

## TCA BEYOND MOBILITY: INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGIES FOR VET INSTITUTIONS

Tenerife 10-13 June 2019

### Final Remarks

Carmen Rubio Armendáriz, Vice-Chancellor for Internationalisation, Universidad de La Laguna

On the last day of our 3 days top training meeting we must share some the multiple conclusions of this transnational cooperation active. VET institutions from six European countries have joined to share their best practices and go beyond mobility in Erasmus+. CIFP César Manrique, CIFP Las Indias and CIF Los Gladiolos have shared with us their projects and results. The Canary Islands VET Institutions are successful in Erasmus+ and SEPIE and the Regional Government have been an important pillar in this journey.

Thank you to SEPIE team for making this TCA and excellent working and social meeting.

Participants have discuss about Internationalization strategy. Many aspects have been studied but probably the operating environment, the vision, mission, core skills, values, goals and action plan along with the best practices in Internationalization at home could be pointed out as the most relevant.

Networking has also been present in every session and I am sure many of our VET Institutions will build permanent and solid partnerships and even networks.

VET is a key element of lifelong learning systems equipping people with knowledge, know-how, skills and/or competences required in particular occupations or more broadly on the labour market. It responds to the needs of the economy but also provides learners with skills for personal development and active citizenship. VET contributes to enterprise performance, competitiveness, research and innovation and is central to employment and social policy.

VET systems in Europe can rely on a well-developed network of VET providers. They are based on governance structures with the involvement of social partners (employers, trade unions) in different bodies (chambers, committees, councils, etc.).

When discussing about the OPERATING ENVIRONMENT, we analysed everything that affects the operations of our VET schools, internally and externally. The constants and the changes influencing them were listed. Europe and its challenges and opportunities was part of our debate along with education and training policies, demographic changes, immigration, the labour market and changes within the organization and staff team, as well as global developments and major trends in our societies.

The relevance of Networking and cooperation with workplaces and industry is essential for our Erasmus+ Project planning and execution. The Role of management and the training of our staff has been also pointed out.

The Vision of our VET school made us think. Where does our organization want to be in the future, based on its purpose (mission) and values?

We managed to talk about:

1. Covering the globe:
  - a. Establishing strategic geographical priority areas across the world for building global networks for both cooperation & mobility projects.
2. Accounting for a diversifying society:
  - a. Multiculturalism is an area of development that permeates all operations.
3. Providing multinational companies with the skills needed:
  - a. Establishing strategic partnerships based on certain sectors/qualifications with companies that have factories or units in several European countries.
4. Giving students and staff more international opportunities:
  - a. Expanding international activities to new regions.
  - b. Providing the international skills of the future:
  - c. Many students will be employed in international businesses or multi-cultural workplaces



Our second workshop was dedicated to the Mission, core skills and values of our VET schools.

The mission answers the question: Why are we here? It justifies the existence of an organization and has an important role in guiding its operations. We managed to agree that the international dimension needs to be included in the mission.

Our Core skills are the unique combination of knowledge, skills, competences and technologies that are hard to copy or replace. They distinguish our VET school from others – our true expertise. The core skills of an organization are. Each one of us shared the internationally focused core skills of its VET school.

European Values like equality, inclusion, tolerance, cooperation, multiculturalism, openness, orientation, express what is important in an organization and what viewpoints or ethical standpoints its operations are based on. Values steer the way students, staff and organizations operate as a whole. We all believe in the need of strengthening European values through cross-sectoral initiatives in our VET institution.

The Internationalisation at home session provided us with a list of examples and best practices: International competitions, e-Twinning projects, extra-curricular activities, volunteer activities, University incoming Erasmus+ students invited to teach, virtual exchanges, staff workshops for career development and teachers training, promotion of Europass, Erasmus corner and Erasmus Wall, Housing with local students, national days activities (Languages days), mobility ambassadors, former students invited to talk about their experience abroad, face to face guidance and counselling, Eures and Labour Market talks, Gastro events, plural/multi lingua curriculums, dissemination activities, involving students in Erasmus+ decisions, Promotional Erasmus+ material, inviting external organizations (companies, ambassadors, etc.), EU Funds Days Fair for networking, sharing EU projects and results with our colleagues. Low Cost excursions, International News Conferences (Hosting Agents and Partners).

Our goals (realistic and visionary) link the mission with the vision of the organization and are formulated so that the organisation will develop towards the desired, future state (vision). What specific goals should be set to fulfil the vision of your organisation in international operations was one of our main topics. We concluded that language skills, the ability to operate in multicultural work environments and knowledge of different cultures need to be covered. Internationalisation is about not only language learning and intercultural skills. It is also about giving students and staff lifelong learning skills, future-proof transversal skills and equipping them for globalisation. We talked about the key competences (digital, literacy and multilingual).

The purpose of the Action Plan is to turn the strategic goals into operational targets and related actions, and to improve the quality of the work and the outputs. It covers such issues as operational targets/actions, procedures and resources for the agreed actions, as well as the related indicators. It is drawn up to outline how an organisation's strategy will be implemented.

We managed to talk about:

- What measures should you take to achieve your internationalisation goals?
- What measures can already be taken in the coming year?
- What measures need to be covered over several years?
- Are there alternative measures that can be taken to achieve the same goal?
- Which national and international partners are needed to carry out this work?
- Where will the funding and human resources come from for the planned international work?

Along these days, we have also been able to face the importance of Partnerships, consortia and networks; the Evaluation & continuous improvement of activities and its four basic steps (Plan – Do – Check – Act)



Among the actions proposed for going international and going beyond mobility we listed:

1. Direct cooperation with local and international to establish their needs
2. Analysis to prepare future syllabus, train teachers and students and establish follow-up innovation groups.
3. Systematize the process, working on feedback and improvement and sharing. Fostering communication between new and old students.
4. Workshops: making sure to involve staff and students in the process of internationalization
5. Use Europass CV as a standard tool to promote and implement those in the CV
6. Build a TEAM (share your vision with fellow colleagues)
7. Find strategic partners for cooperation in KA2 projects
8. Create a network to join economic, social, educational and youth agents with presence in other countries
9. Where are the best companies for our students to have quality on job training in their field of study? Contact THEM
10. Raise cultural diversity awareness
11. Alumni platform to share experiences and inspire others
12. Written down accessible instructions and information about the international strategy
13. Involving staff in receiving students
14. Organizing workshops for staff
15. Language courses
16. English taught programs
17. Teach teacher digital skills for virtual exchanges
18. Prepare the dialogue with the students for virtual interviews and projects