

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The **Istituto Tecnico Superiore Biotechnologie e Nuove Scienze della Vita** (ITS) Foundation believes that participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is essential to contribute to the modernisation of its organisation. The Foundation is convinced that today internationalisation is essential to discover and enrich the sense of European citizenship as provided for in Article 20 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

The **objectives** that the Foundation intends to pursue through participation in the Programme are:

- **Combat the high levels of youth unemployment** by allowing its students to give a more international character to their profile through internships abroad in order to increase their employability and contribute to the economic growth of the EU.
- **Supporting the integration of education, training and work** to extend technical and scientific skills internationally. An effective education system can enable the skills of the workforce to be aligned with the needs of the European economy.
- **Improve the performance of education systems** by creating an international network of Higher Technical Institutes to ensure European added value to study and training activities. This is in line with the objectives of the European Education Area and seeks to promote automatic mutual recognition of diplomas and periods of study and training abroad.
- **Ensuring effective integration between the world of education and the world of work** by responding to the growing demand from businesses for skilled technicians by contributing to the training of a skilled workforce.
- **Enrich the cultural, social and professional background of students and staff** members by enabling them to improve their linguistic, technical and key competences. In particular, achieving a good level of foreign language skills is a prerequisite for creating a European area of education and putting multilingualism at the heart of the European project. Through the knowledge of languages it is possible to broaden one's horizons, to get to know new cultures, to feel truly European citizens and to touch the project of a united Europe that has guaranteed peace and prosperity since the Schuman Declaration. The improvement of key competences, as envisaged in the construction of the European education area, enables personal development, employment, inclusion and the development of active citizenship.
- **Implementing the international aspect of education provision through the mobility of students and staff** so that spending a period abroad to study and learn becomes the norm. This contributes to the creation of a European educational area open to all, including those with fewer opportunities and regardless of their socio-economic conditions.

The Foundation's international strategy is initially to participate in Key Action 1 to enable the exchange of skills and knowledge through student mobility for both study and internship purposes and through staff mobility. The final objective is to collaborate with other Higher Technical Institutions and foreign companies to improve the quality of the training offer, to strengthen multilingualism and to create a European added value to the Foundation's activities.

In the future, the Foundation also intends to participate in Key Action 2 of the Erasmus + Programme.

Participation in Key Action 1 will be implemented primarily through the **construction of an international network of partners** including Institutes providing EQF level V Short Cycle courses in technology areas consistent with the Foundation's training offer and companies operating in the so-called "enabling" technologies (nanotechnology and biotechnology). Mobility for study purposes

will enrich the socio-cultural background of students and contribute to achieving the objectives of the Foundation's institutional strategy. The beneficiaries of the Programme will be able to spend a period of study abroad, benefiting from an international and quality training offer as foreseen by the creation of the European Education Area. In order to facilitate the integration into the new cultural context for outgoing students, the Foundation will provide a tutor who will assist them in finding the host location and in the first phase of contact with the foreign reality. Free English language courses and preparation courses in the language of the host country will also be available. The language preparation courses will also be available to staff members benefiting from mobility. Students and staff participating in mobility projects will be able to take advantage of Online Language Support (OLS) both to test their knowledge of the language and to improve it. For incoming students, Italian language courses will be organized, the International Mobility Office will take care of the procedures related to accommodation and reception. The Italian students will be identified to act as tutors for foreign students: this will allow a better integration in the new host country and will foster a sense of civic involvement and the development of active citizenship, objectives that the Foundation intends to pursue through its institutional strategy.

In order to implement the mobility of staff members, job shadowing activities and training events abroad will be organized in particular: through this action it is intended to ensure quality teaching of European value as foreseen in the objectives of the Foundation's institutional strategy.

**The internship mobility** actions will be implemented through agreements with companies and research institutions in the KET sector and will help students in their professional development. In particular, traineeships will be encouraged in companies that enable the acquisition of skills in the so-called STE(A)M (scientific, technological, engineering, (humanistic) and mathematical) areas essential for the training of highly specialised technicians in the scientific field. Traineeship mobility makes it possible to achieve the institutional objective of integrating education, training and work.

The implementation of Key Action 2 will take place through the construction of balanced partnerships between the Foundation, the companies and the research institutes. The Foundation has always worked closely with the world of work (50% of the teaching staff comes from companies): this allows to improve the relevance of the curricula to the needs of companies. The actions carried out within this Key Action will focus in particular on knowledge alliances and sector skills alliances. **The projects carried out will contribute to achieving the objectives of the institutional strategy as they will increase the sense of entrepreneurship, digital and language skills, improve the level of employability and knowledge of other cultures, increase the sense of European identity and enable active participation in society.** The actions will include the involvement of staff from partner enterprises in teaching activities, activities within enterprises related to curricula, innovative projects related to Industry 4.0.

Participation in Erasmus+ actions will have a positive impact on the modernisation of the Foundation. **The implementation of mobility activities will aim, among other things, to increase employment opportunities for students and improve the quality of teaching through staff mobility.** International mobility can also help the continuous professional development of students, staff and teachers.

When monitoring the impact, the effects generated by participation in the project on the end users (students and staff) will be considered. The **qualitative indicators** taken into consideration will be: improvement of professional profiles, enhancement of employability, improvement of qualifications, enhancement of entrepreneurship, improvement of language and digital skills, enhancement of awareness of European identity, enhancement of intercultural awareness.

The effects of participation on the internal organisation of the Foundation will also be considered. The qualitative indicators used will be: improvement of management skills, improvement of the educational offer, implementation of good practices, implementation of innovative practices at organisational level.

The **quantitative indicators** will be the number of mobility, the increase in the employment rate among students benefiting from mobility, the number of students who will have started youth entrepreneurship projects, the number of students involved in active citizenship activities upon return from mobility (e.g. number of students involved in the Erasmus Ambassadors initiative), the increase in international partnerships, the number of foreign companies involved.

**In the long term the impact will ensure that the education system is more connected to the labour market** not only in Italy but also in Europe, increase synergies at international cooperation level, improve the quality of education contributing to achieve high levels of excellence among the beneficiaries of the Programme, including the most disadvantaged.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Erasmus+ actions, the indicative timetable foresees first the implementation of student mobility for study and placement purposes, followed by staff mobility. For Key Action 2, strategic partnerships will be implemented first, while mobility will not be the main activity and may only be implemented at a later stage.