


Number of projects as coordinator:	0
Number of projects as partner:	0

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

<p>ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT</p> <p>Participation in Erasmus+</p> <p>Describe how you plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future. Explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution.</p> <p>Note: The following types of Erasmus+ activities are open to HEIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility project for higher education students and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student mobility for studies ○ Student mobility for traineeships ○ Staff mobility for teaching ○ Staff mobility for training ○ Blended intensive programmes • Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships for Cooperation • Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities • Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees • Partnerships for Innovation • Alliances for Innovation • Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation. • Jean Monnet Actions <p>Strategy, objectives and impact</p> <p>What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme? Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue? Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.</p> <p>What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution? Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Explain how it will contribute to making your institution more modern and more international. Explain how you expect the participation to contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.</p> <p>Note: The objectives should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable.</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>For each objective, define appropriate indicators for measuring achievement (e.g. mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects, sustainability/long-term impact of projects, etc.). Link the targets to a timeline.</p> <p> If you change your activities or objectives, please don't forget to update the EPS on your website and inform your Erasmus+ National Agency.</p>
<p>Participation in Erasmus+</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Instituto Pedagógico Arubano (IPA) is a teacher training institute in Aruba offering teacher certification on the bachelor level for primary and secondary education. Internationalization within the IPA means a cultural and educational enrichment in the development of our faculty and students. The IPA considers internationalization to be of great importance because it offers new perspectives on the Aruban educational situation. It is a source of new information, academic enrichment, and renewed inspiration for educational innovation processes. It is of great importance to offer education that surpasses the boundaries of our island, to develop a community in which citizens can think global and act local. We refer to this concept as being glocal.</p> <p>The general goal of IPA's internationalization policy is: "To stimulate and guide cooperation in the field of education, administration and research with foreign universities and higher education institutions."</p> <p>IPA's main objective is to prepare lecturers and future teachers with a combination of both local and global knowledge and skills to be social agents of change in their schools and the island community. Going abroad to expand the limitations of living and working on an island is a necessary condition to achieve this policy objective. and the Erasmus+ charter offers IPA the possibility to achieve this goal.</p>

Outside of the Kingdom of the Netherlands we are currently cooperating with Wayne State College in Nebraska, USA in offering the Master of Science in Education: Curriculum and instructional leadership, to in-service teachers of different levels on the island.

Although working within the Kingdom is not seen as international, for the sake of understanding our institution the following examples are also mentioned. IPA is an active partner in education projects within the Dutch Kingdom such as *Project Samen Opleiden*, known as "Kibrahacha" in which in cooperation with the University of Curacao, The University of Aruba, schoolboards and schools on the ABC islands a new teaching approach is implemented based on the agreements made in the *4-landen overleg* (ministries of education of all 4 countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands). IPA is also offering a professional Development course to teaching staff in Saba and St. Eustatius upon request of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture en Science (OCW).

By targeting specific higher education institutions to work with on similar challenges we can improve the quality of our knowledge circulation and we can surpass our islandness by being part of a glocal community. This will contribute to removing barriers to learning and understanding the futures we face and to improve access to quality education, not only for our staff and students but also for generations of learners in our primary and secondary schools.

Once IPA has obtained the ECHE, we would like to apply for the following Erasmus+ actions:

- **KA-1 Learning and mobility of individuals**
- **KA-2 Cooperation among institutions and organizations**

KA-1 Learning and mobility of individuals

IPA has included a semester of external mobility for students through the obligatory foreign internship of 1 month in the third year of their study. All students must comply with this month of mobility. However, the possibility for students to go on mobility for 3 or 6 months is open. So far only the more fortunate students were able to make use of this opportunity due to not having funding possibilities. Our students have visited several countries such as: the USA, Belize, Belgium, Spain, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Netherlands, Argentina, Peru, Panama, Puerto Rico, Curaçao and Bonaire.

