

2.11. Creation of integrated vocational training programmes on the university campuses

Vocational programmes must be part and parcel of the changes taking place in training schemes in the EHEA. To do so, ties must be forged between university campuses and centres which offer vocational training programmes in order to meet the current challenges of professional training.

Moreover, the Law of Sustainable Economy, which aims to restructure the current model of production of the Spanish economy towards a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable model, establishes under Article 5 that: *The Government shall take the appropriate measures to promote the development of 25 training centres, preferably in the framework of Campus of International Excellence projects by exercising a flexible role to integrate the two levels of education with a view to fostering relations with the productive sector of reference. Local entities may participate in the financing of these initiatives in the terms established under contracts or cooperation agreements signed by universities and education authorities.*

There is a clear need to strengthen ties with vocational training students as they are at a key stage of education where they must choose their path for the future. The role of universities should therefore be to guide these students and provide them the opportunity and tools to complete their training in strategic sectors with a high demand for qualified professionals.

To achieve the above objectives, the following actions have been proposed:

1. Develop a system to recognize and transfer credits earned by higher vocational training students to provide a gateway to university studies.
2. Organize events to inform vocational students in agrifood fields about the opportunities for accessing university studies.
3. Develop an internship programme supervised by technicians from the university laboratories for vocational students who have been selected by their school as prospective university students.
4. Through the internship programmes, familiarize the selected vocational training students with the technology used in research laboratories and in the Central Services to Support Research in particular.
5. Design programmes aimed at motivating vocational students to apply for agrifood-related programmes at the universities and develop and implement entrepreneurial training programmes in the curricula of vocational schools.
6. Provide guidance to these students and offer them the opportunities and tools to complete their training in strategic sectors with a high demand for professionals.
7. Develop agrifood-related training and retraining programmes for teachers in higher vocational training programmes, with special attention to the technical and productive advances being made in this field