Erasmus+ National Policy Reviews 2024 South Africa

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ENFP National
Focal Points

Erasmus+

South Africa

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This national policy review provides a detailed analysis of South Africa's educational policies and their alignment with the Erasmus+ programme. It offers official, first-hand information into the country's engagement with Erasmus+ from 2021 to 2024, highlighting opportunities for improvement and identifying strategies to enhance integration and outcomes. Prepared and submitted by the Erasmus+ National Focal Point, this review contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and to maximise the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme in South Africa.

Reviews of policies, initiatives, projects, and/or stakeholders

The South African Post-school Education and Training sector consists of 25 universities and 50 Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions, as well as Community Education and Training (CET) institutions. Universities are governed by the Higher Education Act, while TVETs and CETs are regulated by the Further Education and Colleges Act.

The 2023 National Plan for Post-school Education and Training (PSET) and the 2013 White Paper for PSET provide guidance for the sector. Other important policy documents that influence the goals of PSET include the National Development Plan 2030, the Skills Development Act of 1998, the Master Skills Plan, and the Hydrogen Society Roadmap for South Africa 2021.

The sector is working on the Higher Education Internationalisation Policy, which will serve as a key document to guide the entire Post-school Education and Training (PSET) system in its international collaborations and partnerships with foreign entities.

2013 White Paper

https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/Latest%20News/White%20paper%20for%20post-school%20education%20and%20training.pdf

2021-2030 National Plan for Pos-Schooll Education and Training

https://www.dhet.gov.za/SiteAssets/NPPSET/DHET%20NPPSET%20_%20Web%20version%2018092023.pdf

Higher Education Act 101 of 1997

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201711/41226gon1224.pdf

Skills Development Act 97 of 1998

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/a97-98.pdf

National Development Plan

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/ndp-2030-our-future-make-it-workr.pdf

Key players and networks (stakeholders) at the national level (or at the regional level with a national component)

The South African Post-school Education and Training (PSET) landscape includes several key stakeholders responsible for implementing policies and promoting efficiency and strategic goals in areas like student access, success, quality assurance, funding, research, and innovation. These stakeholders consist of government departments, agencies, independent institutes, and councils, each playing different roles as defined by various government laws and regulations. These include:

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)

The national department oversees policy implementation, funding, and direction of the Post School Education and Training (PSET) sector. The Department of Higher Education manages all public universities, technical and vocational colleges, and Community Education colleges. It also approves the registration of all private institutions operating within the PSET sector.

The Erasmus + National Focal Point is also situated within the Department of Higher Education and Training.

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) works alongside the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) under the same Minister. DSI focuses on advancing the country's innovation agenda by promoting science, technology, and innovation (STI) to boost productivity, economic growth, and social development.

DSI addresses the needs of various government departments and stakeholders by promoting knowledge generation and innovation to tackle socio-economic challenges. It creates a supportive policy and funding environment for the national innovation system. Through its policies, DSI helps the government, society, and industry develop science, technology, and innovation (STI) solutions to current problems while also investing in STI for future needs.

The National Research Fund (NRF)

The National Research Foundation (NRF) is a government agency responsible for funding research, developing advanced human capacity, and supporting critical research infrastructure to boost knowledge production in various fields. Its goal is to create innovative funding mechanisms, support research career growth, engage the public in science, and establish top-tier research platforms. The NRF aims to transform South Africa's scientific landscape and foster a globally competitive research community. It promotes South African research and innovation both nationally and internationally, working with research institutions, businesses, industries, and international partners to build connections that support national development.

The NRF's objective is to promote research excellence and impact. It forms and manages strategic partnerships with both local and international organisations, aiming to benefit South Africans and contribute to global scientific progress.

https://www.nrf.ac.za/

Council on Higher Education (CHE)

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is an independent statutory body that advises on policy in the education sector. It also commissions national research projects to guide policy decisions and address emerging gaps. The CHE focuses on promoting quality assurance and improving student access and success in higher education institutions.

https://www.che.ac.za/

University South Africa (USAF)

Universities South Africa (USAf) is the representative body for the 26 public universities in South Africa, made up of their Vice-Chancellors. USAf supports a comprehensive and fair higher education system that addresses South Africa's challenges. Through lobbying and advocacy, it works to create an environment where universities can function effectively and contribute to the country's social, cultural, and economic progress. USAf also helps universities address global challenges like climate change.

https://www.usaf.ac.za

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF)

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) was established in May 1996 by former President Nelson Mandela. It was created to align with South Africa's new democracy, with a mission to actively use science for the benefit of society.

ASSAf has a mandate that covers all fields of scientific research and includes South Africa's diverse community of distinguished scientists. Its official recognition came with the passing of the Academy of Science of South Africa Act in 2001, which took effect in May 2002.