



SEPR International Strategy

Founded in 1864, SEPR is a vocational training centre that trains nearly 4,000 learners each year, including over 600 higher education students. Higher education courses are offered in both school-based and apprenticeship formats in several sectors: design and crafts, technical trades (IT, automotive, surveying), graphic arts, dental prosthetics, social work, fashion, hairdressing and beauty therapy. An international outlook has always been part of SEPR's DNA. As early as 1864, its founder François-Barthélémy Arlès-Dufour, a silk merchant from Lyon, was a fervent supporter of free trade with other countries.

SEPR has been an Erasmus Charter holder since 2007. Over the last 30 years, SEPR has significantly structured and developed its international policy. We have found that the international sphere acts as a catalyst and accelerator, enabling our institution, through student and staff exchanges and projects carried out with our partners, to develop skills and expertise in a range of areas and issues (mobility, the integration of digital practices into teaching, social inclusion, internationalisation at home, etc.).

Building on these benefits, our international policy is now one of the pillars of the SEPR's institutional project. The creation of an 'International Department' in early 2020 demonstrates our governance's desire to position this international scope among the SEPR's major strategic priorities. Our European and international strategy is structured around the following areas:

- **Offering our students the best training and career opportunities across Europe:**

Our ambition is to give every student the opportunity to gain professional and personal experience abroad, to add an international perspective to their education and to improve their overall ability to adapt and work independently. We encourage and support our students' outgoing mobility, in the form of study abroad programmes and work placements. All the benefits gained from mobility, whether in professional, linguistic or cultural terms or in terms of the development of cross-disciplinary skills and abilities, ensure that beneficiaries receive high-quality training, which will improve their employability on the national and European labour market and contribute to the growth of our economies and the competitiveness of Europe.

- **Promoting continued professional training and skills development for teaching and non-teaching staff:**

We also aim to enable teaching and non-teaching staff to discover other working methods and new professional and educational practices, and to exchange ideas with their foreign peers. We therefore support our staff in undertaking training placements at our partner higher education institutions and in companies; these placements enable participants to enrich their practices and broaden their professional horizons: our practical teachers discover new techniques, while our cross-organisational staff discover new approaches to their work. These are all sources of inspiration that feed into the practices of the entire educational community. In addition, these exchanges can also lead to new partnerships with foreign higher education institutions.



- **Developing incoming mobility for foreign students and staff:**

We are committed to developing our institution's international presence by welcoming foreign students on exchange programmes to our courses, thereby creating a stimulating learning environment that benefits everyone. Similarly, thanks to our extensive network of partner companies, we support foreign students who wish to undertake a work placement. In addition, we wish to increase the number of foreign staff we welcome, as they provide opportunities for the exchange of best practices and skills development.

- **Promoting virtual mobility and blended mobility:**

- SEPR wishes to promote a more effective use of virtual mobility, open educational resources and ICT in order to implement innovative approaches to teaching;
- In order to ensure better access to the Erasmus Programme for as many people as possible, SEPR wishes to develop the international scope through actions that do not necessarily involve physical mobility but rather make use of digital tools. For more than ten years, our teachers have been particularly active in this area and have been running remote exchange projects with their students, working in particular with eTwinning. Several of them obtain the European quality label for their projects every year. In addition to the benefits for students, these projects enable teachers to develop project-based teaching methods, choose the appropriate digital applications, and thus improve their teaching.
- We also aim to develop blended mobility, which combines short-term physical mobility with a virtual component in which individuals participate in collaborative online exchanges. The international COVID-19 crisis, which disrupted the entire world and put a brake on physical mobility, helped moving in this direction and has effectively encouraged us to consider new forms of European and international cooperation and exchange. The European Commission's 'Europe in Action' initiative, launched in response to the COVID-19 crisis, is a step in this direction.

