



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

In May 2013, Politecnico di Bari has set an internationalization strategy – Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) – in order to obtain the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), and has agreed to publish this strategy after the signature of the ECHE by the European Commission.

With Commission Decision (2013) 3655658, Politecnico di Bari has been awarded the ECHE, with unique number 29243-EPP-1-2014-1-IT-EPPKA3-ECHE.

The original EPS, as submitted in May 2013, is made of three parts and is reported here.

Part 1

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.

Since its constitution (1990) Politecnico di Bari, keeping the tradition of the former Faculty of Engineering, part of the University of Bari, has recognised in the cooperation with other European and extra-European didactic-scientific institutions the main path of development and improvement. For this reason the creation and the management of said cooperation activities are considered amongst the most important targets. Together with the improved management capability, an improvement of the international cooperation project is forecasted, allowing the presentation of a number of application forms for the financing of Plans of Trans national Cooperation (i.e. CD, Intensive Programmes, Thematic Network etc.), together with the Mobility Programme. The importance that Politecnico di Bari gives to mobility is witnessed by the cofinancing of the Erasmus mobility.

The increasing internationalisation of Politecnico di Bari is bringing and increasing internationalisation of offered courses with joint master with European partners or with, for example, courses that are taught in foreign language. In the past four years, four new double degree were set, 2 with USA (within H2CU scheme) and 2 with EU Countries (France and UK) for which Politecnico di Bari provides a certain number of courses taught in English.

The main aim of Politecnico di Bari is to increase significantly:

- thematic networks and multilateral projects straightening cooperation with effective partners;
- the number of students that will have an academic or professional international experience;
- the number of foreign teaching staff with seminars and courses included in the official ones;
- the mobility of teaching staff and the professionalism of the IRO staff with stages abroad.

Politecnico di Bari is aiming to consolidate international partnerships applying not only for European projects, but also for extra European projects such as, for example, Erasmus Mundus.



A more focussed attention to EU Research Projects participation consolidating existing networks will allow to increase also the international approach of the researchers.

Politecnico di Bari is aiming to reach the objective of a an increase of internationalisation, increasing its participation to different projects such as Tempus, Leonardo, Jean Monnet, Galileo, Vigoni, Italy-Spain integrated actions for Europe and UE-USA, UE-Canada, Alfa, Asia Link, Marco Polo (CRUI) for extra Europe Countries.

A big effort is put from the Committee for Internationalisation in revising regularly the partnerships with the aim to cut the not efficient ones also to allocate more financial resources on effective ones in order to consolidate existing working networks.

New agreements can be directly proposed by Departments, faculties, by our perspective partners, or chosen by the Committee for internationalisation for strategic reasons. The assessment of possible partners is carried out by Academic Senate for non-LLP partner or by the Committee for Internationalisation for LLP partners.

Assessment criteria are based on the reputation of perspective partners, presence of direct contact already established by our faculties and the need to strength our position in a particular area. In particular, presence of direct scientific interest of part of Politecnico di Bari faculties is considered fundamental for active and successful agreements. For this reason, usually academic staff that propose a new agreement is involved in the joint management committee set at the beginning of the agreement validity.

Very important part of Politecnico di Bari strategy is the participation in Consortia and networks that allow efficient synergy such as, for example Politecnico di Bari participation in:

1. H2CU and "College Italia" to have a permanent Politecnico di Bari space in New York that allowed and facilitated the path for setting double degree programmes.
2. CUIA for managing and implementing relationship with Argentina.

Politecnico di Bari is aiming to consolidate and expand the international partnerships, with particular reference, in order of strategic relevance, to Mediterranean Countries, USA and Canada, Argentina, east Europe, Far East Countries.

Politecnico di Bari main expressed aims for internationalisation are aimed for all Politecnico di Bari community.

The main target group, if a ranking has to be made, are students and academics. It is considered fundamental for a harmonic scientific and personal growth.

Student mobility, for study and/or professional experience is forecasted for all cycles but strongly recommended and supported for second and third level and accepted for the final year of first level degree. All academics are encouraged to have experience abroad (a criteria for economical rewards is about international mobility).

