

Internationalization

The Liceo Scientifico Statale "Filippo Masci" is an ancient upper secondary school for students aged between 14 and 19, located in Chieti in the region of Abruzzo, central Italy, near the city of Pescara. It was founded in 1923, so it has already celebrated its centenary (1923-2023). The school was named after Filippo Masci, a well-known philosopher and politician from Francavilla and for decades it has been educating the future generations of academics and professionals of Chieti.

The institute bases its educational activities on the following principles: the training of responsible citizens who respect others and the Environment and the building of a peaceful learning environment that promotes the inclusion of all pupils within the school.

The principal activities are balanced in the branches of Humanities and Science and enhance autonomous learning skills for university courses. There are three study courses:

- Ordinary scientific high school with improvement courses of the English language in the first two years;
- Applied science high school with improvement courses of the English language in the first two years;
- International scientific high school with Maths, Physics and Biology in English issued by Cambridge International Examination and recognized by several foreign universities.

The document that describes the cultural and planning identity of the institute is the School Education Plan (Italian acronym PTOF). It has a three-year duration (2022-25) but can be reviewed annually and must be made public by the school.

The PTOF document shows how the school autonomously intends to promote the development of cultural and civic skills of pupils, combined with a growing environmental sensitivity and openness towards Europe through the Erasmus+ programme; besides, it provides the curricular and extracurricular activities and projects aimed at understanding scientific data, also relating to the climate emergency and environmental protection.

For further details, please click on the links below:

Liceo Scientifico Statale "Filippo Masci"	
<i>School websites</i>	www.liceomasci.edu.it www.mascieurope.eu
<i>School data</i>	https://unica.istruzione.gov.it/cercalatuascuola/istituti/CHPS01000X/liceo-f-masci-chieti/
<i>School Education Plan (PTOF)</i>	https://www.liceomasci.edu.it/index.php/offerta-formativa/p-t-o-f-2024-2025/p-t-o-f-2024-2025-aggiornamento
<i>Socials</i>	https://www.instagram.com/liceoscientificomasci/ https://www.instagram.com/liceoscientificomasci/

Starting from this premise, a Strategic Plan for Internationalization is proposed to increase the internationalization of the school, carry out high-quality cooperation projects, foster recognition of learning outcomes of pupils and school staff in mobility periods abroad and participate in the construction of the European Education Area.

THE ERASMUS+ PLAN

Since February 2022, Liceo Masci has been a beneficiary of the Erasmus+ accreditation in the field of school education as a single institution until 31/12/2027 (KA120 action) and it has submitted an Erasmus+ Plan for the period 2022-27. It defines our long-term strategy for implementing pupil and school staff mobility activities to improve the quality of learning and teaching in compliance with the Erasmus Quality Standards. It is focused on the following 6 specific competences-objectives:

1 Linguistic competence

2 Digital competence

3 STEM competences

4 Civic competences

5 Edupreneurship competences

6 Staff professional development

These objectives are consistent with the school policy framework already in place, the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals and the most recent ministerial guidelines. They will contribute to fulfilling our school stated commitment to carry out concrete activities and actions within the key themes of the Erasmus+ programme, which cover

- **Inclusion and diversity:** respecting the principles of inclusion and diversity in all aspects of its activities, ensuring fair and equal conditions for all participants.
- **Environmental sustainability:** promoting environmentally responsible and sustainable behaviours among the participants, raising awareness about the importance of acting to reduce or compensate for the environmental footprint of mobility activities and supporting the use of sustainable means of transport.
- **STE(A)M competences development** integrating the study of these areas in order to develop cross-disciplinary key skills such as problem solving, creativity, critical analysis and teamwork.
- **Digital transformation in education and training:** using digital tools and learning-teaching methods to complement physical activities, improving the cooperation between partner organizations, and the quality of their learning and teaching.
- **Participation in democratic life:** discovering the benefits of active citizenship and participation in democratic life. Supported mobility activities should reinforce participatory skills in different spheres of civic

society, as well as the development of social and intercultural competencies, critical thinking and media literacy.

With the Erasmus+ accreditation KA120 it will be possible to receive regular funding for mobility activities that contribute to the gradual implementation of the Erasmus Plan by submitting yearly only one budget request as a KA121 action to the Erasmus+ National Agency INDIRE <https://www.erasmusplus.it/>.

The following activities could be implemented as part of this type of Erasmus+ accreditation: short and long term pupil and staff mobility, training courses, job shadowing.

