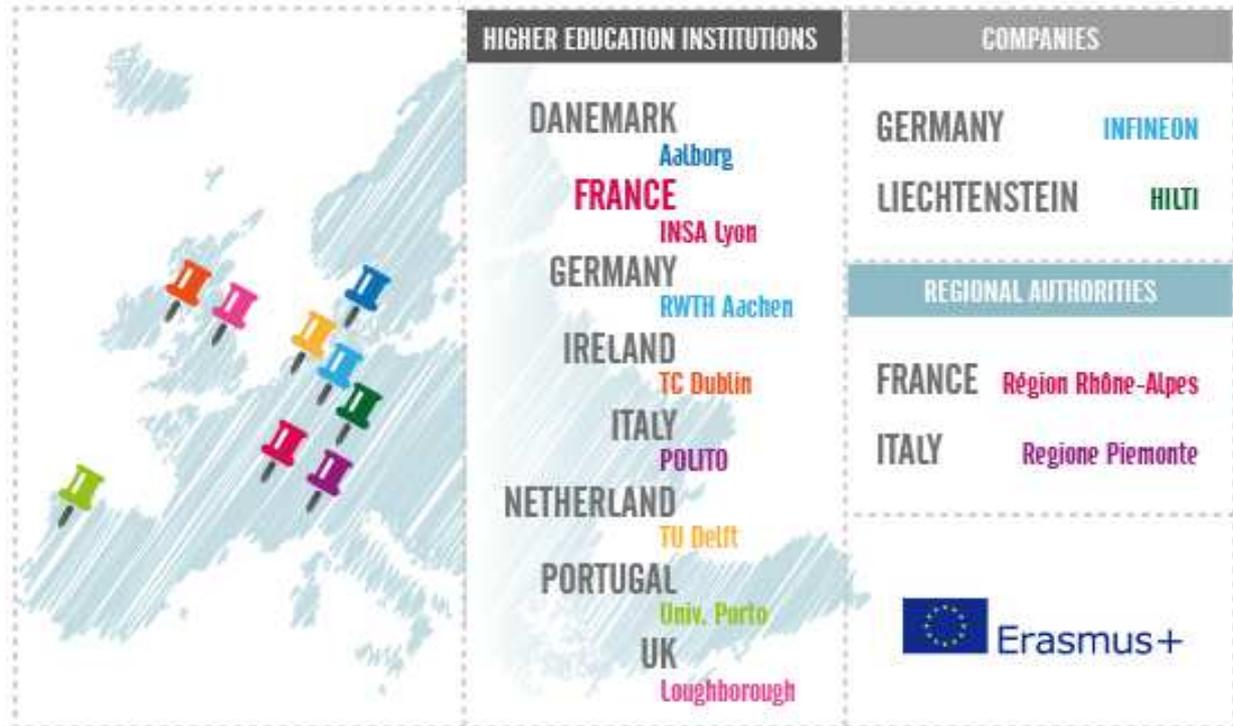


NETWORK

PhDs Enhanced for Propects ErasmUs Plus (PEPUP)



The employment landscape has shifted significantly over the past years. While research positions within universities are becoming fewer in number, there is a growing interest of industries to recruit doctoral graduates. Still, companies are realizing that traditional skills possessed by graduate recruits are insufficient and further advanced, transversal skills are needed in order to remain competitive on the market. Developing innovative solutions via research while optimizing the often conflicting client requirements are some of the skills that define a new trend of becoming more research-oriented that suits PhD graduates and opens for them new opportunities, other than academia.

One of the challenges to be addressed by **INSA Lyon** focuses therefore on PhD graduates' employability and the way to enhance their professional competences developed during their PhD in the way that will enable them to further enter the corporate world. Thus, in 2014, **INSA Lyon** responded to the first call for project within *Erasmus + Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships* and was selected among the 8 proposals out of 55 French applications. **The “PhDs Enhanced for Propects Erasmus Plus” (PEP UP) project¹**, coordinated by INSA Lyon, reunites 8 leading European technical

¹ 1/09/2014 - 30/08/2017

universities, 2 corporate partners and the support of two European regions*, in order to develop new tools to support these new career alternatives for PhDs within companies.

As a result, the PEP UP network co-developed a full 5-day training module for engineering PhD students willing to work in industries. Its main goals are to encourage the PhDs in adopting an economic and business oriented mindset by making a continual connection between the scientific aspects of research and the development of knowledge and skills directed to innovation and to the creation of value in the European corporate environment.

A first **pilot module** was delivered this year, from February 1st to 5th, at **INSA Lyon**, under the title **“Fit for Industry?”** transnational workshop. During 5 days, 24 selected PhD students of 19 nationalities, representing the 8 partner institutions, followed interactive session led by corporate and academic experts around the subjects such as critical thinking, taking initiative, problem solving, decision-making, networking, economic and technological intelligence, etc. Thus, during the “Fit for Industry?” week, the 24 PhDs have developed a set of essential competences, applicable to the highly competitive and attractive European labor market.

The next edition of the “Fit for Industry?” workshop will be taking place from February 6th to 10th, 2017, in Italy hosted by **Politecnico di Torino**. The selection of candidates will be open shortly, so make sure not to miss the opportunity.

As told by one of the PhD students who took part at the “Fit for Industry?” week in Lyon, Samuel Adema of Loughborough University in the UK:

“Being able to learn from this circle of intelligent people has been a great honor. It is an opportunity of a lifetime. We have learnt a lot of lessons that we will carry with us from here and a lot of people would have paid huge amounts of money to gain this kind of experience. Isaac Newton once said “if I see further than others, it is because I’ve stood on the shoulders of giants” the “Fit for Industry?” experts have presented their shoulders for us as giants, we have stood up on these shoulders and years from now the confidence they gave us will flourish into great career results.”