

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Participation in Erasmus+

Describe how you plan to participate in Erasmus+ actions in the future.

Explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution.

Note: The following types of Erasmus+ activities are open to HEIs:

- Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility of individuals:
 - Mobility project for higher education students and staff
 - Student mobility for studies
 - Student mobility for traineeships
 - Staff mobility for teaching
 - Staff mobility for training
 - Blended intensive programmes
- Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:
 - Partnerships for Cooperation
 - Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities
 - Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees
 - Partnerships for Innovation
 - Alliances for Innovation
- Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation.
- Jean Monnet Actions

Strategy, objectives and impact


What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus+ Programme? Which are the policy objectives you intend to pursue? Describe how the participation fits into your institutional, internationalisation and modernisation strategies.

What is the envisaged impact of the participation on your institution? Explain how you expect the participation to contribute towards achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy. Explain how it will contribute to making your institution more modern and more international. Explain how you expect the participation to contribute to the goal of building a European Education Area.

Note: The objectives should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable.

Indicators

For each objective, define appropriate indicators for measuring achievement (e.g. mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects, sustainability/long-term impact of projects, etc.). Link the targets to a timeline.

 If you change your activities or objectives, please don't forget to update the EPS on your website and inform your Erasmus+ National Agency.

Participation in Erasmus+

Poliarte Academy is open to the world.

Since 1972 the Academy of Fine Arts and Design Poliarte of Ancona – Italy, has been a point of reference for design and applied arts, recognized at the Italian and international level, organizing and realizing design courses.

Among the first centers that have dealt with education in the design sector, it has immediately become a source of inspiration and a benchmark, thanks to its teaching methodology combining research, technique, and innovation. Since 1972 Poliarte. From 2016 Bachelor courses - 3 years - have a legal value - 1st level Academic Diplomas, thanks to the authorization received from the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research - MIUR.

The educational offer is divided into 5 departments:

- Fashion design
- Industrial design
- Interior design
- Video-Film design
- Visual design

Furthermore, Poliarte is realizing short courses regarding design in different areas.

An educational methodology with compulsory attendance, and a strong balance between theory and practice. Theoretical, creative, design, and lab activities are completed by those aimed at learning to collaborate, how to communicate and build relationships, as well as cross exercises within the different areas of design. Thanks to the constant contact with the working reality (more than 2.000 companies/studios), Poliarte has an employment rate of 98% within 2 years of completing Bachelor studies.

Moreover, IPSE, European Institute of Psychology and Ergonomics is a department of Poliarte - Academy of Fine Arts and Design of Ancona.

Founded in 1980 he has supported Poliarte in teaching and research activities by studying the issues relating to the human factor interacting with the environment and the objects placed in it.

Ergonomy and psychology are the main fields of operating of IPSE.

Through time, it has diversified its skills: training psychology, guidance, school psychology, clinical psychology, counseling, pedagogy, graphology, sociology, neuromarketing, and neuroscience.

Since its foundation in 1972, it has promoted international mobility and created collaborations with foreign universities, academies, educational and cultural institutions.

Making available its creative skills and improving the experience of its students, building bridges of knowledge with partners, with the aim of mutual enrichment of knowledge and experiences.

Therefore, mobility is mainly implemented with partners under the framework of strategic alliances with European and non-European Institutions of excellence sharing the same vision and same approach to develop effective synergy for the growth of students, faculties, and the institution as a whole.

The internationalization process and common exchange with European and non-European educational entities represent a vital and unique value in the enrichment of Poliarte and partners' training methods, student experiences, and departments involved, with the main goal of cultural, social, professional, and linguistic development.

The percentage of Poliarte students who want to have an international experience during their university career, as well as the request coming from universities/academies partners, has grown steadily and Poliarte intends to maintain this trend, through the participation in Erasmus+ and signing of new agreements with high-quality and widely distributed partners.

The new collaborations will be based on an in-depth knowledge of the partner, gained through preparatory visits supported with funds for organizational support.

Internationalization is a top priority of Poliarte: a cross topic in teaching, researching, and innovation and a driver of modernization for every academy stakeholder, from students to teachers, from private companies to public ones, not forgetting public institutions/bodies.

Internationalization represents the main condition for creating an inclusive environment and community based on mutual respect of origins, differences, and recognition of empowerment in diversity.

Poliarte's goal is to provide a transversal education, in compliance with the European Community guidelines, building an inclusive space: for us, listening is the new way of talking.

We encourage and enable our students, teachers, and staff to bring their true selves to the Academy: There is belongingness in inclusion, there is growth in diversity.