For incoming students, we have created an international minor during the spring and fall semester. International students can choose to participate in the minor, 'Globalization, Diversity, Multilingualism and Education' for a total of either 15 or 30 ECTS. For more information on the contents of this minor see <https://www.ipaaruba.com/index.php/internationalization/international-minor> Most of the participating students come from Dutch universities of applied sciences, Belgium, Surinam or Curaçao. In addition to the minor program, we receive trainees from universities that study Pedagogy or Educational Sciences. On average we host 1-2 trainees per year.

Student mobility for studies and traineeships

We would like to expand these international experiences by opening the possibilities to receive exchange students from more European countries as well as opening the doors for our students to study abroad for a longer period of 3-6 months. This goal would be covered by KA1 Mobility projects for HE.

Staff mobility for teaching and training

Although IPA doesn't have many experiences of staff mobility, we are also very interested in working with partners who offer possibilities for staff mobility and job shadowing. The experience of teaching and training abroad would be a great investment in the continuous quality assurance of our staff.

KA-2 Cooperation among institutions and organizations

IPA has cooperation agreements with different higher education institutions abroad but would like to expand this network. An example is Universitat de Barcelona.

Partnerships for innovation

To strengthen the ongoing professional development especially in implementing innovation projects within the institution, collaboration with partners adds direct value and acceleration to growth of the knowledge and skills of our staff. We are currently providing professional development in 21st Century Skills and Teaching as well as digital intelligence by means of the Columbus Model. We would like to work with a partner who is also implementing the Columbus model or another model as a strategy to work on digital intelligence. This way we can deepen our knowledge in the area of digital intelligence and strengthen our skills in order to be an example institution on the island.

In the field of research, we are interested in working with partners with whom we can further develop our research center and research policies and create communities of research that focus on the container themes Education for sustainable futures and Teaching in Plurilingual Island Communities.

Strategy, objectives and impact

In general

The Erasmus+ program offers IPA the possibility to achieve one of its main goals, which is to empower our students and staff to move beyond the post-colonial ties we have with higher education institutions and policy frameworks in the Netherlands and to expand the knowledge of educational challenges and opportunities in other European countries, especially in other plurilingual island communities or regions.

By participating in a network with other European higher education institutions, especially in plurilingual islands or regions will contribute to a stronger institutional identity, a network of international partners who face similar challenges and a continuing innovative approach to create sustainable solutions for the challenges we face.

Learning and mobility of individuals

Strategy

It can easily become overwhelming for a small institution when you deal with too many partners. That is the main reason IPA wants to focus on 2 new partners and establish a good working relationship with them before moving on to more endeavors.

Objectives

- A. Offer our existing international minor to new partners.**
Once we have obtained the ECHE, we would like to start to offer our existing international minor to students from universities we already have contact within Belgium (Artevelde) and Barcelona (Universidad de Barcelona). Several of our own students have done their obligatory internship abroad in Barcelona and in Belgium and we want to renew our MoU's with these universities by offering possibilities for their students to come to Aruba as well and by exchanging credits within our programs.
- B. Have funding possibilities for our students to study abroad for 3 or 6 months.**
Although all students have a 1-month experience abroad we would like for more students to have the possibility to study abroad for a semester.
- C. Have course subjects from our curriculum translated and ready to offer in English.**
Our current languages of instruction at the IPA are Dutch and Papiamentu. So far, the language of instruction of international minor is English and can be given in Spanish if necessary. To accommodate incoming students, we will need to provide other courses in English as well.
- D. Provide possibilities for job shadowing and training for staff**
Especially for our administrative and technical (IT) staff it will be a great learning experience to see how other institutions manage the workflow and organize innovation projects.

Impact

The impact on the individual level is visible in the personal and professional development of the people involved in exchanges. It is a cognitive, social, cultural, as well as civic enhancing experience. This impacts not only the expansion of knowledge but also the engagement of the individuals in the community. This creates a greater basis for acceptance and understanding of the needs in one's community. Learning through training and job shadowing provides staff with greater knowledge and skills which in turn also impacts the professional level of the organization.

Partnerships for innovation

Strategy

One of IPA's tasks is to provide professional development to all in-service teachers on the island. We do so by developing professional development courses geared towards the needs of the schools, by collaborating with other facilitators and by playing an active role in the Capacity Enhancement Project of the Department of Education. To comply with this role, it is important to continuously develop the institute and prepare the faculty for these tasks.

