

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.

ITS Angelo Rizzoli (ITSAR) aims to develop a network of international relationships with different partners in the business and training world, allowing incoming and outgoing staff and students to have professional experiences, training or technical specialization in another country.

Although ITS courses (Higher technical Education Institutions) are fairly new in the Italian Higher Education system, they are attracting more students every year, willing to acquire specific, technical competencies which are highly requested on the labour market. The motivation that has led us to look for collaborations with foreign countries is related both to the professional curriculum of our ITS courses and to the necessary confrontation with a world that is everyday more interconnected and overcomes the national borders, especially in the ICT field.

An experience of work or study abroad is something our students ask to do, in order to improve their professional but also their intercultural and language skills, knowing that Italian and European companies will take it in consideration when hiring. The contents of our courses are transnational in nature and are also the result of a careful analysis of the needs of a national and global context that is everyday more inter-connected.

We believe that the exchange of expertise between the different institutions, as well as an open mind attitude, can be an advantage for all the contractors. By participating in the Erasmus program we intend to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- 1) Increase the level of qualification and employability of our graduate students according to the European labour market needs;
- 2) Enhance the professional, linguistic and intercultural skills of our staff;
- 3) Improve the quality and relevance of Higher Technical Education through international mobilities and transnational cooperation;
- 4) Creating links between Higher Education, Research and businesses to promote excellence and regional development.

Our preferable partners are Higher Education Institutions and Universities offering courses in the ICT field, as well as companies working in the field of Communication, Advertising, Web development, UX and UI. We know that proficiency in English is already a key competence in these fields, so the geographical areas where we are going to develop our partnerships are mainly in the Anglo-Saxon region or in countries where English is commonly used in school and at work (Belgium, Netherlands, Germany...)

We are also going to enhance partnerships that ITSAR has developed in the past years with Educational Institutions and companies (for example: ITEC Boisfleury-Grenoble, IES Puerta Bonita-Madrid, Four Pees-Gent, etc)

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)

Within the framework of Erasmus+ Programme ITSAR strategy is to apply at first to KEY Action 1, aiming to enlarge its partnership network to other countries, companies and Higher Education Institutions specialized in ICT in order to exchange skills and experiences through Staff mobilities for teaching and training and students mobilities for traineeship, increasing the number of outgoing but also incoming staff and students from other countries.

ITSAR has a strong expertise in organizing traineeships for students in national companies, that's why we can be considered an excellent hub to help incoming and outgoing students to find the right companies where they can do their training according to their professional profile.

In order to implement our international cooperation projects we are planning to increase our international visibility with an English version of our website, including the course catalogue, our business related projects and all the information regarding International mobilities for incoming and outgoing students and staff.

In the future we aim to apply also to Erasmus+ programme Key Action 2.

*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.*

1) Increase attainment levels. Although ITS Courses are still fairly new in the Italian Higher Education system, and still many students and people don't know about them, they are gaining more visibility every year and are becoming an appealing alternative to University courses for secondary school graduates due to their strong connection with the labour market and a very high rate of employability. The possibility to do staff and students mobility will increase the quality of ITSAR courses through the share of expertise and competences with international Institutions and enterprises.

2) Improving the quality and relevance of higher education. All courses at ITSAR are tailored according to the ICT and Multichannel Communication labour market, its needs, and its continuous changes and updates, keeping an eye on the national and international dimension. Most of the teachers are professionals working in ICT companies and Communication Agency or running their own business and start ups, that's why we can offer our students updated courses every year and a strong practical application of the course contents to business environment. Allow students and staff to do international mobilities will give a European dimension to our courses.

3) Promoting mobility and cross-border cooperation. Thanks to its international strategy and Erasmus+ mobilities ITSAR aims to share innovative teaching methods, best practices, organizational competences and performances. In order to strengthen the cooperation with

European partners ITSAR is working to sign Interinstitutional agreements with Higher Education Institutions in the field of ICT and Multichannel Communication. Moreover, implementing the recognition of students and staff grants, ECTS credits, and diploma supplement will make international mobilities more attractive for students.

4) Linking higher education, research and business. As mentioned before, to create a network of education, research and business is the recipe of ITSAR. Through its internationalization process our Institute is willing to enrich its network through a European dimension in order to share learning and teaching experiences with particular attention to business oriented and innovative projects.

5) Improving governance and funding. Cooperation with other national and international Higher Education Institution will allow ITSAR to share effective models of governance and funding. Moreover Erasmus+ programme will contribute to diversify the sources of funding while improving the quality of ITSAR courses.