Joining the Erasmus+ program – in particular with Key Action 1 (KA1), Key Action 2 (KA2) and Key Action 3 (KA3) – will represent the main and biggest step in the international strategy of Poliarte, allowing students, staff, and teachers to take part in the most important exchange strategy of the European Union, and not only.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Poliarte is committed to constantly investing in the improvement of its international dimension with the objectives of:

- extending its educational offer in the English language
- widening its openness to international recruitment and exchange
- activating the mobility of incoming and outgoing students, teachers, and staff

- promoting the speaking a foreign language, being in contact with another culture, to strengthen students, teacher and staff technical and language skills;
 - increasing in the signing of the memorandum of understanding/bilateral agreements with European and extra-European partners
 - expanding of joint initiatives and events
 - promoting of joint study courses and multiple degrees
 - expanding of the training offer with summer and short courses
 - promoting the necessity of spreading cultural differences and scenarios, to integrate and connect best practices to common goals and joint growth
 - ensuring a continuous offer of professional creatives able to satisfy the demand from public and private labor market
 - supporting the integration between the systems of education, training, and work, with particular reference to creative vocational poles
 - supporting for innovation and technology transfer to small and medium-sized enterprises
 - continue to implement the system for the recognition of credits and activities accomplished during mobilities by both students and staff, especially with non-European partners where the evaluation systems differ the most, adopting the appropriate transparency tools
- Poliarte will encourage the activation of agreements with related universities, academies, and private/public companies of all participating countries, with particular attention to:
- Adriatic/Ionian Region: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece - the role of Ancona has a gateway to the East
 - Eastern Europe with a special focus on Serbia, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, with which several collaboration agreements have already been signed in developing countries and with partners whose level of internationalization is not yet at an advanced stage, giving foreign students a wide range of opportunities in design/fine arts fields
- To strengthen international activities, Poliarte has:
- set up an office dedicated to partnerships and internationalization. A task force of academic and administrative staff dedicated to the planning, organization, and management of projects, in which Poliarte continuously invests from a motivational and training point of view
 - developed blended summer courses on the subject of Italian design, dedicated to incoming students. It represents the prototype for progressing a set of programs in English specifically designed for international students.
Balancing theory/practice/real projects/companies visits/final career day, the scope of the course is to train students as ambassadors, spreading good design practices/processes in their territory of origin, sharing what learned through their real/virtual network. History, traditions, ancient processes combined and boosted with a strong innovative drive
 - start a dialogue and evaluation of being a partner with UniAdriion, an association whose main purpose is of strengthening international cooperation and of favoring the progress of culture, science, training, and research in the countries of the Adriatic-Ionian basin. UniAdriion promotes scientific-academic cooperation mainly through the implementation of teaching and research initiatives, such as training courses, post-graduate diplomas, summer schools, joint research projects
 - focus on the modernization and digitalization of administrative procedures and document management. Within Poliarte main partner, there are two software houses specialized in developing solutions, platforms, back-office apps, and CRM for educational purposes.
Poliarte wants to promote and encourage the use of a series of digital devices to simplify the procedures for recognizing mobility and to allow students to exchange information securely and ensure its transfer from one higher education institution to another
 - empower the infrastructure of online learning and remote teamwork, with dedicated and specific solutions for the activity. Poliarte want to leverage new teaching technologies and new virtual environments for study and learning, to offer students high-quality support, spaces and services to better enjoy their daily learning experience
 - strengthened the IPSE department - European Institute of Psychology and Ergonomics - which deals with psychological counseling and inclusion (disability, SLD), guaranteeing total accessibility to participants, including international guests, in disadvantaged conditions in compliance with the principles of fairness and diversity
IPSE is the main point of reference for both incoming and outgoing students and is responsible for the selection, organization, and management of preparatory services for mobility and reception
 - subscribe an agreement with a local language school for the service of Italian for foreigners, giving the opportunity of a language integration for incomers during their stay and eventually a virtual course before the arrival
 - develop sensitivity towards sustainability to reach an integrated vision of the different dimensions of development, referring not only to the environmental one but also to the economic and social development, promoting mobility for study related to the theme and organizing activities and events aimed at increasing awareness on the subject
 - had strengthened the Design Factory department, improving the participation in the educational

strategy of Italian companies that got an international view, and could support incoming students, teachers, and staff in having a vision of Italian way of design, opening their doors for visits, project works and career days.

The founding element of Poliarte's philosophy is the connection and continuous exchange with the world of industry, commerce, and services. A relationship of mutual interest that guarantees continuously updating and high-level training, offering talents to companies through research projects, internships, and job placement. Poliarte Gives companies the possibility of collaboration through a partnership, to enhance the culture of creativity and design. Creating transversal relationships between the academic world and the company ones, becoming part of the expanding network of Poliarte partners.

