

17th - 19th November 2024 - Milan

TCA International - **Synergy of funds**

Internationalization and Educational Mobility in Sicily: The 'Study in Sicily' Project

An Example of Synergy Between ESF and Erasmus+

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Introduction

In **2019**, the launch of an agreement between
the Sicilian Region and INDIRE
to promote synergy between the Erasmus+ funds and the European Social Fund (ESF)
funds allocated to education and training.

**STUDY IN SICILY**

Choose Sicily for your education experience

The initiative was financed by Axis III **“Education and Training” of the 2014-2020
POR ESF programming in Sicily”**.

INDIRE as intermediate body

INDIRE, as the **Erasmus+ National Agency**, was chosen by the Sicilian Region as an **Intermediate Body**.

Main responsibilities:

Project selection at regional level for Erasmus+ funding

Management and technical/admin support for the selected projects

Control and certification of expenses related to Erasmus+ projects

The 'Study in Sicily' project overview

Duration: 2019–2023

Total Investment: €2.2 million

Goal: Strengthen international mobility and collaboration between Sicilian educational institutions and institutions in southern Mediterranean countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Egypt)

Target Groups: students and teachers from universities, ITs (Higher Technical Institutes), conservatories and academies in Sicily

Key Sectors of Focus:

Agriculture, Oenology, Architecture, Cultural Heritage, Naval Engineering and more. These sectors reflect Sicilian excellence and provide specialized opportunities for students and teachers.

About the project

Study in Sicily is the project dedicated to the students of the Mediterranean area **to enhance the collaboration between the Sicily Region and the Mediterranean countries** and **to enable:**

An international path going from school education to higher education and/or between different levels of higher education



The participation of economically disadvantaged people through the allocation of targeted grants



The involvement of international students in the sectors of Sicilian excellence (agriculture, oenology, architecture, cultural heritage, naval and engineering sectors, etc.)





Study in Sicily
Eaitto 26/30 gennaio 2023



«Study in Sicily»: a gateway to the Mediterranean

The *Study in Sicily* project was created with the aim of **promoting the Sicilian education system**, currently involving **5 target countries: Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, and Egypt.**

As part of the project, the following actions have been planned:

Initiatives for the Sicilian university system

To strengthen and expand mobility opportunities for individual learning and consolidating a network among Sicilian universities.

Actions for secondary schools

To promote the mobility of teachers and students, cooperation for innovation, and the exchange of best practices.

Cooperation activities

To strengthen the collaboration between the Sicilian educational system and similar educational institutions in other Mediterranean countries.

Key Actions of the “Study in Sicily” project

Internationalization of the SCHOOL SYSTEM

EUROPEAN MOBILITY

ETWINNING PROJECTS ✓

CALL ETWINNING SOUTH MED ✓ ✓

Internationalization of the UNIVERSITY SYSTEM – AFAM (Higher Education in Art, Music and Dance) – ITS (Higher Technical Institute)

EUROPEAN MOBILITY

MOBILITY FROM /TO SOUTH MED COUNTRIES ✓

COOPERATION PROJECTS WITH THE SOUTH MED COUNTRIES ✓ ✓

ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE ✓

DOUBLE DEGREES ✓

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

PORTAL «STUDY IN SICILY» ✓ ✓

WEBINAR WITH SOUTH MED COUNTRIES ✓ ✓

EVENTS IN SICILY AND EXPO DUBAI ✓ ✓

ETWINNING PROMOTION FOR LESS PERFORMING PROVINCES ✓

EVENTS/TOURS TO PRESENT THE SICILIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN EACH OF THE TARGET COUNTRIES ✓ ✓

✓ = actions impacting South MED countries

✓ = ad hoc initiatives

☐ = to scroll through Erasmus ranking

Results

RESULTS

ACTION:

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

15 mobility projects for Sicilian school staff, within the Union for a total of **314 mobility grants**
9 eTwinning projects were funded for a total of **160 student and teacher mobilities** at schools located in another eTwinning or eTwinning Plus country, registered on the eTwinning platform.
4 cooperation projects have been funded for a total of **60 mobilities to Tunisia**

6 study and/or traineeship mobility projects within the European Union have been funded.
A total of **57 mobility grants** have been funded. Destination countries: mainly Spain and France

ACTION:

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

5 mobility projects aimed at university students for study and/or traineeship purposes within the European Union aimed at university students to and from the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean.
Mobility grants funded: **64**

country	Incoming	outcoming
TUNISIA	43	5
ALGERIA	10	6

Real benefits of “Study in Sicily” project

Efficiency in Public Spending



The integration between ESF and Erasmus+ led to a **reduction in administrative burden**, resulting in greater efficiency in public spending.



Strategic Impact



Sicily has positioned itself as a reference point for southern Mediterranean countries and as a **strategic bridge** between Italy and the rest of Europe.



Increased Availability of Erasmus+ Funds



This project enabled us to fund **more mobility initiatives**, broadening the Program's reach to new areas and participants, while enhancing the EU's cultural diplomacy.



ESF Programme 2021–2027: investments and future projects

Total Budget: € 20,858,103.14

Objectives: internationalization and training for school staff, mobility opportunities and focused learning

Core Values: inclusion and diversity, environmental sustainability, digital education, civic participation

Goal: sustainable socio-economic development, contribution to the creation of a European Education Area, promotion of international collaboration and educational mobility for sustainable and innovative growth

ESF+ SICILY PROGRAMME 2021–2027: highlights

PRIORITY 2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING – OBJECTIVE F: EDUCATION – Specific Objective: ESO4.6

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- increase the number of Sicilian beneficiaries;
- reach people from all walks of life; through the measures adopted, it will be easier to access funding also for organisations with fewer opportunities to access European funding, allowing the participation of students from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- build stronger relationships not only within the 27 EU countries, but with the rest of the world. Mobility and cooperation with third countries will increase, through a combination of physical mobility and different forms of cooperation.

ROLE OF INDIRE: Intermediate Body

TOTAL BUDGET: 7 million €

HOW: ranking scrolling and ad hoc projects

Thank You!
Questions?