

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The **Foundation of Higher Technical Institute of Biotechnology and New Life Sciences (ITS Biotechnology Foundation)** has implemented high level technology instruction courses since 2016. It takes part of Italian Higher Technical Institution, a top class centres highly specialized in technology in connection with the production industry.

The Foundation has the general objective of supporting, through secondary and tertiary training in line with the potential of the territory and with the requests of highly specialized technical staff by companies operating in the field of so-called "enabling" technologies (nano technologies and biotechnologies), socio-economic development and competitiveness of the most innovative production system, promoting innovation and technological transfer in "new" areas, strengthening the university function and research activities . ITS Biotechnology aims to ensure a real integration between education and employment responding the growing demand from labour market of highly specialized staff. **To achieve this goal the Foundation wants to increase the quality of its training activities with an international strategy that includes students and staff mobility both for studies and traineeships.**

One of ITS strategic priorities is the **development of students' international mobility** in order to enrich their cultural, social and professional background allowing to improve their linguistic, technical and soft skills. The Foundation is convinced that today internationalisation is fundamental to discover and enrich the sense of European citizenship as provided for the article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

The most important **objectives of Foundation's international strategy** are to:

- create an international network of Higher Technical Institutions to ensure European added value of study and training activities;
- give an international aspect to training offer with students and staff mobility;
- support the integration between education, training and work to extend technical and scientific knowledge at international level.

International strategy will allow students to professionalize their profile with traineeships abroad increasing their employability. Staff mobility will allow the transmission of best practices with foreign partners.

The **target group of mobility activities** are primarily the students over the age of 19 regularly enrolled in a course of ITS Biotechnology (internship programs will be directed especially at second year students). In addition the Foundation will promote the international mobility of its own staff involved in teaching activities, administrative activities and tutoring.

The choice of the foreign partners will directly involve both companies that work in the field of Biotechnology and New Life Sciences and educational institutes that develop Short Cycle training courses and face a technical content related at these sectors. The geographical area of the partner search is not limited only to the Erasmus + Programme Countries but also extended to the Partner Countries.

The ITS Biotechnology Foundation has not yet participated in international projects under Erasmus + Programme so the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus + Programme is an **important opportunity for the internationalization of ITS courses.**

The institution's strategy is to apply at first to KEY Action 1 in order to exchange skills and knowledge through student's mobility for studies and traineeships and staff mobility for teaching

and training. The **final goals** are to cooperate at European level with other foreign Higher Technical Institutions and foreign companies in order to improve the quality of training offer, to reinforce multilingualism and to create a European added value to the Foundation's activities. In the future the Foundation aims to apply also KEY Action 2 of Erasmus + Programme. The institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of cooperation projects plan to increase the international visibility with an English version of the Foundation's official website and the developing of the educational programmes in foreign language.

The participation in the Erasmus + Programme will have a positive impact on the **modernisation of Foundation**. The implementation of mobility activities on one hand can increase students' employment opportunities, on the other hand it can increase the quality of teaching through staff mobility. International mobility can also help students, staff and teachers' continuous professional development as well as the planned strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020). Tackling skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development is one of the Foundation's goals. **According to EU Agenda for higher education ITS Biotechnologies courses respond the growing demand from the labour market of highly specialized staff in the sector of science.** In Italy, as in other European countries, there is a lack of professional figures who have been trained in the sectors of the so-called STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths). ITS courses develop both theoretical and practical activities based around real world problems include work based learning: international mobility can produce an enrichment of training offer and improve the cultural background of students and teachers.

The Foundation works closely with the world of work (50% of the teaching staff comes from companies): this makes it possible to improve the relevance of the curricula to the needs of companies. Building inclusive and connected higher education systems is another one of the policy objectives the Foundation intends to pursue: cooperation between Higher Education Institutions, schools and VET providers is already a reality in the ITS organization. Our Foundation is composed by different Institutions including upper secondary schools, VET providers, local authorities and employers. To ensure that higher education is inclusive and open to talent from all backgrounds ITS courses are free for students (they are funded by FSE) and they provide career guidance and mentoring system during the study period and up to year after graduation. The Foundation intends to ensure higher technical institutions contribute to innovation creating links between education, business and research to promote local and regional development. Cooperation with other higher technical institutions will allow to share effective models of governance and funding.