Students are also invited to take part in special competitions, living the opportunity to show their skills and to be in contact with important companies. Poliarte is implementing its job placement offices to match skills and jobs, develop active labor market policies, and promote graduate employment, enhancing career guidance.

Poliarte wants to strengthen the link between the Academy and the business sector to develop new, innovative, and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning, contributing to filling the gap between the skills required by the market and those provided by the institution.

As previously explained, the participation in the Erasmus+ program will allow the Academy to achieve the next goals, generating an impact in these five areas:

- increasing the number of higher education graduates. The exchange of best practices and the integration of mobility actions in training courses and traineeships will allow the Academy to improve the quality of its training offer. In this way the Academy would like to attract more students, making them able to meet the needs of the international creative sector
- improving the quality and relevance of teaching and learning. Starting from the institutional and territorial diversity connatural to our Academy, our educational offer will be oriented to the diversification of skills and creative competencies, with a view to innovation and a prestigious and consolidated tradition. Thanks to mobility actions, the training offer of the Academy will be enriched by the international dimension. The exchange of best practices among HEI organizations will allow improving the training contents and methodologies
- promoting the mobility of students and staff and cross-border cooperation. Participation in the Erasmus+ program will allow the Academy to enter into inter-institutional agreements that will make easier the transnational cooperation and the mobility of students and teachers. These agreements will be the basis for building cross-border cooperation projects in support of the exchange of best practices
- strengthening the "knowledge triangle" between education, research, and innovation. Participation in the Erasmus+ program will promote excellence and regional development. It will improve the link between basic research and applied research. It will strengthen the transfer of knowledge to the market, encouraging the creation of new partnerships with local and European firms. It will support the creation of new and innovative enterprises (start-ups and academic spin-offs)
- creating effective governance and funding mechanisms for higher education. Participation in the Erasmus+ program will facilitate the implementation of some strategic management and financial activities. The Academy will search for complementary funding sources, both public and private, identifying real costs and orienting expenses on specific priorities(based on the assessment of results)

The working language will be English, to consolidate the students' language skills.

Indicators

To monitor and periodically assess the level of implementation of its internationalization strategy, Poliarte has set up several key performance indicators to be measured yearly from beginning to end in 2027.

Monitoring will be conducted together by the offices of the Internationalization and Education and relevant data will be discussed and assessed by the Deputy Rector for internationalization and the Director, to take appropriate corrective measures in case of need.

K1 Actions

In the field of outbound students mobility, Poliarte expects to:

- increase students' mobility both for study and for a traineeship
- increase teachers and staff mobility to experience good practices and get to know new ways of approaching work

As for inbound students' mobility, Poliarte is expecting to:

- increase the ratio of international students enrolled in the programs offered by our Academy
- increase the incoming of teachers and staff

In general, we expect to

- make our educational offer more internationally appealing by increasing the number of international courses
- adopt international standards of teaching and by promoting an organization based on good international practices

- improve outgoing and incoming mobility of faculty
- improve the international dimension of the administrative staff and teachers, especially through focusing on language skills and increasing outbound mobility
- improve the processes dealing with internationalization by strengthening digitalization, communication, and cooperation among the different areas and offices of our university, to foster a working culture aimed at pursuing objectives and constantly monitoring results.

Relevant KPIs and related target values to be reached by 2027 are (based on the nowadays Poliarte students population):

KPI Actions

- KPI 1: +5% n° of students undertaking at least one international mobility activity in their career (for study or traineeship)
- KPI 2: +5% n° of international students incoming in the programs offered by our institution
- KPI 3: +1 n° of international courses offered
- KPI 4: +5% n° of faculty undertaking at least one international mobility activity
- KPI 5: +30% n° of admin staff undertaking at least one international mobility activity

K2 Actions

great commitment will be devoted to the target of developing new strategic alliances with key academic and non-academic stakeholders, e.g. secondary schools, business sectors, associations, municipalities, realizing innovative projects, activities and exchanges of good practices.

- KPI 6: + 50% n° of memorandum of understating subscribed
- KPI 7: + 5 n° of new partnerships and projects established/realized with academic and non-academic institutions (mainly: academies, universities, schools, small and medium-sized enterprises, no profit organizations, key labor market national and/or regional stakeholders) for international research, courses, internships, placement, project work, career days, etc.

All project participation statistics will be made public on the University portal on the International/Erasmus+ page.

Regarding the qualitative indicators they will be classified in an ordinal manner through evaluation classes of the positive type ("high", "increasing"), intermediate evaluation ("average", "sufficient", "unchanged") or unfavorable evaluation ("low", "insufficient", "decreasing") and will be measured through follow-up questionnaires and interviews administered during the project and at the end of it