Furthermore, during Erasmus+ accreditation, Liceo Masci has committed to the proper management of learning mobility activities, in particular to:

- **keeping ownership of core implementation tasks** and to not outsourcing these tasks to other organisations;

- **ensuring compliance with the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and inclusion** that characterise the Erasmus+ programme, ensuring equality and equity in terms of access and opportunities for current and future participants from all socio-economic backgrounds;

- **supporting environmentally friendly practices** in all programme-related activities, in order to promote civic engagement and encourage the involvement of students and teachers - as active citizens - before, during and after participating in a mobility activity or cooperation project;

- **integrating the results of the mobility activities carried out into school regular activities** (e.g., knowledge acquired by teachers and administrative staff in the field of professional development) for the benefit of the school community.

The school Erasmus+ Plan will last five years and will provide a variable number of mobility activities for pupils, teachers and administrative staff each year.

Monitoring of the activities will be done with the number of students and teachers involved in mobility projects as compared to previous years and with the examination of the final reports of activities for cross-curricular teaching of Civic Education; besides, it will be possible to determine how many classes have planned and shared their activities with groups of foreign schools and with what level of pupil satisfaction.

Evaluation of progress will take place at the end of each school year using questionnaires administered to teachers and pupils, aimed at detecting the growth in the number of activities integrated with digital tools within the educational teaching paths offered to classes and their impact on pupils' transversal skills.

An increase in hosting and learning mobility activities abroad, cooperation projects and job shadowing experiences in virtual twinning (eTwinning projects) is expected.

THE ACTION PLAN FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION

An essential tool for the implementation of planned activities and also for the assurance of quality of learning mobility and cooperation projects is the Action Plan for Internationalization. It is proposed to integrate the current school planning with the defined Erasmus+ Plan of the school and structured into four action steps for a strategic macro-objective and two action steps for an organizational macro-objective.

Specific attention is ensured to the relevance of the planned activities and the coherence with the objectives and priorities of the Erasmus+ Plan. To coordinate the activities foreseen in the Action Plan for Internationalization, it has been deemed appropriate to confirm:

- the establishment of a **Commission for European dimension** with strategic and organizational tasks (e.g. planning and designing the activities into the Action Plan for internationalization).

THE PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

The School Education Plan (PTOF) already includes a series of activities aimed at the training of active and aware European citizens, substantially in continuity with the objectives for internationalization, such as:

- **organizing language courses for students and school staff, aimed at obtaining linguistic certifications from accredited bodies;**
- **collaborating with international agencies specialized in language training, study trips and cultural exchanges for a semester or a school year abroad;**
- **activating an international course that adheres to the IGCSE Cambridge project and of activities for the enhancement of English language teaching with voluntary participation;**
- **carrying out cultural exchanges with foreign educational institutions.**

Starting from these practices, it has been regarded as appropriate to proceed with the drafting of a Plan of Activities for the next school year 2025-26 and 2026-2027 which will be submitted annually to the Board of Teachers for its approval.

Moreover, the above-mentioned timetable will be always evolving and subject to adjustments and revisions according to the availability of foreign educational institutions.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The Strategic Plan for Internationalization sets out the strategies that the school adopts to achieve the objectives it has set itself by approving the Erasmus+ Plan. It aims at expanding the international dimension of the entire school community - students, teachers and administrative staff - and is

concretely embodied in the Action Plan for Internationalization and the Plan of Activities, which in turn provide the basic indications for the School Regulations for teacher and pupil mobility abroad, another fundamental document for the implementation of individual pupil long-term mobility projects.

In September 2023, the **“School regulations for pupil mobility abroad” (Regolamento mobilità studentesca)** was approved by the Board of Teachers in line with the objectives of the Erasmus+ Plan.

To sum up, the Erasmus+ programme will play an essential role in enhancing the opportunities for internationalization that our school will be able to offer starting from the current school year. A larger number of teachers and students could take advantage of new educational opportunities, without neglecting the situations of economic disadvantage that would not normally allow some students to access international mobility projects.

Erasmus learning mobility activities will not replace the opportunity for a year abroad, nor the possibility of organising English language courses abroad, educational trips and cultural exchanges, but it will be a new opportunity and, above all, a great responsibility for our school in the future. It is not a funded activity for the cultural growth and disciplinary deepening of single pupils but a dynamic and evolving project for the whole school community.