



Coimbra Health School

Polytechnic University of Coimbra

TCA Conference “Economic Impact of Erasmus+ Student Mobility”

Rui Branco Lopes

Head of International Relations Office



CITY OF COIMBRA | PORTUGAL



150,000
inhabitants



40,000
higher education
students



27%
of the city population are
higher education students

1 2



9 0

UNIVERSIDADE DE
COIMBRA

approx. 28,000
students



**Polytechnic
University of Coimbra**

approx. 12,000
students

CITY OF COIMBRA | HEALTHCARE CLUSTER



COIMBRA HEALTH SCHOOL | INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE



A health school within the Polytechnic University of Coimbra



Founded in
1980



~1,500
students



4 years |
240 ECTS



~1 year
of compulsory
internships /
placements



8 undergraduate programmes



Audiology



Biomedical Laboratory Sciences



Clinical Physiology



Dietetics and Nutrition



Environmental Health



Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy



Pharmacy



Physiotherapy



8 master's degrees —
mostly continuation pathways
linked to the undergraduate
programmes.



**Strong practical and
clinical training** at the core of
all programmes.



**Polytechnic
University
of Coimbra**



ESAC |
College of Agriculture



ESEC |
College of Education



ESTGOH |
College of Technology
and Management



ESTeSC |
Coimbra Health School



ISCAC |
Coimbra Business School



ISEC |
Institute of Engineering

INTERNATIONAL TRAINEESHIPS | THE WHY



WHY INTERNATIONAL TRAINEESHIPS MATTER

“A main advantage of this type of mobility is that it responds to employers' need for graduates with both **hands-on experience** and **global skills**.”

Di Pietro, 2022



1 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Hands-on experience
in real professional settings



2 GLOBAL & ADAPTIVE SKILLS

Adaptability, communication
and intercultural competence



3 EMPLOYABILITY POTENTIAL

Stronger profiles and
wider career horizons

EVIDENCE BASE



40%

of Erasmus+ trainees
were offered a position by
their **host organisation**



9 in 10

reported gains in **adaptability**,
communication and
intercultural competences



SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

International internships link
hands-on experience, **global skills**
and intrapersonal development

Sources: European Commission, *Erasmus+ Higher Education Impact Study: Final Report* (2019); Di Pietro, G., *International internships and skill development: A systematic review* (2022)

COIMBRA HEALTH SCHOOL | OUR FOCUS



**International traineeships in health sciences
as part of an institutional strategy for
talent development and graduate employability**



