



ERASMUS+

Proposal Template

**Administrative Forms (Part A)
Project Technical Description (Part B)**

Erasmus: Key action 1: Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

EACEA-03-2020 ECHE-LP-2020

**Version 1.1
4 March 2020**



In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

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

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

1.2 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 Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the

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goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

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A qualitative transition from the world of education to the world of work is of crucial importance for our young people, driven by the growing need of high skill professionals capable of relating to an increasingly international world made of exchanges at all levels, from human and cultural to economic and professional one and to be able to do it all over Europe. In particular, operators in the tourism area have the need to develop active policies to respond to the increasingly widespread internationalization promoting at the same time specific vocations of the territory

We are strongly convinced that higher education and its close links with research, innovation and business plays a crucial role in individual and societal advancement, and in providing the highly skilled human capital and citizens that Europe needs. Inside this scenario that ITS Tourism of Rome operates. The Foundation "ITS per le Tecnologie Innovative per i Beni Culturali e le Attività Culturali Turismo" is a Specialized Technical School that deals in high education and training on tourism, with the goal of creating an open, constant and permanent dialogue between the Italian working system and the education system. To make the integration of training agents, local businesses and companies stable and organic in relation to the above goals, Technical Colleges assume the form of participatory foundations with organizational standards recognizable throughout the national as well as the European territory. ITS offers non-university tertiary level education, leading toward an EQF 5th level degree, hence bridging a gap between the Italian and the European education system. The ITS Foundation aims to prepare the citizen of tomorrow and extending the frontiers of knowledge our academic and administrative community support the individual growth and creativity within different environments of knowledge without any distinctions of gender or race. Our teaching staff and personnel aim for this objective with a spirit of freedom and responsibility

At the core of ITS internationalization project there is the idea of preparing professionals in the tourism system endowed not only with key and soft skills that can be flexibly spent in finding a job in the European market but also with the capacity of critical thinking crucial for active citizenship and problem solving, promoting the development of cross-cultural skills, necessary to relate to different cultures and move inside foreign labor contexts.

The opportunities offered by the Erasmus+ program is worth earning for students to develop the competencies they need, for professors to strengthen teaching and research through cooperative working, and staff to improve their professional level. Mobility should be an essential part of their personal and professional development. By participating at Erasmus+ project the ITS has, therefore, among its major objectives, that of promoting: international cooperation and strategic partnerships, transnational traineeship mobility in the tourism sector, mobility of students and academic staff among others ITS European Institutions and Universities, extensive studies of foreign languages, in order to actively participate to the improvement of European integration and the creation of a European labor market, and Training opportunities for staff members necessary to advance departmental and institutional strategies

In line with the goal of building an European Education Area, ITS Tourism of Rome seek to give as many students as possible the opportunity to benefit from at least one period abroad during their study career and to guarantee equal access and opportunities to incoming and outgoing mobility participants from under-represented groups. This implies not only the promotion of physical mobility, but also the development of a virtual mobility approach. Periods of study abroad should be made integral to ITS programs and be based on exchange agreement with the Foundations where a credit system which can be easily adapted to the ECTS system is in place. There is currently no single protocol at national level for all ITS and our Foundation, for constituent issues, is not yet using the ECTS system of credit recognition for students in mobility. At institutional level, however, our Scientific Technical Committee decided to grant students outgoing 60 credits for the two-year short cycle, which are the equivalent of ECTS credits. A common national full recognition system of credits for ITS Schools that align them at University is a priority in the agenda. The study of foreign languages is a priority inside our didactic program, for this reason two languages courses (Spanish and English) are already part of the curricula. The Erasmus+ Program is the fundamental tool for applying the above goals and is strongly promoted among students in their short cycle. Through *Digital Opportunity Traineeship* and innovation of our curriculum together with the new teaching methodologies, the Foundation aim at developing the digital skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation and approaching the Erasmus+ experience. This is supported by the recent inclusion in the curricula within the area web marketing, of a Coding-big data-design thinking course in the Tourism field.

Modernization is a fundamental process inside our internationalization strategy in order to achieve a higher European dimension of the Institute. By a continuous reflection and awareness development on the goals of the courses and teaching methods, as well as on the type of professionals that are expected to be formed, the process of internationalization is expected to improve the outcome of teaching and learning. The foundation is well aware of the role of HEIs in the improvement of education, research and innovation and inside its modernization agenda is constantly renewing its educational portfolio in order to always be innovative. To this matter the Foundation has implemented strategies aligned with the job market, directed at attracting a wide range of students/teachers EU/non-EU by focusing on high quality in order to guarantee a top-level preparation and improve the quality of study. The content and organization of the course have been specifically designed to respond to the needs of operators in the tourism sector,

¹ For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website:

https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en

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at least 70% of our teachers come from the work background and professional in the tourism field able to constantly give a current view of the tourism market.

In the field of teaching and learning within the framework of the Erasmus+ Program, the strategy includes participation in projects related to intensive programs, combined with the development of joint programs of study, and cooperation in the reception of teachers and learners from other countries.

