

Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees.

Original language [EN]

Fondazione ITS 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 networks of contacts with other similar institutions as well as other Higher Education structures. So far, experience achieved without the support of European programmes (e.g. the short mobility programmes for students implemented in cooperation with host institution Emerald Culture Institute of Dublin) aimed at the development of linguistic and intercultural skills which are considered crucial elements for the employability of the students. Fondazione ITS 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.

Courses delivered by Fondazione ITS are recognized by the Ministry of Education within the higher education didactical offer: they foresee a technical specialization which last 1 Higher Education year (IFTS) and technical courses of 2 Higher Education years which lead to the acquisition of a diploma corresponding to the 5° level EQF. All Courses delivered by Fondazione ITS have a strong connotation on practical application to real business environment, where linguistic competencies play a fundamental role: among the courses offered by Fondazione ITS, as example, "Marketing e internazionalizzazione delle imprese" ("Marketing and internationalization of enterprises") proficiency in English is a key competence for its application in real work experiences.

Preferable partners are business schools (as the Emerald Culture Institute of Dublin) or other Higher Education Institutions specialized in the domains of Economics and/or Business Administration, while their geographical collocation is preferably in Anglo-Saxon countries (or Institutions where English is commonly used (e.g. UK, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, Malta). In this matter Fondazione ITS in February 2014 has signed a partnership agreement with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade (ICE) organizing an internship programme for 1 students in Chicago (USA).

Fondazione ITS is user-based oriented and student actively participate at the design of academic activities: since April 2014 students are participating sending proposals, suggestion or technical contributions to the coordination point for the creation of its first Erasmus office. The initial call for proposal will be open until July 2014 <http://www.itsbergamo.it/news/erasmus-costruiamolo-insieme> while a second co-working session will take place in October 2014.

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme. If not applicable, please explain (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Fondazione ITS strategy within Erasmus+ programme foresees a first application to Key Action 2 and a second application to Key Action 1. Strategic Partnership with other Higher Education Institutions having in view the successful experience gained with the Emerald Culture Institute of Dublin, with which short-term mobility programs are currently implemented, is willing to enlarge its partnership network to other countries and Higher Education Institutions, also considering the possibility to activate internships focused at the fostering the employability of students and creating direct bridges from higher Education Institutions and labour market. Therefore, Fondazione ITS is willing to enlarge its strategic partnership to other Higher

Education Institutions specialized in the Economics and/or Business Administration in order to Exchange skills and experiences in a modern European Dimension open to all 28 Member states.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on the modernisation of your institution. Please refer to each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda *and explain which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue.

Original language [EN]

1) Increasing attainment levels. ITS (Higher Education Technical Institutions) are Educational Institutions which are yet not fully known in Italy. The aim at involving students and unemployed people willing to acquire specific, technical competencies which are highly requested on the job market: for this reason to 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. Fondazione ITS 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 have 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. Fondazione ITS has already established a solid cooperation agreement among other Education and Research institutions as well as with the enterprise world: Università of Bergamo, approx. 120 enterprises in the Lombardy Region and the Ministry of Foreign Trade (ICE) 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. Fondazione ITS is willing to create in 2016-2017 an academic incubator for new enterprises started up by its students. The involvement of the productive sector and the entrepreneurial entities is seen as necessary to increase investment and potential funding sources also to private funding.