



European
Commission

ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2021-2027

The European Commission hereby awards this Charter to:

Fondazione ITS per le tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione

The Institution undertakes to:

- Respect in full the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion set out in the Erasmus+ Programme.
- Ensure equal and equitable access and opportunities to current and prospective participants from all backgrounds, paying particular attention to the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities.
- Ensure full automatic recognition of all credits (based on the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System – ECTS) gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility.
- Charge no fees, in the case of credit mobility, to incoming mobile students for tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities.
- Ensure the quality of the mobility activities and of the cooperation projects throughout the application and implementation phases.
- Implement the priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme:
 - By undertaking the necessary steps to implement digital mobility management in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative.
 - By promoting environmentally friendly practices in all activities related to the Programme.
 - By encouraging the participation of individuals with fewer opportunities in the Programme.
 - By promoting civic engagement and encouraging students and staff to get involved as active citizens before, during and after their participation in a mobility activity or cooperation project.

WHEN PARTICIPATING IN MOBILITY ACTIVITIES

Before mobility

- Ensure that selection procedures for mobility activities are fair, transparent, coherent and documented.
- Publish and regularly update the course catalogue on the website well in advance of the mobility periods, so as to be transparent to all parties and allow mobile students to make well-informed choices about the courses they will follow.
- Publish and regularly update information on the grading system used and grade distribution tables for all study programmes. Ensure that students receive clear and transparent information on recognition and grade conversion procedures.
- Carry out mobility for the purpose of studying and teaching only within the framework of prior agreements between institutions which establish the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties, as well as their commitment to shared quality criteria in the selection, preparation, reception, support and integration of mobile participants.
- Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for their activities abroad, including blended mobility, by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of linguistic proficiency and develop their intercultural competences.
- Ensure that student and staff mobility is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff, validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or enterprises and the mobile participants.
- Provide active support to incoming mobile participants throughout the process of finding accommodation.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining visas, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining insurance, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants.
- Ensure that students are aware of their rights and obligations as defined in the Erasmus Student Charter.

During mobility

- Ensure equal academic treatment and the quality of services for incoming students.
- Promote measures that ensure the safety of outgoing and incoming mobile participants.
- Provide appropriate mentoring and support arrangements for mobile participants, including for those pursuing blended mobility.

- Integrate incoming mobile participants into the wider student community and in the Institution's everyday life. Encourage them to act as ambassadors of the Erasmus+ Programme and share their mobility experience.

After mobility

- Provide incoming mobile students and their sending institutions with transcripts of records containing a full, accurate and timely record of their achievements at the end of the mobility period.
- Ensure that all ECTS credits gained for learning outcomes satisfactorily achieved during a period of study/training abroad, including during blended mobility, are fully and automatically recognised as agreed in the learning agreement and confirmed by the transcript of records/traineeship certificate; transfer those credits without delay into the student's records, count them towards the student's degree without any additional work or assessment of the student and make them traceable in the student's transcript of records and the Diploma Supplement.

- Provide appropriate language support to incoming mobile participants.

- Ensure the inclusion of satisfactorily completed study and/or traineeship mobility activities in the final record of student achievements (the Diploma Supplement).
- Encourage and support mobile participants upon return to act as ambassadors of the Erasmus+ Programme, promote the benefits of mobility and actively engage in building alumni communities.
- Ensure that staff is given recognition for their teaching and training activities undertaken during the mobility period, based on a mobility agreement and in line with the institutional strategy.

WHEN PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

- Ensure that cooperation activities contribute towards the fulfilment of the institutional strategy.
- Promote the opportunities offered by the cooperation projects and provide relevant support to staff and students interested in participating in these activities throughout the application and implementation phase.

- Ensure that cooperation activities lead to sustainable outcomes and that their impact benefits all partners.
- Encourage peer-learning activities and exploit the results of the projects in a way that will maximise their impact on individuals, other participating institutions and the wider academic community.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- Ensure that the long-term institutional strategy and its relevance to the objectives and priorities of the Erasmus+ Programme are described in the Erasmus Policy Statement.
- Ensure that the principles of the Charter are well communicated and are applied by staff at all levels of the Institution.