International mobility

Erasmus+ and other opportunities



Health sciences traineeships

Placements in **clinical**, **professional** and **research** settings

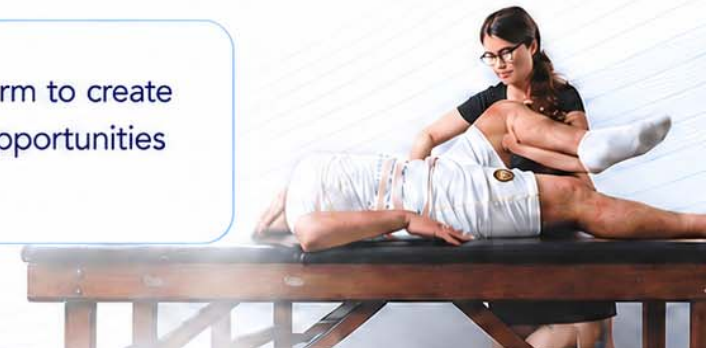


Employability-oriented approach

Skills, professional exposure, **research exposure** and future opportunities

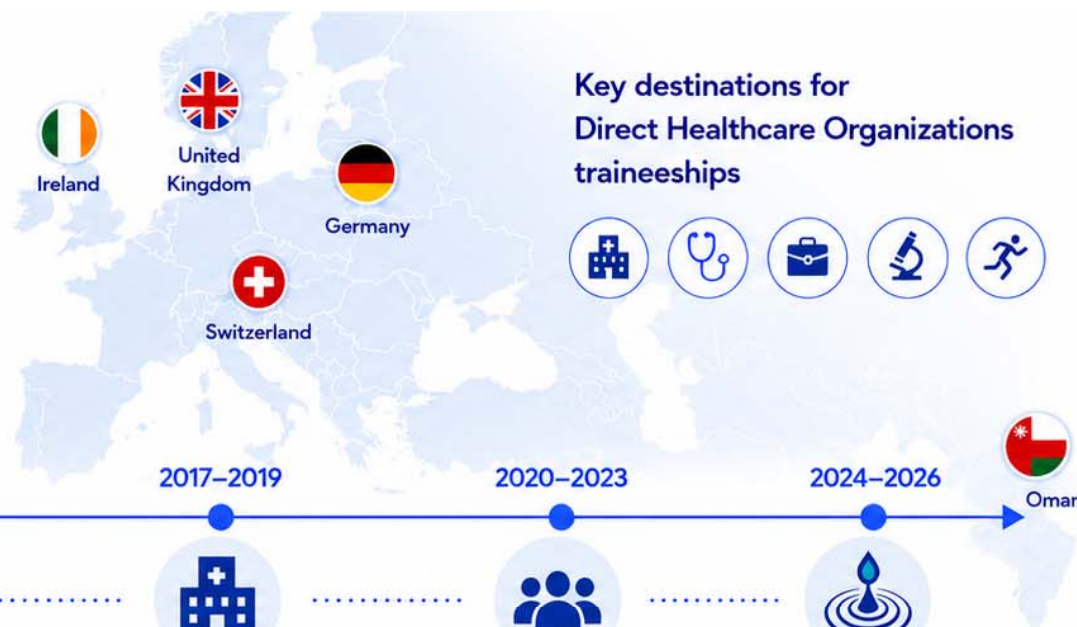
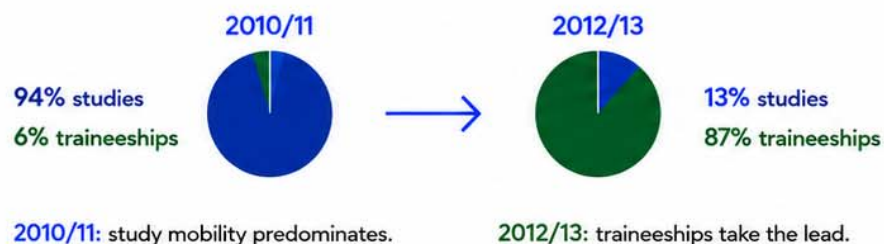


Our focus: using Erasmus+ traineeships as a platform to create meaningful **clinical**, **professional** and **research** opportunities for health sciences students.



COIMBRA HEALTH SCHOOL | OUR JOURNEY

From study mobility to employability-driven traineeships



HEI-supported traineeships

Important backbone for sustainable mobility numbers increase, diversifying mobility experiences (professionally and intercultural), but mainly focused on learning outcomes (lower expectations for employability).



