



Fondazione Istituto Tecnico Superiore per la Manutenzione Industriale
ITS PRIME

Erasmus Policy Statement

ITS PRIME Foundation was created, like all Italian Technical Higher Institutes (ITS), to encourage the training of specialized technicians who, once integrated into companies, know how to transfer the innovations and challenges of an industrial world in continuous evolution. In particular, ITS PRIME trains technicians with European Level 5 qualification in the mechatronics sector. This field of industrial production, particularly represented in the Tuscan territory, has witnessed in recent decades an evolution whose management requires technicians with mechanical, electronic, IT skills to update procedures towards digitization and automation of industrial processes.

Precisely this responsibility towards the industrial world drives ITS PRIME to build networks of institutions, companies and associations to compare topics, teaching methodologies, laboratory activities with a view to continuous improvement. ITS PRIME is a Participatory Foundation constituted by companies, universities/research centers for science and technology, local authorities, schools and training agencies, all located in Tuscany region. However, development and innovation cannot pass only through territorial realities, although diffuse and diversified, but must focus on other national and international experiences too. On the national level ITS PRIME is part of a network of mechatronic ITS located in many Italian regions, aimed at improving the training of each institution through comparison. At the international level, it has established cooperation agreements with some Short Cycle Institutes, chambers of commerce and sectoral companies. However, ITS PRIME would like to make a further qualitative leap through the expansion of stable collaboration relationships that include research centers and universities from other European countries. The purpose of this proposal has two fundamental aspects: ensure for



students a high level of preparation usable throughout Europe and introduce into the job market graduates who are able to guide companies towards technological innovations that can make them competitive all over the world. ITS PRIME is pursuing a particular aspect of modernization related to industrial digitalization, commonly called Industry 4.0. This process, first time proposed at the Hannover Fair in 2011 in Germany, is leading to fully automated and interconnected industrial production. ITS PRIME has already set up laboratories to be used in training and for the dissemination of technologies Industry 4.0 as provided in the Industry 4.0 Platform of Tuscany Region. This innovative investment will find in the opportunities provided by Erasmus+ even more development through a process of international confrontation. Another important part of modernisation process will concern the teaching/learning process that can be consolidated by a period of stay abroad for study or internship. The students will be advantage for deepening of their technical skills and for acquisition of language skills, transversal skills and key competences for lifelong learning. Teachers and administrative staff, through periods of training in companies and in institutions of the same level of education in the mechatronic sector, can update their skills and improve linguistic proficiency also to refine their ability in designing didactic units in English, more attractive than those in Italian for incoming students from other countries

ITS PRIME focuses its participation on two Erasmus + actions: Key Action 1 (KA1) Learning Mobility and Key Action 2 (KA2) Cooperation among organization and institutions (Partnership for cooperation and exchange of practices and Partnership for Innovation).

Key Action 1 (KA1) Learning Mobility:

ITS PRIME has an Erasmus+ Office coordinated by a staff person (the Erasmus + Coordinator) in charge of organizing the activities of the mobility projects. Another staff member manages the economic part of projects. Erasmus+ Coordinator will draw up and publish on the Foundation's website the annual call for applications for the selection of students and staff together with the application form to be sent online. The call will contain all the modalities and conditions of participation and will explain the possibility of extra support of ITS PRIME, in addition to the



Erasmus+ funding, for students with fewer opportunities. This last procedure will be perfected through reserved contacts that safeguard the student's privacy. In addition, the possibility of blended mobility will also be presented for those who for health reasons cannot stay long away from home. The call will also clarify the entire credit recognition procedure after mobility. The Learning Agreement model for students and the Mobility Agreement model for staff will be available on the ITS PRIME website. ITS courses are followed by class groups which are required to attend. For this reason, the mobility period may vary from year to year depending on the timing of the different courses. The coordinator will follow the student in all phases of the management of mobility. For the choice of institutions or companies in which the students will carry out the mobility, the Foundation will turn to institutions, enterprises, professional associations of the Programme Countries with which collaborations have already been started. ITS PRIME also will contact member companies of the Foundation which have subsidiaries in other countries of Europe to welcome students and staff or to promote the welcome in other companies or institutions located in the area. The collaborations will be formalized in Inter-Institutional Agreements. As for the Staff, ITS PRIME will provide a catalogue of foreign institutions and companies willing to welcome the staff of the Institute for a quality mobility in line with the objectives set in a preliminary agreement between institutions (Inter-Institutional Agreements). Teachers often have personal contacts with institutions and companies in their sector and can choose, for a period of mobility, the most interesting to propose to the ITS PRIME, which will assess its relevance. For administrative staff, institutions similar to ITS PRIME, that can offer organizational models to compare with, will be chosen. Students or staff from other countries who intend to carry out Erasmus+ mobility at ITS PRIME will find under the item Internationalisation of the website a link to the updated catalogue of courses starting in the following school year (in Italian and in English), as well as the credit system adopted (ECTS model), the grades system used and the conversion tables. The coming of experienced teachers in mechatronics and industrial automation who take their experience to our students by holding cycles of lessons at ITS PRIME, will be very favored.



Key Action 2 (KA2) Cooperation among organisation and institutions (partnership for cooperation and exchange of practices and Partnership for Innovation):

The consolidated relationships and those established through the mobility of students and especially staff will help to find partners, active in the mechatronics and automation sector, to develop and improve innovative practices that can also be transferred to companies in the territories involved. The two actions are fully integrated into the institutional strategy because they both fall within the framework of continuous improvement of student training and improvement of the skills of teachers and administrative staff in the strategic perspective for ITS, to get to the increasingly easy employability of course graduates.

As impact ITS PRIME provides for the implementation and consolidation of international relations with Higher Education Institutions, Universities and companies operating in the field of mechatronics and automation, that constitute a network of comparison to keep the teaching up to date and in line with the fast changes of the mechatronic industry both from the point of view of production and environmental sustainability. Strategic tools for achieving this aim will be the Erasmus+ mobility projects for students and staff, incoming and outgoing (KA1 Projects) and Cooperation Projects (KA2 Projects).