- Make use of the [ECHE Guidelines](#) and of the [ECHE Self-assessment](#) to ensure the full implementation of the principles of this Charter.
- Regularly promote activities supported by the Erasmus+ Programme, along with their results.
- Display this Charter and the related Erasmus Policy Statement prominently on the Institution's website and on all other relevant channels.

The Institution acknowledges that the implementation of the Charter will be monitored by the Erasmus+ National Agency and that the violation of any of the above principles and commitments may lead to its withdrawal by the European Commission.

<p style="text-align: center;">Stamp</p> <p>FONDAZIONE ITS PER LE TECNOLOGIE DELL' INFORMAZIONE E DELLA COMUNICAZIONE Sede Operativa: Via Durandi n. 10 - 10144 TORINO Via Ponchielli n. 16 - 10024 MONCALIERI (TO) Partita I.V.A. 10600860018</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Name and Signature of the Legal Representative</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANNA MARIA POGGI</p> 
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ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS) 2021 - 2027

Erasmus activities included

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

- ✓ Mobility of higher education students and staff

Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

- ✓ Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): the strategy

Fondazione ITS per le tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione¹ is a Tertiary Level Short Cycle institute that provides **courses on selected domains of leading-edge ICT**, on the basis of the needs expressed in a constant and structured way by the reference sector, through participation to the Foundation, with requirements and cooperation to the development of the formative offer, up to the provision of a substantial part of the teaching staff (70% of the total). All this is essential to **ensure a swift and targeted formative offer dynamics**, highly needed **in a sector that is constitutionally global** and includes, alongside a group of large multinationals, a galaxy of SMEs and start-ups providing **products and services to local and global businesses and people, as well as science, art, health and education**.

The relevance and pervasiveness of ICT in business, culture, education and life is indisputable, with effects that are continuously changing and improving the way people work, communicate, learn and use spare time. On the other hand, the tumultuous evolution of technologies and applications bring threats and concern for safety, security, privacy and protection of data to fair and free access to reliable and transparent information and services, to inclusion and fair treatment. The ICT world needs resources that are able to find best adequate solutions to tackle the equilibrium between technological opportunities, effectiveness and equal access, and safeguard of safety, privacy and freedom, needed especially after the 2020 global health emergency, that has given a most convincing proof of resilience and effectiveness in supporting continuity of businesses and work, education and communication, while putting in evidence risks and threats.

In this picture, today **the Institute formative offer is focussed on the application side**, as needed in the reference sector (mainly made up of close SMEs and start-ups) and are related to mobile, **web and desktop solutions front-end and back-end development, digital marketing and visual communication, ICT security design and management, and pervasive digitalisation based on Cloud, big data and Internet of Things technologies**.

The **international dimension** and the need for continuous and timely upgrade of training content and methods in a global context **is a key, if not the first, asset** to contribute and cooperate for the sector evolution and growth, by **making internationalisation and modernisation perspective and action a constituting structural and fully accessible approach** to all Institute activities and initiatives. As a consequence, the fundamental objectives of the implementation of Erasmus+ initiative within the internationalisation and modernisation strategies are:

- ✓ **Supporting growth, wealth and innovation of the reference productive fabric** through the enhancement of the international dimension, by creating targeted, promptly applicable professional figures targeted at the sector needs, in which the international dimension and innovation attitude and capacity are a central factor
- ✓ **Enhancing the professional and personal profile as individuals and citizens** of the participants to the Erasmus+ initiative, by making possible experiences in new and advanced professional and learning contexts, and by

¹ Higher Technical Institute Foundation for information and communication technologies; in short, ITS ICT | Foundation | Institute)

approaching and experience different cultures, ways of life and civic engagement values and actions, to favour a positive attitude and European identity.