- **Drawing on the expertise of European business professionals:**

We are also developing our programme to welcome foreign business professionals, who come to teach our students specific techniques and share their professional experience and approach to the profession, particularly in the design sector. This formula offers the additional advantage of being taught in a foreign language.

- **Cooperate with European and international institutions on strategic matters and challenges, to exchange best practices, experiment, innovate, and co-construct:**

By working closely together at European level on the new issues and challenges facing EES, we are pooling our strengths and expertise, helping to modernise and develop our thinking and approaches, and thus breathing new life into our practices. This aspect is currently being developed at SEPR.



SEPR also wishes to become involved in two areas in which it currently has little presence: higher education and businesses.

Capacity-building projects in cooperation: building on its existing commitments with certain partner countries in the programme, SEPR wishes to take part in this type of activity to support HEIs in these countries in their development.

- **Participer au soutien à la réforme des politiques :**

SEPR positioned itself in this area for the first time in January 2020 and submitted a proposal, as the leader of a consortium, in response to the call for proposals for centres of professional excellence, focusing on the rapidly developing sector of arts and crafts and design.

- **Establish and consolidate lasting partnerships with European and non-EU institutions:**

SEPR as a whole now cooperates with around thirty training centres around the world, mainly within the EU, but also beyond: Canada, Armenia, India, China, Japan, the Western Balkans and Africa. More specifically in the field of higher education, SEPR has been working closely for several years with Spanish, Finnish and Quebec higher education institutions in the arts and design sector, as well as in the graphic arts and visual communication sector. Our goal is to consolidate these existing partnerships and develop new ones. To do so, we will draw on all the various existing tools, such as the Erasmus+ Project Results platform, France Education International, Campus France and the DAREIC of the Rectorate of Lyon.

All of the mobility initiatives described above will enable our students to benefit from the highest level of education and training possible and to improve their professional, social and intercultural skills, thereby enhancing their employability. Similarly, thanks to staff mobility, SEPR will have trained and skilled human resources who are open to the world and ready to take on new challenges.

Similarly, cooperation projects carried out with strong partners enable our institution to develop its skills and expertise. These virtuous processes actively contribute to the modernisation of our institution and, more broadly, to the construction of a European education area.

All our actions are conducted in accordance with the values relating to the construction of this European space:

- The development of student and staff mobility is carried out in a fully transparent manner and without any criteria for discrimination, with access for all to quality education, regardless of their socio-economic background;
- A quality training offer that strengthens key skills and digital skills, develops a sense of initiative and entrepreneurship, and thereby employability;
- The recognition of higher education qualifications across Member States and improved mutual understanding of our education systems help to promote the



European dimension of education and the knowledge and perspectives that facilitate lifelong learning;

- The promotion of Europe's cultural heritage that we bring to life in our city of Lyon, and which contributes to developing a sense of belonging and European identity in all its diversity and richness, and to strengthening active citizenship.
- Respect for fundamental values such as equality, inclusion, and the fight against discrimination, segregation and racism.

Numerous initiatives are carried out each year at our institution, in collaboration between the teaching teams, the media library and external contributors, to raise our students' awareness of tolerance and diversity, and develop their critical thinking skills, particularly through media education. Similarly, numerous measures are already in place to support vulnerable groups: SEPR has a dedicated service for welcoming and supporting learners with special educational needs or disabilities;

Similarly, the Department of Education, Engagement and Citizenship carries out multiple initiatives each year and manages a solidarity grocery store that distributes meal baskets to young people with low economic resources or who are socially disadvantaged. These measures are available to foreign students enrolled in our institution.

All of these actions bring Europe closer to its citizens and strengthen the cohesion of the 'European family'. These actions convey Europe's common values, combat stereotypes and prejudices, and help prevent xenophobia, radicalisation and the rise of nationalism. They help to build a common European future that is meaningful for each and every one of its citizens.

As part of the Erasmus+ programme, our ambition is to step up our actions and our commitment to inclusion, integration, innovation and the influence of education.