

# ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

EU Grants: Application form (ERASMUS ECHE certificate): V1.0 – 15.04.2021

Participation in Erasmus+
<p>The Foundation for Energy Efficiency of Reggio Calabria aims at improving the quality of its higher education programs and student experience by developing a European dimension in education and training. Actually, the challenges and the realities faced by higher education nowadays as well as policy responses transcend national borders so developing new forms of cross-border cooperation may be key drivers of quality and growth. The choice to participate in the Erasmus Program, Key Action 1 and Key Action 2, is part of the Institution's strategy for modernization and internationalization. In doing this the Foundation will implement the principles of the Charter and share the initiatives of the European Education Area.</p> <p>International mobility and cooperation activities bring about positive and long-lasting effects on both students, staff and the policy of the Foundation.</p> <p>A mobility project, in fact, is for young Calabrian people an opportunity to study or train abroad as part of their studies, to improve their employability, overcoming social exclusion, discriminations and various forms of inequalities that make Southern Italy increasingly distant from the North of the country and have led Calabria to high unemployment rates among the youth. They also may experience collaborative learning in innovative environments, within a broader strategic framework, in line with their needs, and improve their digital competences and linguistic competences before and during their stay abroad.</p> <p>As regard staff, thanks to a mobility experience in Europe or a cooperation project, they may improve the quality of their teaching and activities, by providing students and trainees with more attractive programs, in line with their needs and expectations as well as integrating good practices and new methods tested during the mobility period abroad into their daily work. Furthermore, such an experience can support the process of change in terms of modernization and international openness undertaken within the Foundation. This is possible thanks to cooperation and synergies with partners from other countries, active in coherent educational and employment fields.</p> <p>In light of the above, it is clear that the implementation of student and staff mobility and cooperation projects require the use of human resources with specific skills with respect to the objectives to be achieved in the various stages of application and implementation.</p> <p>The Foundation will involve the team of experts and the staff of the administrative office, which already operates within the institution for the design, planning and implementation of the higher technical education training offer provided, in the sectors of energy efficiency and marketing of Calabrian agri-food productions.</p> <p>First of all, the Erasmus actions in which the Foundation intends to participate require a great commitment in building the network of agreements and collaborations and encouraging participation in the program. Participants will be selected from time to time according to the project and subject area of reference. Selection procedures will be fair, transparent, coherent and documented. Excellence will be rewarded, but disadvantaged economic situations will be favored. Participants will be supported during the before mobility/ during mobility /after mobility procedures, helping them to obtain the maximum amount of benefit from the experience. Specific guidance and information will be provided to all participants about the courses they will follow, their roles and responsibilities and credit recognition. They will be also prepared for their activities abroad by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of linguistic competence in the language of the receiving country.</p> <p>The Institution provides for 25 annual outgoing mobilities, including 17 students mobility, 8 staff mobility, plus at least a couple of blended mobilities. Blended mobility will be promoted in order to remove any barriers of disadvantage and in case of the possible persistence of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Incoming mobilities will also be encouraged.</p>
Strategy, objectives and impact
<p>The Foundation for the Energy Efficiency of Reggio Calabria is a Higher Technical Institute, a channel of non-university tertiary education that integrates education, training and employment according to the latest international models.</p> <p>The goal of the Institution is to help drive the economic development of the local territory and the competitiveness of its human resources, by focusing on the quality and innovativeness of the training system and the training offer provided, as well as through developing an international network of higher education institutions.</p> <p>The training offer of the Foundation refers to two technological areas regarded as important for the economic development of Calabria: the management and verification of energy systems and the marketing of Calabrian agri-food productions. It is based on a close relationship with the labour market;</p>

the duration of the courses is shorter than university courses and the laboratory activity is essential. The choice to participate in the Erasmus Program, Key Action 1 and Key Action 2, is part of the Foundation's strategy for modernization and internationalization. This strategy acknowledges the key contribution of mobile staff and students, and of participation in European and international cooperation projects, to the quality of its higher education programs and student experience. Students are expected to broaden their horizons, while staff may become part of the international community, which enables institutions to become innovative and spread innovation.

Therefore, the Foundation's international strategy aims to:

- create a condition for human capital to grow effectively and efficiently;
- increase the level of competitive advantage of the local human capital in the global market;
- create a European dimension in education;
- international incoming/outgoing student and staff mobility;
- the internationalization and improvement of curricula and digital learning;
- strategic cooperation, partnerships and capacity building;
- foster an open exchange of knowledge, staff and expertise;
- increase incoming and outgoing mobility;
- keep the programs up to date and up to the highest standards;
- building the European citizenship;
- create effective governance and funding mechanisms in support of excellence.

These targets match to the results expected within mobility and cooperation actions in the Erasmus Program. They are:

- to allow students to carry out part of their company internship in a foreign language and in contact with a different culture, to strengthen linguistic and technical skills;
- to allow students to carry out a traineeship abroad, in order to professionalize their profiles and enhance their employability;
- to allow students develop skills that are recognized and spendable on the labour market at European level too;
- to provide students coming from disadvantaged social contexts with training experience of extraordinary value;
- to allow the exchange of good practices;
- to allow the upgrading of professional skills of staff, in a perspective of lifelong learning, through contact with educational experiences based on different approach and environments;
- to foster the cooperative relationship to develop the system of technical education;
- to increase educational activities quality;
- to extend professional opportunities for students, teachers and administrative staff.
- to develop, transfer and/or implement innovative practices at organizational, local, regional, national or European levels.

If all this can become true, the Foundation's institutional growth and modernization process will really reflect and share the priorities and characteristics of the Erasmus Program, aimed at fostering personal and professional development of citizens, promoting societies that are more inclusive, cohesive, green and suitable for the digital world, within a Europe understood as a common cultural and formative space.

#### Indicators

The mobility actions will involve students over the age of 19 who want to specialize in the field of renewable energy or marketing of Calabrian agri-food products for easy insertion to work.

The goal is to provide the Foundation's students, teachers and staff with the opportunity to gain skills and undergo personal, socio-educational and professional development through study, training and work experience. Indeed, this will also result in better quality of the Institution's training offer, and the fostering of innovation, excellence and internationalisation as well as growth, employment and social cohesion.

In order to measure the achievement of the expected objectives by participating in the mobility and cooperation actions under the Erasmus Program, as explained in the previous paragraph, the Foundation will use the following indicators, linking them to a timeline.

2021- 2022

Applying for KA1 and KA2 projects

Finding partners for KA1 and KA2 projects

2022-2023

Establishing agreements within the international partnership  
Promoting outgoing/incoming student and staff participation  
Selection of participants  
Definition of Learning Objectives  
Supporting student and staff mobility

2024/2025

Midterm evaluation of targets  
Establishing new agreements  
Increasing the number of incoming students

2026/2027

Validation and recognition of Learning Objectives  
Dissemination of results  
Establishing new agreements