



## **AGORA: Transnational Placement Scheme for Translation Students**

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### **Abstract**

The EU 2020 Strategy and in particular the 3 flagship initiatives “Agenda for New skills for New Jobs,” “Youth on the Move” and “Innovation Union” underline the existing need for stronger collaboration of the European Higher Education Community with the Job Market and fosters the creation of knowledge alliances between the 2 worlds of business and academia. These alliances should be able to bring innovations in both sides, and in particular should help Higher Education Institutions to modernise and to adapt to the rapidly evolving job market needs. Internship placement of students and graduates in local and national companies is one of the traditional means for the collaboration between higher education and companies. Yet, given the increasing amount of student and professional mobility of the last few decades, a high-quality efficient and sustainable Europe-wide placement scheme is very much needed and should be the order of the day. For translation students in particular, transnational placement is especially important because the translation business by definition involves different languages and is normally an international activity. Translators’ target (native) language competence may be particularly interesting for companies based in other countries; foreign markets are probably the ones translators will work with in the future, furthermore professional contacts in these countries will be very useful for their future careers. A structured placement organization for translation students ensuring regular feedback between translator training programmes and the translation business therefore perfectly fits into the objectives of helping students adapt to the requirements of the EU-wide job market and of enabling students to develop specific skills, including language skills. AGORA: Transnational Placement Scheme for Translation Students is a 3-year LLP Erasmus project, co-financed in 2012 by the European Commission under the action “Cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and Enterprises” would like to provide such organization. The project, which is coordinated by the University of Bologna and firmly embedded into the European Master in Translation (EMT) Network, is aimed at creating a network of universities and language service providers for the international internship placement of MA students in translation. Internship placement will be managed through a web application designed to match supply and demand and ensure efficient feedback between translation businesses and the HEIs’ translators in training, informing the former about the quality of the degrees awarded and the latter about the actual skills needed by translators in their professional life. For the purposes of this presentation, the main aims and expected outcomes, as well as the first achievements of AGORA will be outlined.