The fundamental objectives are the foundation of an **Institute internationalisation and modernisation policy fitting with the opportunities of the Erasmus+ Programme**, that aims at extending and strengthening the effective and promising activities already performed with the first accreditation from 2015 on, and better structuring the compliance with the Charter fundamental and new principles, the European Educational Area challenges and the Call objectives:

- ✓ Guarantee a **fully accessible and sustainable access to a greater participation to Erasmus+** mobilities and collaboration activities by students, staff and teachers, to foster and strengthen their professional and personal growth and for contributing actively to the development and innovation of institute offer and operation in an international perspective towards the growth of the reference sector
- ✓ Establish **clear and sustainable agreements with European HTIs / Universities and Companies or groups thereof**, and design and define collaboration project under the KA2 framework to favour and implement processes, tools, methods and training content, modules and pathways that concretise the achievement of a sustainable and adaptive international dimension of ITS operation and of professional figures created or upgraded, to have the service to the reference sector as a technological transfer, and innovative competences and methods hub
- ✓ Work and cooperate to achieve a **fair, sustainable and effective competence-based credit recognition mechanism**, compliant with ECTS, universal and automated according to requirements from EU institutions on the matter, in order to make structural the free access at all levels of study
- ✓ **Implement joint classes and courses, study and teaching mobilities**, either as mainstream activities and as contribution to innovation projects
- ✓ Upgrade all administration, technical and learning development and management processes in place for the **management of Erasmus+ initiatives, to facilitate the implementation of the strategy**; have them managed and supervised by the International Activities Office as a single contact point and as supervisor and promoter towards organisation and beneficiaries, with a clear report to the Institute Management and Head Bodies
- ✓ **Ensure that all Erasmus+ initiatives of the institute, as coordinator and as partner, are compliant with Erasmus+ principles**, European Educational Area challenges and Call objectives, and are coherent with the internationalisation and modernisation strategies, by **involving the Institute management with clear and transparent procedures and information flows**, developed with a collaborative, supervised and participated approach involving all needed internal figures, offices and governing bodies, and external entities (companies close and training / educational institutes, local and abroad)
- ✓ Upgrade and extend all the measures and processes to **ensure equal access to all initiatives, transparency of procedures and criteria, inclusion, sustainability, environmentally friendly behaviours, and civic engagement**, by extending the measures in place and adopting a systemic approach to manage and stabilise new and emerging needs, adopting the Institute inclusion / diversity strategy guidelines
- ✓ Adopt specific solutions and procedures for **guaranteeing an effective, constant and motivating communication of initiatives and results**, either to the potential beneficiary categories and as a dissemination action; enhance the role and contribution of students and staff as ambassadors and testimonials towards support to mobile participants and for the improvement and focussing of the formative offer
- ✓ - Ensure **quality and continuous improvement of Erasmus+ initiatives and activity**, by developing systematically objectives-oriented operations and compliance with the certified Institute Quality System

Implementation of the Erasmus actions

The policy above outlined is implemented through a sequence and operational programme pivoted on mobilities, cooperation and development of automated credit recognition. The other action items are equally important as enablers and/or to guarantee concrete compliance to the Erasmus+ Charter established and new principles. The considerations

that follow decline the fundamental objectives of the internationalisation and modernisation strategy of the Institute outlined above.

Transnational mobilities

Mobilities are the prime instrument and the first to be implemented from 2nd half of 2021 on, as a prosecution, improvement, and extension of the Erasmus+ participation since 2015. A **wider focus on professional and personal growth** will be pursued for both students and staff, in compliance with the new principles, building up experiences increasingly targeted at the professional profile, thanks also to the approach that will be adopted with receiving entities oriented at establishing mid-and long term cooperation with companies and HEIs, in view of cooperation under the KA2 framework.

Another relevant objective throughout the accreditation period is the **quantitative growth of participation**, especially for students. Starting from a current average of 8% participation of students, the institute expects to raise the participation progressively up to 12%, as a reasonable and sustainable estimate. This will be prompted by an **improved promotion activity and by an increased management of inclusion measures and support**, added to the continuous improvement of the level of the traineeship offer, in cooperation with receiving entities.

