



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Italian Shipping Academy – ITS Accademia Italiana della Marina Mercantile (Genova)

The Italian Shipping Academy has been awarded the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)** for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021–2027.

This Erasmus Policy Statement outlines the Academy’s institutional strategy and priorities in relation to the Charter.

Introduction to the Academy

Building on its strong tradition in maritime education and training, and responding to the evolving challenges of the global shipping and logistics sector, the Erasmus+ Programme represents a strategic opportunity for the Italian Shipping Academy to strengthen its international dimension, promote European values, and enhance the employability of its learners and staff.

Located in **Genova**, one of Europe’s most important port cities, the Italian Shipping Academy operates at the intersection of education, industry, and innovation. Internationalization is a natural extension of its mission, as maritime transport, port operations, logistics, and ship management are intrinsically global by nature. Through Erasmus+, the Academy aims to equip students with international competences, intercultural awareness, and professional skills aligned with the needs of the European and global maritime labor market.

Over recent years, the Academy has reinforced its international orientation by promoting **learning mobility for students and staff**, strengthening cooperation with European and non-European training institutions, maritime academies, universities, shipping companies, port authorities, and logistics operators. Participation in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (Learning Mobility) and Key Action 2 (Cooperation Partnerships) is considered essential to support innovation in training, curriculum development, and skills recognition.

The Academy’s governance strongly supports internationalization as a strategic priority. Erasmus+ activities are fully integrated into the institutional development plan and are coordinated to ensure coherence with industry needs, regional development strategies, and European policy objectives. The Academy pursues a **dual approach**: enhancing its international visibility and partnerships, while embedding European and global perspectives into its training programs “at home”.

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Inclusiveness, equal opportunities, and sustainability are core principles of the Italian Shipping Academy. No student or staff member should be excluded from international opportunities due to economic, social, or physical barriers. At the same time, environmental sustainability—particularly relevant for the maritime sector—is addressed as a cross-cutting priority, promoting greener mobility choices and raising awareness of sustainable shipping and logistics practices.

Through Erasmus+, the Italian Shipping Academy aims to:

- offer concrete international career opportunities to learners;
- strengthen professional competences of teaching and training staff;
- reinforce cooperation between education, industry, and public stakeholders at European level.

Our 5 Main Goals (2021–2027)

A. Strengthening the international quality of education and training

The Italian Shipping Academy adopts a **learner-centered and competence-based approach**, focusing on high-quality mobility experiences for students and staff. Priority is given to **study visits, traineeships, and work-based learning mobility** in collaboration with European shipping companies, ports, logistics hubs, maritime institutions, and training centers.

Internationalization “at home” is promoted through:

- visiting lecturers and trainers from partner institutions and industry;
- joint modules, seminars, and workshops delivered in English;
- integration of international standards (STCW, ESG, EU frameworks) into curricula.

The Academy actively supports the development of **joint training initiatives**, double certifications, and shared learning outcomes with partner institutions. Short-term, blended, and virtual mobility formats—such as intensive programs, summer schools, and sector-focused academies—will complement traditional mobility, ensuring broader participation and flexibility.

B. Enhancing employability and strengthening links with the maritime and logistics ecosystem

Employability is at the core of the Academy’s mission. Erasmus+ is a key instrument to reinforce cooperation between **education, industry, and the labour market**, both locally and internationally.

The Academy will:

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- expand international traineeships embedded in training pathways;
- involve shipping companies, port authorities, logistics operators, and maritime service providers in Erasmus mobility and cooperation projects;
- support upskilling and reskilling of trainers and administrative staff through targeted international training activities.

These actions contribute to the development of a **territorial and European cluster for maritime innovation**, fostering knowledge transfer and supporting the competitiveness of the blue economy.

C. Strengthening international reputation and strategic partnerships

Erasmus+ contributes significantly to the international visibility of the Italian Shipping Academy as a **center of excellence in maritime education and training**.

The Academy will:

- strengthen long-term strategic partnerships with European maritime academies, VET providers, universities, and industry stakeholders;
- actively participate in European networks, platforms, and projects related to maritime skills, logistics, transport, and sustainability;
- encourage staff exchanges and joint activities to promote innovation in training methodologies.

Synergies between Erasmus+ and other EU initiatives, including research, innovation, and skills development programs, will be actively pursued.

D. Promoting European citizenship and environmental sustainability

The Academy recognizes its responsibility in promoting **European civic engagement**, especially among young people entering global professions. Erasmus+ activities foster intercultural dialogue, shared European identity, and active citizenship.

Environmental sustainability is a strategic priority, particularly relevant to the maritime sector. The Academy promotes:

- awareness of green shipping, energy transition, and sustainable logistics;
- environmentally sustainable mobility choices;
- integration of EU Green Deal principles into training and international cooperation activities.

Students are encouraged to become proactive agents of change, contributing to a more sustainable and responsible maritime industry.

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E. Enhancing inclusiveness and equal access to mobility

The Italian Shipping Academy is firmly committed to **inclusion and equal opportunities**. Specific measures are implemented to ensure participation of learners and staff with fewer opportunities, including:

- students from low-income backgrounds;
- learners with disabilities or special needs;
- working students and those with family responsibilities;
- learners with migrant or refugee backgrounds.

Personalized support, transparent selection procedures, and targeted financial and organizational measures ensure that Erasmus+ mobility is accessible to all, reinforcing fairness and social cohesion.

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