A policy for increasing visiting professor is actually under study of Committee for Internationalisation. Double degree programmes are developed by the Department but approved by Academic Senate. All conditions are negotiated with the partner to ensure that appropriate quality criteria of all parties are granted.



Part 2

Please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme.

Main actors for the application of Institutional Internationalization strategy are Rector, Committee for Internationalization (CI), Departments (Deps.), International Relationship Office (IRO).

Roles are defined in the actual regulation for LLP and more detailed on the "Regulation for mobility and international cooperation" actually under approval of Academic Senate.

The organization of Erasmus Mobility, its management and the evaluation of its quality are under the responsibility of the IRO - and of the CI.

Formerly, CI (from 2012) was the Erasmus Committee (2008-2012) that was principally in charge for implementing all actions needed for EU projects with particular reference to Erasmus programme.

Particular aspect of CI work concerns the definition of priorities, fund raising proposals, coordination amongst independent activities carried out by Departments, quality assessment of the management of each project and providing all needed information to the Quality assessment Committees ("Presidi della Qualità" - internal - and "Nucleo di Valutazione" - external) that every year identify critical aspect to be improved in all didactic activities including student mobility.

CI that also provide internationalization guidelines every year that propose to the Rector to be assessed and implemented.

Both IRO and Erasmus Committee defined a series of procedures for the management of Mobility, in such way to accomplish the ECTS rules and forms for student and teaching staff mobility and for the evaluation of their quality, in particular for the acknowledgment of the studies carried out abroad.

IRO, in charge of all administrative issues, helps incoming and outgoing students for all the procedures before, during and after the period of the mobility. The Erasmus Coordinator act as tutor for incoming and outgoing students for all academic problems such as presentation of the application form, Learning Agreement definition, its change and its approval before departure.

Part 3

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve.

Internationalization has always been considered by Politecnico di Bari a fundamental of the personal and professional growth of the person.

An international career allows a more harmonic acquisition of skill required in Europe and a better comprehension by the single of different richness expressed by different cultures.

The attention of Politecnico di Bari to the quality of professional level of our graduate is witnessed by our participation to "Almalaurea" (Organization for the monitoring of graduated") and the effort put in the implementation and growth of the professional mobility for placement.



An improved internationalization of Politecnico di Bari would allow not only to student and staff that actually uses the mobility opportunity to have a significant experience, but will also rise the cultural benefit of staff and student that stays in Politecnico di Bari with more and more opportunities to attend courses given by international teachers, as well as more internationalized academic staff.

Politecnico di Bari is strongly committed to integrate more systematically in their programs mobility for learning purposes and to eliminate unnecessary barriers to the exchange rate between the levels of organization of undergraduate and master, as well as the obstacles to cooperation and transnational exchanges being this one of the main issues of Committee of Internationalization.

Politecnico di Bari ensure the recognition of credits obtained abroad teaching, through effective quality assurance, utilization comparable and consistent ECTS and the Diploma Supplement (Politecnico di Bari was awarded 2010 DS Label) and also the establishment of links between qualifications and the European Qualifications Framework.

Politecnico di Bari is actually studying the best practice to improve access, conditions of employment and progression opportunities for students, researchers and teachers from other countries, in particular by fully implementing the directives relating to students and researchers and the EU Visa Code in order to facilitate the issuance of Schengen visas to students and researchers carrying out short stays.

The aggressive policy for professional training carried out by Politecnico di Bari fully involves industrial and productive tissue of the Region in professional training scheme as well as an increasing set of EU companies.

The Academic staff and above all the students are already acting very often as trade union between realities in which they are involved creating positive connection amongst themselves, labor market and our Institution. A very strong connection has been created with ILO network amongst local authorities and Research centers to ensure a better technology transfer through spinoffs and innovation culture dissemination projects.

Politecnico di Bari already co-finance mobility projects and it is committed to continuous improvement measures of management of all project. A policy of fund rising for increasing financial support is currently carried out.