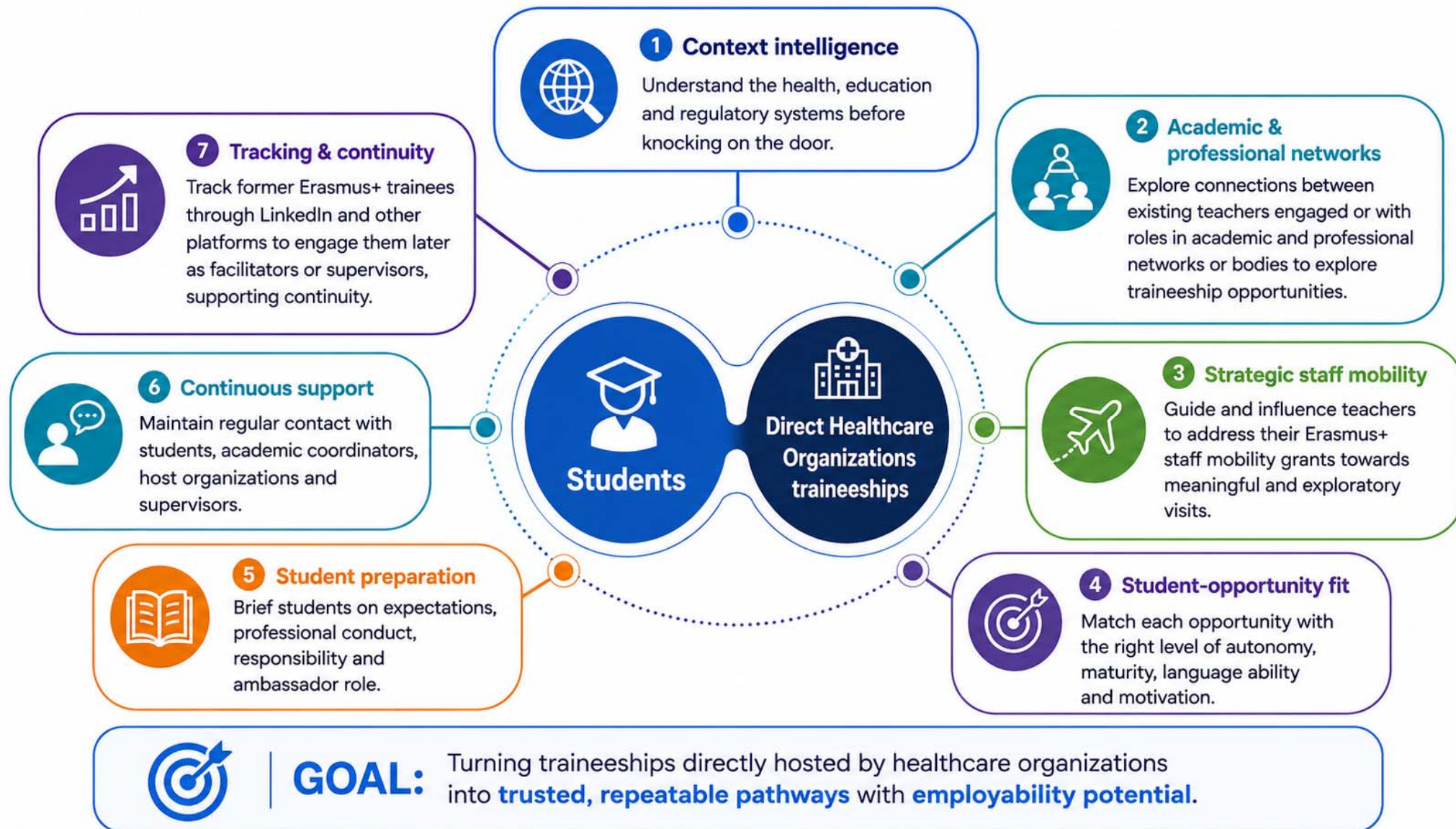
Direct Healthcare Organizations traineeships

(Hospitals, Clinics, Companies, Sports Clubs, Research Centres)

Strategic focus for talent development and employability.



COIMBRA HEALTH SCHOOL | KEY ACTIONS



COIMBRA HEALTH SCHOOL | KEY REMINDERS



Renew motivation, especially after setbacks

Healthcare is **under constant pressure** — *remember Covid?*

Setbacks are normal.

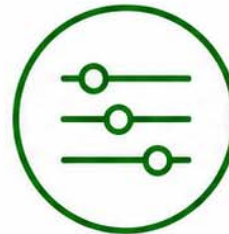
Consistency, patience and renewed motivation make the difference.



Keep partner burden low

Take as much of the administrative load as possible on our side.

Avoid overloading partners with paperwork, meetings or unnecessary demands.



Adjust internally first

Revisit our own procedures and internship organisation before asking partners to adapt.

Co-create solutions that reduce pressure on them.



Invest in better tools and processes

Use more intuitive and automated processes to simplify coordination for students, partners and academic coordinators.
Less admin, **more impact.**



Make it easier for **good partners**
to **keep the doors open.**

Thank you



Rui Branco Lopes

Head of International Relations Office

Coimbra Health School | Polytechnic University of Coimbra



Email: rui.lopes@estesc.ipc.pt



Web: www.estesc.ipc.pt



Phone: [+351] 239 802 430



Scan to connect on LinkedIn

