

## **OUR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY**

The School "Art del Treball" keeps willing to offer training within the teaching educational framework. So far, in the year 2011 we were awarded an EUCP. Since then, ten of our students have enjoyed a training placement in European companies within the Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci grants programs. Our international experiences have been within the Upper grade Vocational Studies in Artistic Jewelry:

- Since 2007: Participation in the jewelry fair INHORGENTA (Munich- Germany)
- 2008: Student exchange with Mizuno School in Tokyo
- 2009: Stay of six of our students at Osseanou Jewelry School in Rufisque (Senegal)
- 2010: Participation in an exhibition at Legnica jewelry festival - silver schools section- in Poland.
- 2009-2010: Participation in a training program in Brussels (two students)
- 2011: Exchange with China Academy of Arts (Hangzhou)
- 2011-2013: A scholarship is given to ten of our students to carry out the internship in Europe: Poland, Belgium, UK...
- 2012: Preparatory visit to Poland by the internship coordinator, to begin contact with different businesses and artistic organizations.

During these first two years of having enjoyed these European experiences (2011-2013), we have generated a database of different businesses, schools and reference institutions to our artistic studies: Ceramics, Jewellery and Illustration. The contacts are established in professional fairs of the sector in which our school is represented, both in Barcelona and in other European cities. We also take profit of the monitoring visits to the students in European stays to visit these businesses and educational centres. Thus we can keep on expanding and consolidating our European associates.

Currently we have a stable associate within the jewellery sector in Poland, four of our students have carried out their internship in Deco Echo, an international company which participates in the most recognized fairs of contemporary jewellery, as for example, Inhorgenta (Munich). In Belgium we have established relation with different ceramics and jewellery businesses. In the outskirts of Antwerp there is a great number of pottery workshops since it is a very traditional product of commercial importance.

Besides the educational and artistic criteria, we have also kept in mind the standard of living of the destination countries: the price of the public transportation, the rent prices for a flat, etc... in order to adapt ourselves to our country's current economic situation and that it will not prevent our students from enjoying this formative experience in Europe.

Our short-term actions are:

- Consolidating the link with the foreign associates we have already worked positively with.
- Generating contacts within the illustration sector, since it is a CF (shorts cycle) which has only recently been established in our School and we still do not have a solid and extensive database.
- Expanding the number of associates in countries such as Italy and Portugal, as they are countries with a similar economic level to ours, and also the UK, so that our students can improve their level of English.
- Carrying out preparatory visits to these countries in order to generating and consolidating stable associates, both to companies and educational centres.

Second phase:

- Consolidating and/or expanding the number of students that carries out the internship in Europe. At present there is an average of two students per cycle, and we can achieve that an average of 3-4 students from each cycle will obtain the scholarship.
- Initiating a student exchange to carry out studies in European centres. The studies will be completely validated in our school, since they will be carried out in associated schools with a similar educational curriculum to ours.
- Promoting the academic exchange among teachers. Making it possible for teachers of our school to teach in different schools, and other teachers to come to our school to teach our students.

Our objective is that both students and teachers can expand their education and knowledge, having a formative experience in another European city, whether in educational or work centres.

By the end of each school year, an annual memory is generated describing the actions carried out during the course. These memories are analyzed in order to evaluate the evolution of our international participation. If the evaluation is not positive, either due to our own causes or to the context surrounding us, we would take the convenient corrector measures, to continue offering the best service and so that our students can expand their learning process with a quality stay abroad.

## **OUR STRATEGY FOR THE ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONS PROJECTS IN TEACHING AND TRAINING**

During the school year 2011-2012, the school Art del Treball carried out a collaborative project with CAA (Chinese Academy of Art, of Hangzhou), called the "SALT Project".

This project consisted in the designing and construction by both jewellery departments of both schools of a piece of jewel under a common leitmotiv: the rock salt. At the end, the pieces were shown in different showrooms, where we could value the similarities and differences in the methodologies and the results. With this project the Fundació BCN Formació Professional (Barcelona Vocational Training Foundation) awarded the school with a scholarship for innovation in the internship program.

To carry out the project, a commission of six teachers was created, which was coordinated by one of them. The students which were doing their internship were involved and they exposed in different Spanish cities. The project was spread through social networks and a catalogue of the almost 60 participating pieces was published. Since then, the coordinator of the project has carried out different conferences explaining the project and the work methodology used between both schools.

In spite of the fact that the experience has been valued very positively by all the parts implied, due to economic and logistic reasons, one of the initial objectives was not achieved: the possibility of organising a joint exhibition in China.

After this prior experience, we consider that cooperative international projects are very interesting at educational level, because they enable the expansion of our actual knowledge and allow us to apply different educational methodologies, promoting the implication of our students. Our school would like to start working together with other educational centres or businesses to carry out new cooperation projects: teacher's exchange, business training innovative projects, business world contribution, projects motivating the enterprising character of our students...

## **THE EXPECTED IMPACT**

1: Art del Treball school, as a public school, guarantees and promotes respect to equity and diversity through art. The school organises cultural and artistic activities to improve cohesion between teachers and students from different places.

Our school curriculums are adapted to student diversity and students with special needs are integrated with the help of professional contacts.

There is a member of the School Council which is in charge of looking after non gender discrimination policies.

Our school building is fully accessible.

We are implementing work trough virtual environment in order to provide easy access to information and as a means of boosting innovative teaching strategies.

2: We participate in professional fairs in Spain and Europe and we also promote the participation of our students in external exhibitions and artistic competitions so as to get in contact with professional organizations, enterprises (SMEs) and other schools in order to enhance exchange activities to broaden both students and teachers' perspectives.

Our school also offers non regulated continuing education courses leading to specialization in different artistic areas and techniques which are open to internal and external students and professionals. We are also planning summer courses targeting those who wish to gain qualification in later life as well as acquire or update their knowledge.

3: Some of our main objectives deal with reducing linguistic barriers and improve the level of our students skills facing foreign language learning and the use of information and communication technologies. We are planning strategies to motivate our students to improve the use of English from the school so as to ensure everyone has full access to all internet resources. We are also planning a new website content design in to facilitate updated information.

4: Our participation in the Programme should help us to consolidate our relationship with enterprises and will boost the quality of joint activities like talks, seminars, visits and exhibitions. We are willing to participate in students and teachers European exchanges to offer a wider perspective of our artistic skills and knowledge to local and external businesses, enlarge the list of contacts and share innovative teaching and learning environments.

We are already planning new cross-curricula content for several subjects which include the understanding of the real labour process trough transversal competences.

We participate in activities such as conferences to approach enterprises to real products made by our students and aiming at being commercialized. We also encourage and help former students to contact enterprises or others with similar needs and we also promote collaborative work among them.

5: As a public funded school, our income comes basically from the autonomous and local governments (Educational Department).

We are designing school projects aiming to appeal to enterprises and suppliers to get to sponsored agreements which might provide economic support to carry on more projects.

The participation and promotion of our international activities can give us the chance to promote our school.

European grants will help us to deal with equity as some of our students come from families which are now facing financial problems.