

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in E+ to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Fondazione ITS INCOM is willing to participate in European and International cooperation projects: the aim is to enhancing professional, social and intercultural skills and employability of its students. It is also considered a key element for the professional development of its staff (teachers, tutors and coordinators) and it will provide the institute with an international network of contacts with other similar institutions as well as other Higher Education structures. So far, experience achieved with the support of European Programmes (National Operative Programme PON "Per la scuola, competenze e ambienti per l'apprendimento" 2014-2020. Asse I – Istruzione – European Social Fund (ESF)" aimed at the development of linguistic and soft skills which are considered crucial elements for the employability of the students. Fondazione ITS INCOM is willing to further enlarge the network to other Higher Education Institutions and include staff in the mobility programmes for their own professional development, which is considered a success for Fondazione ITS as well.

The Italian system of Higher Education consists of University education, Higher Level Arts and Music Education (AFAM) and Higher Technical Education (ITS). To enter any tertiary-level pathway it is necessary to hold a Diploma of upper secondary education. The Higher Technical Education Diploma (ITS Diploma, corresponding to the 5^o level EQF) is awarded at the end of a course taking a total of 1800/2000 learning hours and after passing a final assessment of competences.

ITS pathways are linked to a job-related range of high technology production areas, divided in sectorial fields; All Courses delivered by Fondazione ITS INCOM have a strong connotation on practical application to real business environment, with particular focus on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). ITS represent the non-academic tertiary education and training segment, meeting the enterprises' demand of technicians who possess new and higher technological competences, and are able to promote innovation and to manage and control organization and production processes.

The participation in Erasmus Programme, as well as the development of existing networks, will permit to involve students, teachers, staff and other stakeholders in a European Framework of

non-academic tertiary education, sharing good practises and looking for innovation and better performance in student's specialization. Those results could be achieved through partnership with business schools or other Higher Education Institutions specialized in the domains of Information and Communication Technology, while their geographical collocation is irrelevant, as most of the expected Partners are all around Europe and generally English speaking. ITS INCOM agrees with the vision of building a European Education Area, across the EU, that means:

- To spend time abroad to study and learn should become the norm: every INCOM students should have the chance to have at least a two months apprenticeship throughout Europe.
- School and higher education qualifications will be recognised across the EU: INCOM will embrace ECTS system, recognising credits achieved in Europe.
- To know two languages in addition to one's mother tongue should be standard: Incom will set a second foreign language achievement before 2025.
- Every INCOM' students will be able to access high-quality education, irrespective of their socio-economic background, by obtaining appropriate Loan of Honor.
- INCOM' students will have a strong sense of their identity as a European, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity, by experiencing at least one exchange programme during studies

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

Fondazione ITS INCOM is willing to establish in the framework of European and International cooperation projects and aims to foster intense, structured and long-term cooperation with other Higher Education Institutions but also enterprises, in particular SMEs; local/regional authorities; other education and research institutions. INCOM' Private partners (Companies) are already working to establish relationships to permit short- and long-term apprentice abroad all over Europe and beyond (North America and Canada).

Fondazione ITS strategy within Erasmus+ programme foresees:

- a first application to Key Action 1 in 2021 focused on long term apprentice abroad and further applications in the following years also considering the possibility to activate internships focused at the fostering the employability of students and creating direc bridges from higher Education Institutions and labour market.
- Participation in KA2 (Partnerships for Innovation) to enlarge its strategic partnership to other Higher Education and KA3 (Support to policy development and cooperation - Centres of Vocational excellence) to support the members of ITS involved in Vocational

and Educational Training

- Participation in KA2 (Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities) to promote a long-term vision that has the potential to transform the existing institutional cooperation between higher education institutions and TVET Centres and bring it to the next level, that means to go beyond the actual situation of fragmentation between national systems of Tertiary Vocational Training in Europe and standardize the European system, facilitating, when necessary, students in obtaining a University Degree.

