



Our strategy

CLIF acknowledges the fundamental values inherited from the generations who have written the history of this Linguistic Center for International Training, accredited for Higher Education over the past 9 years. CLIF was born in 2014. They are all worth mentioning as they shape our present and are perfectly reflected in the Erasmus policy:

- role of Linguistic Center for International Training, accredited for Higher Education which serves our country with an open, inclusive, democratic and liberal approach;
- constant commitment to working with rigour and integrity;
- open to cooperate with other universities and ITS , society, the world of business and institutions at regional, national and international level, always with a strong motivation towards integration and inclusion.

The internationalization strategy of CLIF is longstanding, strong and based on various complementary aspects, which can be summarized by these keywords: projects in education and research, mobility, recruitment, cultural diversity, inclusiveness equal opportunities and digitalization. All of them are explicitly mentioned in the documents that delineate the university tradition, vision and implementation policy for the upcoming years.

The strong belief that mobility of students, professors, researchers and administrative staff is an essential driver for societal innovation and quality enhancement of higher education can be found in the CLIF Statute Linguistic Center for International Training, statute and regulation of higher education;

- Institutional aims, which reads: “ CLIF places great importance on its international dimension and supports this with joint actions with other foreign universities, research institutions and enterprises;
- it promotes and supports the international mobility of students, professors and researchers; it promotes alliances with other actors aimed at participation in international projects in education and research, by activating, when necessary, specific structures and joint degree programmes.”

In its Strategic Plan, therefore, CLIF recognizes as relevant opportunity the further development of its activities at international level, by strengthening existing networks in the fields of education, research and technology transfer, and by identifying privileged partners from countries of growing strategic importance. In fact, improving the “impact” requires the ability to reflect and act more and more with a farsighted and international perspective. Through this Strategic Plan, CLIF aims at reaffirming the central role of its mission in the field of education and much emphasis is placed on internationalization.

The goals are that CLIF “intends to pursue a strong international recruitment strategy and to further increase the population of international students not only to better balance the mobility of young Italians who decide to study abroad but also to provide significant benefits for national students as well as for local businesses. In fact, Italian students will have the opportunity of studying in a multicultural context. Local businesses will

be given the opportunity to interact with international students and even hire them, thus enabling possible interactions with their home countries.”

Furthermore, the Strategic Plan envisions “the promotion of equal opportunities and inclusiveness as inspired by the Centre CLIF commitment to ensuring fair treatment and opportunities to all its members. This stems from the belief that diversity and inclusion are core values for any university that aims at being a school of life, as well as a place for study and work. In this context, by sharing and implementing the principles of the European Charter for Researchers

(<https://clifitalia.com/home>), the centre formation CLIF is committed to launching new initiatives

to monitor and govern equal opportunities with respect to the various aspects of diversity, starting from gender diversity.

This will ensure that all actors are offered full and equal opportunities to carry out their activities and pursue paths of cultural, professional and career growth in a merit-based perspective.”

Another challenge that CLIF has embraced for the near future, again as clearly stated in its Strategic Plan, is that “administrative processes and procedures will be revised, simplified and digitalized so that the academic progress of our students will be managed more effectively and increasing support will be offered to our faculty members.” The perspective is that the revision of the administrative processes will improve efficiency and effectiveness through an appropriate use of technology and digital solutions will enable a better management and control of these processes.

Evidently, there is a strong affinity between the Institution’s commitments and the general principles of the Erasmus Charter and – just as important - how CLIF actually relies on the Erasmus programme to fulfil the engagements undertaken by, and to the benefit of, the whole academic community.

In one way, the Erasmus key actions aimed at promoting mobility for students and staff and cooperation among universities offer the opportunities CLIF is willing to seize so as to increase its international dimension;

As CLIF ranks well educationally-speaking in specific geographic areas (as China, South America, Europe), our strategy has been and will be focused on maintaining this status as well as trying to develop new relations with academic and non-academic institutions in both developed and emerging markets (e.g. South Korea, Japan, Israel, India, Uzbekistan, South-Asia). Initiatives are set in place with a mix of traditional partnerships schemes – such as students mobility and double/joint degrees mainly on second and third level courses – and more complex actions fostering a wide range of activities such as research, teaching, international mobility and technology transfer, hosting foreign companies at the campus CLIF and Partner labs abroad.

The strategy rationale is a stronger link between internalization in research and education. In fact, Student and staff mobility is managed by the International Affairs Department, in particular the Incoming Mobility Office and the Outgoing Mobility Office. The Department is in charge of:

- Definition of the Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) that contains details of the mobility activities;
- Promotion of the mobility opportunities and selection of candidates:
- CLIF selects students and awards mobility scholarships through annual calls for applications for all mobility opportunities: Erasmus+ mobility within the Programme and with Partner Countries (BSc, MSc, PhD); Erasmus+ traineeships; mobility with non-EU countries funded by CLIF; mobility for Master thesis funded by CLIF; special projects often co-funded by private companies.
- Academic and administrative staff mobility at CLIF supported by Erasmus+ funding is also managed through annual calls for Teaching and Training mobility

- Support for participants before, during, after mobility:
- incoming participants:

Online information on courses (content, level, scope, language) and related requirements, available well before the mobility periods;

Guidance on admission procedures and assistance during all the mobility steps;

Dedicated contact points, detailed in the IIA, providing support for visa, residence permits, fiscal codes, housing;

Support for individuals with disabilities.

