus' mobility. Partnerships and protocols agreed upon with other national or international institutions and universities are at ESG's website. ESG also commits to reinforce and emphasise Erasmus mobility, giving more visibility to its participants, the Student's Support Office, and through the annual information session, where both former Erasmus students and teaching staff share their personal and enriching experience of mobility.

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]

Considering the organisation and implementation of International projects, both EU and non-EU, it is important to refer the Institution's efforts to increment and foster the development of such cooperation projects in teaching and training. As aforementioned, ESG is currently part of an international cooperation consortium, involving three European Universities and three non-European Universities, which applied for a TEMPUS Project, aiming at developing a mutual training programme. Beyond the desirable share of methodologies, strategies and knowledge, such programmes will also enable the interchange of teaching and training expertise and know-how, and thus providing performance excellence and relevancy. Similarly, an Erasmus Mundus PhD is also being developed by this Institution, again along with other European and non-European Institutions, in the scientific field of Vernacular Architecture. These joint, global actions promote and enclose a general and broad experience and knowledge, both in teaching and training. The diversified, enriching, broad and reciprocal outcome that those actions endow, the skills and experience acquired by both teaching and training staff, represent a major asset, especially in today's knowledge-based society. Hence recognising the magnitude of such actions and activities, it is this Institution's aim to further promote this sort of partnership and their relevance and significance.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Regarding the first priority, ESG already allocates ECTS credits to former learning and/ or experience. However, concerning this priority, ESG also intends to develop and contribute to widen the access to Higher Education, thus reducing drop-outs and expanding its teaching and training skills, concerning these new training audiences. As for the second priority, ESG is aware of the diversity of its current student body, intending therefore to promote its graduates' employability, which is intrinsically linked to the development of informed programmes, adapted to labour market needs. Those programmes will allow a better preparation of the students for their future professional activities. ESG already collaborates with several local entities for placing graduates and students in training. It is important to highlight the collaborations with CEVAL - Business Council of Minho and Lima Valleys, of which ESG is an institutional partner for the integration of its graduates into the Employability Network. It is also noted the establishment of cooperation protocols with Portuguese and Galician companies; as well as the dissemination of job offers to ESG's graduates in various sectors (companies, factories, research and technological centres, offices and ateliers, etc.). Also to remark is the collaboration with the local Portuguese and Galician municipalities, to promote the institution and its graduates, resulting in financial support for students' attendance of higher education. Notwithstanding these already ongoing actions, ESG expects to develop and foster such activities regarding the deepening of this second priority. The third priority aims at propelling international mobility and cooperation, and though ESG is quite active in this field, it is this Institution's aim to broaden this characteristic, always regarding the efficient recognition of studies/experiences abroad and improving, henceforth, dynamic and multifaceted teaching and training. As for the fourth priority, which is at some extent related to the second one, ESG's policy to strength the "knowledge triangle" (education-research-innovation) is also ongoing, but an action to improve. Research is at the basis of innovation, which together with education will allow a greater and sustainable development of our societies. ESG expects with this priority to further alliances with regional entities, thus stimulating industrial creative and innovation skills, applied to its learning environments, aiming at also to actively participate in regional and local development plans. Regarding the last key-priority of the Modernisation Agenda ESG focuses its expectations on the effective, sufficient and successful governance and funding systems, which will allow this institution to develop its fields of expertise, and to a wider extent, to develop, deepen and achieve all the aforementioned key-priorities, aiming at a specialised, a useful, required, innovative, sustainable and inclusive Higher Education.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

**E**

## **Endorsement of the application**

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

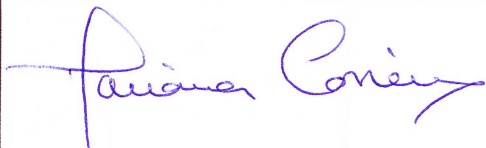
*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

*Place: Vila Nova de Cerveira Name: Mariana Correia*

*Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 14/05/2013*

☒ *I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

**Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)**



**Original stamp or seal of the Institution**

escola superior  gallaecia  
nif. 502 146 354

largo das oliveiras . 4920-275 v.n.cerveira