

The IES Lázaro Cárdenas is a large, public, co-educational school situated in Collado Villalba, an industrial middle class town (52.000 inhabitants) located in the north-west of Madrid and surrounded by a beautiful natural area. We provide middle and high school education and vocational studies to students between 12 and 18 years old.

The school has a professional staff of 85 teachers and administrators, who are not only experienced in international programs and personally involved in their professional teaching growth, but who have also participated in many diverse international programs. Nevertheless, in spite of their many accomplishments, the teachers sense that the majority of such programs are geared toward foreign language departments and would like to take advantage of the many opportunities Erasmus+ programs offer to teachers, students, educational and political administrators and parents' associations. Our faculty would like to show their interest by proposing an increase in the number of projects of international collaboration and cooperation; such programs/projects would not only allow for mastery of English as a primary language for instruction, but a greater understanding and use of the tools and programs the EU has developed to facilitate and promote internationalization. This KA1 mobility program will offer us an invaluable opportunity to achieve these objectives, giving fourteen teachers and administrators of our school the chance to actively participate in structured courses to improve the teachers ability to use CLIL approach in their classrooms and professional visits and class observations in European educational institutions.

This innovative, improvement project for our school promotes highly practical activities which are directly related to the pedagogical and instructional realities of the classroom; they are also tightly embedded in our program of studies. Because of this meshing, we are confident that we can stimulate and encourage greater communication with other educational institutions, increase the number and quality of our international programs, and support teaching professionals in their career. The benefits acquired through this program will have a positive impact not only on the teachers directly involved, but on the entire educational community; our task will be developed and realized in a richer, more stimulating setting, capable of responding more efficiently and effectively to the ever increasing and challenging needs of XXI century Europe. The interest and variety of the planned and proposed activities, and the subsequent follow-up and diffusion of these activities, will challenge our students, and provide them with the necessary tools to improve their professional skills; encouraging them to be involved as active, responsible citizens in a society that promotes and encourages employability, lifelong learning and respect for the cultures and values of Europe.