

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) – ENGLISH VERSION

### Strategy, objectives and impact

Modernization through European cooperation is one of the main objectives of our Foundation's strategy. We consider the ERASMUS program a great stimulus and an opportunity to think "outside the box" and use Mobility and European projects to learn from international experiences and foster improvement processes in the area of curricular innovation, improvement of the quality of our educational offer and the ability to establish strong and mutual interactions at an international level.

We recognize the Erasmus program as an essential tool for:

- **Increasing the international orientation of our study programmes**, by creating conditions for the implementation of joint degrees, improving the transparency and transferability of student qualifications and promote student mobility, while also ensuring the acquisition of transversal, multidisciplinary and intercultural skills;
- **Enhancing our international network**, by building and consolidating relationships with other European educational institutions with the aim of developing transnational ecosystems capable of improving the expansion of the area of mobility for studies and traineeships within the short-cycle offer;
- **Learn from other European organizations their experience** in areas such as the modernization of curricula - especially in new technological fields (Industry 4.0 technologies), where content innovation is very fast and essential for companies operating globally - and teaching methods and management of European projects;
- **Involving companies more and more in the training process**, in order to intensify cooperation at local and European level, thus improving the offer of internships and job placement abroad;
- **To be an active catalyst in involving all our stakeholders** (companies, educational institutions, universities, industrial associations, public bodies, research bodies...) for effective participation in ERASMUS program projects with the aim of jointly developing our strategic growth plan in Europe but, at the same time, to support regional development strategies, innovation and/or smart specialisation, learning from best practices developed in other contexts.

We consider the participation in Erasmus projects as functional to the modernization of our institution and to ensure:

- the constant and more adequate revision of our curricula, aligning them with the most innovative and modern European trends, to adequately prepare students to seize all the opportunities that may come from the European area;
- the consolidation of an international network able to support mobility actions for students and staff, in full alignment with the development of our curricula, also providing new and modern learning infrastructures;
- a consequent constant increase in participation in international projects and calls for project financing;
- periodic reflections and evaluations on our institutional strategies in order to constantly develop them;
- overall improvement of our international and national visibility and attractiveness.

In this way, the ITS A. Cuccovillo aims to contribute to the construction of a European Education Area in support of all the strategic actions that the European Commission has implemented, and in particular:

- **Making mobility a reality** by fostering greater cooperation on curriculum development and mutual recognition of diplomas: our Institution will look for partners with compatible program outcomes. With regards to mobility for traineeships, it intends to work with companies and organizations that will provide compatible learning outcomes together with a working environment that will support the student's professional and personal growth, ensuring better chances of future highly skilled employment;
- **Support for teachers**: ITS A. Cuccovillo intends to support staff mobility as a means for professional development; a more prepared staff, through the sharing of experiences and good practices with European colleagues, can certainly be able to transfer superior learning qualities to students;
- **Integrating innovation and digital skills into education**: the emphasis will be on implementing smarter, more open, reliable and personalized learning solutions to optimize digital learning and enable students to interact with content and with peers abroad.

The targets to be involved in all the initiatives carried out under the Erasmus program are mainly:

- **Young people:** they are our main focus with the prospect of promoting tertiary and higher apprenticeship qualifications, especially in the technological field, increasing and making training and work opportunities much more attractive for them, in a context such as the European one, full of stimuli and unique opportunities for their professional and personal growth;
- **Staff:** support the improvement of the quality of the European higher tertiary education system, incorporating European tools and transparency measures in the delivery of educational programmes; specific educational programmes, including transnational mobility, study visits and in-company training, will be designed for teaching staff with the aim of updating their technical skills and promoting their professional profile. Synergy with existing pan-European learning mobility networks will ensure the opportunity to implement structured and sustainable training of trainers, incorporating successful practices such as transnational placement of trainers in companies;
- **Companies:** we aim to support both large companies and small and medium-sized companies and those belonging to supply chains active in the technological field. The qualifications and educational programs developed within the European projects aim to support companies in their recruitment and human resource activities. Furthermore, the synergy with European mobility programs and networks will be able to provide concrete solutions and a significant impact in terms of transnational traineeships and apprenticeships, helping to overcome job vacancies;
- **Workers:** Many companies will face the need to retrain and retrain workers in the near future. Therefore it is important to focus efforts on building short-cycle qualifications, adopting a modular and blended learning approach, incorporating ICT and Open Educational Resources, ensuring validation of non-formal and informal learning and its recognition towards the achievement of qualifications;
- **Decision and policy makers:** public stakeholders must be progressively involved in projects as Associate Partners and as members of the Open Network with a view to broadening and integrating the ITS Strategy for the development of qualifications and educational programs within European projects at national and European level.

The main impact within all our stakeholders will consist in the greater awareness of how the advanced and innovative approach used in European projects, characterized by joint cooperation, can overcome the current drawbacks of the traditional approach (for which the targets do not interact with each other) and favor, instead, a systemic approach truly able to strongly support the employability of young students and the workforce through a greater ability to synergize and jointly manage the analysis of needs, the design of new curricula and the processes of certification of skills.

Furthermore, young students and professionals will have the possibility to improve and update their skills and competences to respond more effectively to the demand for highly qualified workers at European level. At the higher education institution level, we will benefit from the networking generated by participating in projects, which will allow sharing and adopting best practices in developing and improving our educational approach in order to provide newer and more up-to-date skills to students. We will raise awareness within companies of the importance of highly qualified and innovative skills to compete at EU and international level. At Community and International level, the contribution that we will be able to provide in the implementation of the actions of the program will be functional in promoting the European standardization of higher vocational training, in order to prepare the next generations in good time for future challenges.