

EPS (European Policy Statement)

***Institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013)***

The Catholic Teacher training College Zwolle is an institute of higher education training student- teachers for primary schools.

Internationalization is considered important as is evident from the institute's work plan 2006-2010 and related activities by students and teachers.

The institute is a member of a federation of Teacher Training Colleges called Interactum. Other members are Marnix Academy Utrecht, De Kempel Helmond, Iselinge Doetinchem, Pabo Amsterdam and Edith Stein Hengelo.

The federation has drawn up a common policy for internationalisation: Interactum International Intentions 2007-2011. The institutes support each other among other things in the organisation of traineeships abroad.

The overall objective of internationalisation at Catholic. Teacher Training College Zwolle is: 'Getting to know other cultures and societies based on the idea that this knowledge should contribute towards a better understanding of oneself and one's relationship with other people, cultures and societies.

The Catholic Teacher Training College Zwolle strives to educate both students and teachers in such a way that they are aware of being not only Dutch citizens but European citizens ( and citizens of the world) as well. They are able to propagate this notion through teaching. This requires knowledge of Europe in social and cultural fields from students as well as teachers.

Experience based learning through practical training and studying abroad is an accepted routine.

For teachers the emphasis is on attending international symposia and conferences and to provide guest lecturers for partner institutes abroad.

Thus the aim is to promote student and teacher mobility. For the years to come we strive to double the number of students going abroad both for studying and practical training. At the moment more than 35% of our students participate in international traineeships.

Also incoming (Erasmus) students and teachers bring information and further the exchange of knowledge and understanding, which in particular takes place in a so-called Minor programme (30 EC) in which the Teacher training College Zwolle participates.

In the next term the C. T.T.C. Zwolle is independently planning to set up and carry out a so-called Minor programme. Students from Erasmus/Socrates partner institutions as well as other Interactum colleges are welcome to enroll.

We at C.T.T.C. Zwolle want to extend these activities by entering into more agreements. Moreover themes from various cultures are used as guidelines for intensive courses in which students may participate. Also here an extension of activities has been planned.

Students and teachers are recruited by means of information meetings, an educational fair/market ( internal) and direct mailing (external)

Information for interested persons is also provided through our institute's Intranet.

The international coordinator encourages teachers from our own and other institutes to develop initiatives for guest lectureships which fit in with the curriculum.

The Teacher Training College Zwolle operates on the basis that everybody is equal. For disabled participants the necessary facilities will be established.

## **EPS II Specific measures implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities (in brief..)**

Students who want to study in another country will get oral or written information in advance about the possibilities and impossibilities of a study abroad. In order to be eligible for such an international experience students must:

- Be in their third year of study
- Not have fallen into study arrears
- Have made a well founded application including a learning question/objective which must be thoroughly documented..

All this is judged by a committee that assesses the application as far as content and quality is concerned comparing it to the possibilities offered by the Socrates programme.

All suitable students will have to prepare themselves for a period of six months prior to their departure.

Apart from 'major activities' during this period attention is focused on the learning objective by means of a module internationalization, an optional foreign language course and a module cultural exchanges.

C.T.T.C.Z. cooperates with foreign institutes with which it has signed a Socrates Institutional Agreement.

Beforehand all students going abroad will get:

- information on curricula (EC programme)
- a student contract
- a statement of the home institution
- a report form

Moreover students will be carefully coached by tutors and assisted in finding accommodation. Furthermore there will be regular contact between coordinators of the home and guest/foreign institutes.

The Catholic Teacher Training College Zwolle has committed itself to ECTS and has implemented this accordingly. It complies with the rules as stipulated in the International Code of Conduct.

In principal C.T.T.C.Z. uses the same rules for visiting students as agreed upon with foreign institutions.

Members of staff who want to obtain international experience are informed about the possibilities by the International Coordinator and the Head of Department.

The duty of members of staff consists of curriculum improvement, student support and the propagation of his/her country's culture. Applications for activities abroad are in principle open to everyone.

### **EPS III**

**Specific measures implemented to ensure high quality in student placements** C.T.T.C.Z. cooperates with foreign institutes on the basis of Bilateral Agreements. This guarantees good cooperation and quality since the programme content and the course credit system have been prearranged.

As already mentioned in EPS II students must submit a well underpinned learning objective/question.

The students are informed about the possibilities of studies in connection with their learning objectives. In consultation with the foreign institute the theme's content and supervision are settled.

C.T.T.C.Z. recognizes the course credits awarded by the foreign institute.

During their stay abroad the students write a report of their activities and experiences on the basis of previously formulated criteria.

On their return all students will exchange these experiences in workshops and class on a special 'information day'. Here teachers are involved as discussion partners.

By now we at C.T.T.C.Z. have got a lot of experience with this method of working and aim at increasing the number of students going abroad in the years to come.

From this year more emphasis will be put on the importance of the enlargement of the European dimension in themes like European Education, European Identity, European Multiculturalism, European Languages, European Professionalism and European Citizenship. This in order to prepare the students better for their stay abroad and to raise their European awareness. When assessing applications all this will be taken into consideration.

### **Code of conduct**

The Hogeschool Katholieke PABO Zwolle signed the code of conduct. That means that we agree to the European rules concerning the student and teacher exchange.