Concerning **staff mobilities**, the approach that guided during the first accreditation, **based on participatory design of the initiatives**, according to priorities and opportunities for staff training, will be maintained and enhanced by a greater role we expect from cooperation initiatives. The absolute values will be confirmed (4 to 8 a year) in view of the small number of staff (8 to 10). Added to this, the Institute intends to propose especially teachers (as well as staff) **opportunities for individually designed mobilities for training**, (within the strategy framework), as a professional and knowledge growth occasion, that can **be transferred into the formative offer and learning methods**. We expect to activate from 2021 mobilities that can reasonably sum up to 10% of the teaching force.

A longer time frame is needed for **study and teaching mobility**, even if the second may start earlier, in a frame of cooperation with HTI / HEI abroad, due to the time needed to **put in place the mutual automatic recognition system as a key enabler** (see below). It is expected that this development will take a considerable time; nonetheless the goal is to activate these mobilities within the deadlines set by the 2021-2027 programme.

Transnational cooperation

This line of activity, integrated with mobilities, has the central goal to **enhance the international development of the institute and the innovation of methods and roles**, up to the realization of **new formative approaches developed and operated jointly**. The aim is to **extend the international network** and activate a domino effect to further enlarge it, to establish bilateral cooperation schemes for **exchange of practices and mobility exchanges**, and support and pave the way for the **establishment of structured cooperation projects** in the KA2 framework. Priorities are many: models, procedures and domains for exchange of best practices and benchmarking, targeted joint training initiatives, up to, in a longer perspective, development of innovative pathways and classes, study and teaching mobilities. Another area of relevance is the widening and sharing of the **companies' network for the enhancement of the international dimension of the formative offer**. Finally, the path towards a mutual automatic system for recognition of credits is another key area, as explained below.

Recognition of credits

As outlined above and detailed in subsequent sections, this line of activity is highly relevant, complex and with a double aim: **enabling universal competence-based recognition** as a due measure for flawless access to different study cycles or specializations; enabling the full deployment of the Erasmus+ opportunities with study and teaching mobilities, to **strengthen the international dimension of the formative offer with transnational learning** and to better support the cooperation with Institutions abroad for innovation and exchange of best practices.

Cooperation on automatic competence-based credit recognition, focussed at best practices and comparison for **mutual recognition will strengthen the activities underway** with other HTIs, Universities and authorities, aimed at establishing an **effective recognition system tailored to competence-based assessment**, and made ECTS compliant and automated. The activity is multifaceted and compact, that however is expected not to miss the 2025 deadline of the Automatic Credit Recognition initiative, as well as the deadlines of the European Student Card system.

Added to these, the enabling transversal activities will be instrumental to enable and support the Erasmus+ activities throughout the implementation of the accreditation objectives.

Impact of the Erasmus+ Programme on the Institute

Transnational Mobilities

- ✓ *Students*: **remarkable improvement of the competences** that the reference sector needs and actively supports, that mean a **higher employability and chance of professional success** (not by chance, employability of graduates is one prime evaluation criteria for ITS performance by the supervising national and regional authorities). Added to this, an international experience as student and citizen will have a **positive impact on the appeal as a professional and an active attitude towards the value of different cultures** and the **active participation and cooperation** in society, national and European
- ✓ *Staff and teachers*: **professional growth and availability of skills** for further developing the informative offer and cooperating with the institute and the collaboration partners, as well as becoming progressively acquainted with multicultural context and situations

Transnational cooperation

Together with the credit recognition, it will help **complete the picture of the measures for international development** of competences through study and teaching mobilities, and give a **boost to modernization of knowledge and methods at all stages of the Institute operation**, as well as contribute to the mobility quality offer and management

Recognition of credits

The first impact will be on graduates, by ensuring a **flawless recognition, tailored to their competence level** and enabling smooth passage from and to different cycles and specialisation, in favour of the value of their professional profile.

Relevant is also the impact of **enabling of study and teaching mobilities** as well as the **development of true multinational classes and courses** with a harmonized assessment and recognition scheme.