As a Small Island Development State (SIDS) we would like to connect with other Overseas Countries and Territories in the EU who share our interest in teaching in plurilingual island communities as well as Education for sustainable futures. Also having the support from policy documents and guidelines from the European Commission will support the goal of developing research policies.

Objective

- E. Become a model organization for 21st Century Teaching and digital intelligence**
Our aim and objective is to become a model organization for 21st century teaching and digital intelligence. We see an example role for Instituto Pedagogico Arubano being the national teacher training institution on the island. Most projects currently focus on teaching staff. However, to become a role model the entire staff must be trained to embrace the objectives. We see participating in innovation projects with other partners as well as staff mobility for teaching and training as excellent ways to achieve this. We would like to work with a partner who is also implementing the Columbus model or another model as a strategy to work on digital intelligence. This way we can deepen our knowledge in digital intelligence and strengthen our skills to be an example institution on the island.
- F. Work with a partner on one or more research themes.**
IPA's research department has chosen two main research themes, namely *Education for sustainable futures* and *Teaching in Plurilingual Island Communities*. The researchers in the team are currently working on or setting up research in the following areas:
 - 21st Century Education

- Health (mental, physical, social-emotional)
- Social economic crises
- Environment
- Plurilingualism
- Caribbean teacher of the 21st century

Impact

By professionalizing the staff and equipping IPA's Center of Continuous Professionalization (CDPC) with the necessary tools, skills and body of knowledge we can support the strategic goals of the National Educational Policy 2030 of the government of Aruba. These strategic goals are: *development of individual learning needs, ambitions, and talents, education with equal opportunities for all, sustainable improvement of the quality of education, development of 21st century competencies for a sustainable society in our country and in the world.* <https://www.ea.aw/pages/wp-content/uploads/p/PEN-Summary-National-Education-Policy-Aruba-2030.pdf>

By working together with partners and sharing research findings in these areas we will be strengthening and building research capacity on the island as well as gaining practical knowledge of the themes to implement in our schools. Hence also impacting education on a national level

Indicators

Ad A. Offer our existing international minor to new partners

Our aim is to start small and expand the amount of receiving students with 5-8 students from two new countries (Belgium and Spain). Currently, we receive on average 12 -15 students per semester. We would like to raise the number to 20 students per semester. The international minor is offered in English.

Ad B. Have funding possibilities for our students to study abroad for 3 or 6 months.

In 2024 a 15% increase of IPA students applying for a study abroad mobility program should be seen. We hope to see a growth up to 50% by the end of the charter period.

Ad C. Have course subjects from our curriculum translated and ready to offer in English.

Within two years of offering our current international minor to the new partners, we will continue to develop other themes that are interesting for international students to follow as a minor subject in the fall of 2025 as well as offer at least 3 course subjects within our curriculum in English.

Ad D. Provide possibilities for job shadowing and training for staff

By 2027 at least 3 administrative staff members (librarian, office manager and Coordinator of Student Services) as well as 1 IT staff member will have participated in either job shadowing or a specific training in collaboration with our partner(s)

Ad E. Become a model organization for 21st Century Teaching and digital intelligence

IPA is currently providing digital training for staff through the use of the program Digit Updater and in 2023-2024 Columbus Coach will be implemented in the institution. By collaborating with other partners in 2024-2025 the knowledge and skills gained will be used to continuously update the professional development courses we offer to schools and organizations on the island.

Ad F. Work with a partner on one or more research themes

During the academic year 2023-2024 IPA's Research Center (CIDE) will actively look for and find a suitable partner to work on at least one of the research themes mentioned above in the objectives. By the end of academic year 2025-2026 the chosen research partner and IPA will publish and present research findings to all relevant stakeholders.

2. ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 General organisation and management

General organisation and management *(n/a for Topic 1)*

Describe the administrative and academic structures and resources at your institution for organising and implementing the Erasmus+ Programme activities.

Provide a detailed description of how tasks and responsibilities are divided among staff, with regard to both administrative and academic decision-making processes.