The participation Erasmus + Programme will contribute to achieve the objectives of ITS INCOM institutional strategy, based on “The Higher Education Modernisation Agenda”. Institutional objectives can be described as follows:

1. Increasing attainment levels: ITS (Higher Education Technical Institutions) are Educational Institutions which are yet not fully known in Italy. The cooperation with other Countries where Tertiary Vocational Training is more advanced will permit to involve students and unemployed people willing to acquire specific, technical competencies which are highly requested on the job market all over Europe. The attractive potential of school students to these higher education courses is really high, even among disadvantaged groups and adults.
2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education: ITS INCOM is strongly oriented towards the development of technologies in the productive sectors related to “Made in Italy”: engaging students in a new European dimension it is considered fundamental to foster innovation in products and processes. As mentioned above, all courses are continuously designed and redefined taking into account the fast-changing labour market needs. The use of new technologies is already exploited, and it will be further developed for more effective research methods (e.g. the use of tablet pc used as interactive didactical tool in class).
3. Promoting mobility and cross-border cooperation: ITS INCOM is actually introducing a flexible recognition procedure which allows a transparent recognition of the study period abroad, providing details of the course attained, the subjects and the course code: the aim is to tackle any administrative barrier to mobility such as problems of recognition of diplomas and credits or portability of grants, so to further incentivize students to apply for mobility programmes.
4. Linking higher education, research and business: ITS INCOM is actually establishing a solid cooperation agreement among other Education and Research institutions as well as with the enterprise world: LIUC and Insubria Universities, approx. 50 enterprises in the Lombardy Region and other relevant stakeholders (i.e. Trade Associations, Public Institutions, Technical Schools) are already part of this network, while for its specific mission, the promotion of entrepreneurial, creative and innovative skills is part of its educational offer.
5. Improving governance and funding: ITS INCOM is actually experiencing design Thinking

approach and Industry 4.0 Programmes; the involvement of the productive sector and the entrepreneurial entities all over Europe is seen as necessary to increase investment and potential funding sources also to private funding.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

Participation in Erasmus+ Programme will strongly impact on our Institution, permitting to achieve some fundamentals goals, described as follows in terms of timing and indicators:

- A) First Participation in Key Action 1 (exp. 2021): long term apprentice abroad for at least 50% of students applying for the second year during summer 2021 (exp. 40 students).
- B) Further applications to Key Action 1 (exp. 2022-2025): internships in European Companies for an increasing percentage of its students (exp. from +10% in 2022 to +20% in 2025)
- C) Participation in KA2 (Exp. 2022) at least 1 Partnership for Innovation to enlarge its strategic partnership to other Higher Education Institutions specialized in the Information and Communication Technologies in order to Exchange skills and experiences in a modern European Dimension open to all 27 Member State
- D) Participation in KA3 - Support to policy development and cooperation (Exp. 2023) with particular attention to the "Centres of Vocational excellence" Initiative (launched in 2020) to support the members of ITS involved in Vocational and Educational Training
- E) Participation in KA2 (Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities) to promote permanent networks between Technic and Vocational Education Training in Europe by:
 - enlarging the existing network (created by previous experiences in KA1 and KA2 initiatives) by finding best practices in Europe and innovating initiatives that aim to promote TVET for young and adult people all over Europe.
 - looking for quality, performance, attractiveness and international competitiveness of European TVET Centres in order to contribute to the European knowledge economy, employment, culture, civic engagement and welfare by making best use of innovative methodologies in Vocational Training.
 - Establish, by the end of the Programme, a European higher education inter-university "Campus" where:
 - TVET candidates and staff can move seamlessly (physically or virtually) to study, train, teach, do research, work, or share services in any of the partner institutions.
 - TVET Students could customise their choice of where and what to study within

the confines of pedagogically sound and logically structured study programmes between the different higher education institutions and other members of the Alliance.

- Embedded mobility at all levels is a standard feature. At least 50% of the students within the alliance should benefit from such mobility, be it physical, virtual or blended.
- New joint and flexible curricula are delivered, where relevant, in Tertiary Vocational Education and Training based on cross-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary and crosssectoral approaches, integrating innovative pedagogies, including the use of the latest digital technologies.
- Practical and/or work-based experience is provided by external mentors to foster an entrepreneurial mindset and develop civic engagement;

The student body reflects the diversity of the population (in terms of social, economic and cultural aspects), including lifelong learners, part-time and non-traditional students. Access, participation and completion of under-represented and disadvantaged groups are ensured. Since the objectives to be achieved are multiple and ambitious, it should be noted that the office that follows international activities will set up a specific Commission (called “Erasmus Committee”) within it with the principal task of implementing and evaluating the envisaged plan.

The “Erasmus Committee” will also be assigned the task of ensuring that ongoing and upcoming KA2 Project will lead to sustainable outcomes and that all partners are adequately impacted by Projects’ outcomes.

The staff will be involved in mobility and trained in European planning and management of complex international projects. On the foundation's website there will be a section dedicated to international activities with a database of the opportunities offered.