At ITS Tourism Rome the process of internationalization is intentional and the faculty and staff are fully engaged in its actuation. The general strategy is coordinated by the governing body of the Foundation. The organization and plan of action is carried out by the International Office in order to promote and coordinate all aspects connected to the increase of student and staff mobility as well as double, multiple and joint certification. Responsible of the International Office is the Director that negotiates the relationship with international institutions, checks for possible participation in tenders, and give notice of the results of the processes of mobility and accreditation of students. The last two processes and the monitoring system of the progress of the Erasmus+ project is managed by the Scientific and Technical Committee. The International office works in synergy with the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Foundation, the course coordinators / tutors, foreign partners, for the management of incoming and outgoing mobility projects. A continuous dialogue among the stakeholders of the internationalization is considered of great importance as to clarify goals, outcomes and new policies that contribute to the common growth of the Institute

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.

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ITS Tourism of Rome strategy for implementing Key Action 1 include:

-Development of learning and training programs in collaboration with foreign European ITS Foundations and European universities in order to boost study mobilities and create channels for the transfer of innovation, good practices and experience. Our ITS has signed an agreement for the recognition of the ITS two-year training period in terms of approximately 120 European Credits with the NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences based in Leeuwarden, equal to about two years in Tourism Management and International Hotel Management Bachelor's programs. We will work to stipulate similar agreements with other universities; internationalization of study programs through the implementation of joint programs at the ITS course that lead to awarding of joint and/or multiple diplomas. Improve recognition and support services for students.

-enhancement, together with strategic partners, of specific approaches for *virtual mobility*, and new courses of study taught in English of recognized relevance and recall which will enable the ITS Foundation to transcend national borders and attract English speaking students increasing incoming mobilities.

-improvement of the number and quality of training periods abroad. The Foundation plan to enhance ties with enterprises for qualified traineeship opportunities for its students, developing new partnerships and strengthen the already existing ones exploiting the contacts created through staff mobilities. New contacts will also be possible thanks to our partnership with Hosco, the leading international platform for Networking and Recruitment in hospitality and restaurant business. Attention will be paid to the choice of companies that can guarantee real inclusion in the working world for participants with special needs or socio-economic disadvantage background. Strict procedures will be put in place to ensure the quality, and allocation of training opportunities.

- Improve recognition for

- action focused at educating staff and faculty to the intercultural approach, through internal seminars and sharing experiences; mobility will be supported including it in scheduled working time or working time will be reallocated to include the mobility. *Blended mobility* will also be activated to give more opportunities to participate for both staff and students. We actively promote staff exchanges within the Erasmus Program in the belief that mobile staff bring back new partners, networks and ideas which can be significant value for the institution. Our aim is making teacher/staff mobility more strategic and systematic.

Key Action 2 and Key Action 3. The ITS Foundation is already part of an extensive network of bilateral and multilateral agreement relating the statute to the Sapienza University and Italian Geography Society. In the next few years, it intends to broaden this network, starting and implementing new actions with target new countries and other European ITS Foundations for the mobility of teachers as well as research cooperation. Promoting the coordination and development of relationships between research and tourism industry by sustaining the implementations of partnership and the use of financial tools, available at national and European level, in support of industrial research and technology transfer. The activities of the Industrial Liason Office (ILO) should be further enhanced by: strengthening the actions of integration between the entrepreneurial and academic world; using an approach which encourages the development of technological innovation in tourism companies. Participation in KA3 action represent a long-term target that we hope to attend as a vocational tourism institution thanks to a close collaboration with Regional Tourism Agency of the Lazio region and the area manager for international activities.

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.

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Monitoring is a necessary part of ITS internalization process to check if policy implementation of Erasmus+ project is 'on track' and to generate information that can be used to evaluate whether it has achieved its objectives. As for quantitative indicators the number of all learning mobilities will be established. Our target is to Double student mobility by 2024 and reach by 2027 almost the 50% of the students of each class undergoing Erasmus experience, also introducing new forms of participation such as *short term mobilities* opportunities. We expect to activate at least 2 staff training mobility at each Call. Data collection through the adoption of the Student Card will be of notice as to set quantitative indicators. The contribution at internationalization of the overall digitalization process will be monitored as long-term outputs in terms of efficiency and effectiveness of administrative processes, new e-learning courses activated and application from foreign students. Mobility goes hand in hand with quality for our Foundation, in order to ensure shared quality criteria defined in the agreement. We will guarantee the quality traineeship with accurate choice and visits at the new companies hosting our students as well as checking on the learning outcomes acquired by students when they come back. We foster an increase involvement in cooperation projects of strategic partnership KA2. At least 2 in the next 5 years and in the long term, by the end of Erasmus project, we hope to participate as partners at a KA3 Action project. Quality will be monitored certifying the new competences acquired by our teaching staff through increase implementation of active learning methods and new technologies with an impact on key and soft skills acquired by our students. The process of internationalization is also expected to have an overall impact on students' thinking and actions, awareness of diversities and development of critical thinking with a major involvement in Institute and local initiatives. With a wider view to the targets of mobility activities, the ITS foresees an impact not only on mobile staff but also on non-mobile staff and students giving them internationalization at home. As part of the monitoring process, cultural awareness through sharing with comeback students and staff, and activation of virtual mobility opportunities will be taken into account.

Strategic working group that includes the Scientific Technical Committee, the heads of the International Office and the Bilateral Tourism agency of the region Lazio has the role to oversee that such activities comply with the principles of the courses of ITS Foundation and monitor Institution graduates progress and their employability at 1 year after diploma. We can state that on average every year at least 80% of students who leave our courses are employed with those who had Erasmus experience finding higher quality placement inside international chains both for better knowledge of foreign languages and problem-solving and collaborative skills. The possibility of participating in international exchange programs is therefore believed to represent an incredible opportunity not only for students but also for the Faculty and the whole Institute