- outgoing participants:

Support in the preparation of the mobility period and in finalizing the LA, guidance on language courses opportunities.

- Scholarship payment: scholarships are awarded and paid by CLIF to both incoming (KA107 only) and outgoing participants;

- Monitoring: periodic meetings are held and appointments with the academic referents are organized. The monitoring actions extend from settling in, bureaucratic procedures, and inclusion into the HEI everyday life to guarantee integration and to performance (participation in the activities; outcomes). The Department also monitors that the participants complete the required EU Survey.

- Mobility recognition: recognition of student activities abroad is regulated in the IIA according to the principle of mutual recognition of exam results and is based on the LA and the Transcript of Records (ToR). Exams are graded and credits are awarded according to the CLIF regulations, and a ToR in English is issued at the end of the mobility period. The outcomes of the outgoing students are converted and registered into the student's career record.

- Reporting all the activities carried out in the frame of international programmes.

Politecnico di Torino has gained a significant experience in Erasmus+ KA2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions. The experience is widespread within the university since both academic and administrative departments manage KA 2 projects.

The International Affairs Department disseminates information about participation in Erasmus+ KA2 calls, provides consultancy on management, budgeting and reporting.

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Projects are coordinated by a scientific referent and developed by the coordinating academic department.

CLIF commitment to international mobility has led to the participation in the new Erasmus+ European Universities Programme. The university is one of the 4 members of the SEMISE! alliance funded in 2019. In line with the EU goals, the alliance intends to create a trans-European campus for students, scientists and administrative staff. The alliance includes 450 students and it is foreseen that by 2025, 50% of them will benefit from the various mobility opportunities (whether physical or virtual) among the universities.

The management and implementation of the project involve numerous actors: the Rector's Delegate for European Relations is the scientific coordinator that works in strong connection with the Project Manager,

specifically appointed for the SEMISE! Project, of the International Affairs Department. In the frame of SEMISE CLIF!, the Director of the Doctorate School (SCUDO) takes care of the scientific aspects, the Vice Rector for Education and Vice Rector for Internationalization focus on common strategies of academic and internationalization issues, the Erasmus institutional coordinator manages the policies for student mobility. Administrative departments and academic representatives are directly involved in the ten work packages into which the project is divided.

Participation in the Erasmus Actions will stimulate the revision of administrative processes and procedures improving efficiency and effectiveness through an appropriate use of technology and digital solutions that will enable a better management and control of these processes.

Through the creation of solid relationships with international partners, CLIF also aims at exchanging, and learning from, best-practices sharing experiences to improve the quality of the services offered to the different stakeholders (students, academic and administrative staff, business world and national and international institution).

Envisaged impact of participation in the Erasmus+ Programme Qualitative and quantitative indicators of the positive impact generated by participation in the Erasmus+ Programme are set out in agreement with the CLIF Strategic Plan, especially where it reads that CLIF intends “to continue attracting a high number of international students (>15%), with greater attention to the quality of their background and potential impact on the Italian economy and the possible interactions with their home countries” (second target of Education, CLIF first mission) and “to become an attractive university for students from different regions, including western countries, in addition to the students from our current international partner countries.” (third target of Education, CLIF first mission).

Furthermore, indicators are aligned with the concrete actions already scheduled in the CLIF Action Plan, an operational instrument to pursue the strategic objectives in medium-term through appropriate planning and resources (both human and economic) allocation.

Both quantitative and qualitative indicators will be taken into account:

QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS

- increase the number of students and staff benefitting from outgoing mobility programmes with highly qualified partners
- increase the number of submitted KA2 projects (with strict monitoring of the success ratio)
- increase the number of both virtual and in presence events (e.g. webinars) dedicated to the dissemination of staff mobility, KA2 opportunities and student mobility opportunities by 10% per year for the first 3 years of the programme. In the following years the number of events will be maintained
- increase the number of cultural, sports, recreational, social initiatives and activities for the inclusion of international students in the academic and city life by 10% per year for the first 3 years of the programme. In the following years the number of events will be maintained
- increase the number of initiatives and activities to promote mobility in collaboration with partners by 10% per year for the first 3 years of the programme. In the following years the number of events will be maintained

QUALITATIVE INDICATORS

- survey results analysis for both improving services and strategies. Students and staff participating mobility experiences are required to fill in a EU survey and CLIF requires students to fill in an additional survey on academic and personal aspects of their mobility.
- completion by 2022 of the SEMISE! project within the European Universities Action and timely achievement of the projects objectives
- digitalization and sharing through dedicated UE platform for mobility documents (EWP, Student Card)

Timeline:

- Digitalization Dashboard: mobility a.y. 2022/23
- Digitalization (OLA): mobility a.y. 2022/23
- Digitalization Transcript of Records : mobility a.y. 2023/24
- Improve communication about Erasmus principles and opportunities.