

Erasmus Policy Statement (Declaración de Política Erasmus)

Olot Art And Design School is the only official art and design school of the Girona area. Since its foundation, 230 years ago, it has held active participation in its social, educational, economical and cultural surrounding.

At present it is devoted mainly to fulfil the formative demands on art and design education of more than four hundred students coming from various locations of neighbouring geographical areas.

Aiming at enhancing the quality of our studies, we are determined to reinforce and consolidate the school connections with artistic schools, companies and institutions in the European framework, encouraging the mobility of our students to widen and deepen their academic knowledge and also to provide professional practice in skills related to their studies in companies.

Our strategy is to improve collaboration with companies from countries belonging to the EU and also to increase the number of students who participate in exchange projects. Our aim is to improve the professional curricula of the students before they obtain their degrees and to provide them with chances of professional experience so that they are able to experiment on different working methods and professional routines in other countries.

The school envisages a further achievement in the establishment of a network of European High Art and Design Schools. Our school has built a Professional Network (company-school) called: EUROPEAN NETWORK ART AND DESIGN SCHOOL (ENADS), devised as school project among all high art and design schools. The network allows us to establish close relations with partner schools and to share ideas on different working methods related to study plans as well as to professional practice. On the basis of a mutual agreement we offer the students the possibility of working together and provide support to incoming and outgoing students.

The main aims of the EU Europe Network Art and Design School (ENADS) are:

- a. Innovation: Promoting contact between several European Art and Design schools with the will to enhance the quality of Professional Education and the transfer of students to professional practice throughout the stays in art and design schools and companies abroad which collaborate with them.
- b. A European sight: By uniting the different European schools, companies and organizations encouraging collaboration between educational institutions and companies, the co-participation in European programmes and enterprises, celebration of reflexive meetings where the education of the students is discussed and evaluated regarding their participation in European programmes and their transfer to professional fields.
- c. Mobility: ENADS aims at promoting the mobility of the students and professionals to engage in studies and professional practice in companies from cities where partaking schools are located. It enables an exchange of methodology and educational experiences between schools and professionals on the field of art and design. ENADS promotes also specific purpose language acquisition. It allows students from short and 1st cycle travel, studies and practice work on companies from abroad, thus enriching their general education and providing them with a sense of belonging to the European Union.
- d. Economic growth: ENADS wills at establishing an efficient collaboration framework among the local administrations, the educational centres and the specific productive economical sector of cities where schools are based to enhance proficiency and to encourage an improvement attitude among the students in order to reinforce the economical growth of the geographical area.
- e. Entrepreneurship: Our partaking in local, national and European contests is an added value of the school which also provides visibility to the rest of high schools. A wide sample of works and prizes up to date is to be seen in: <http://www.escolartolot.cat/ca/escola/premis.html>
- f. Workspace: ENADS creates a specific social network by linking several schools.

We use the ENADS to look for possible partners and we intend a maximum visibility through internet; ENADS enables us with a strategic planning for mobility policies. With it we have achieved growth and improvement on quality and competitiveness, added value and entrepreneurship.

A thorough regular assessment of the results allows a proper evaluation of the whole process and of the achievements, which helps us improve our performance and optimize resources.

The school endeavours to imply partners from geographically remote areas far from big cities. A small town far from urban surroundings has an added value for artistic studies, since performance takes place in small workshops. Moreover, there is a great advantage on economic facilities.

Groups of work are formed on a very specific student profile. Good students qualifications, as well as competence in languages are required. The students curricula and portfolios are also taken into account for selection.