

Building bridges between science and industry

Country: Italy

Project Name: Master in Ricerca Industriale

Total budget: 1 355 699 Euro

ESF support: 948 989 Euro

Web page: www.itia.cnr.it

Much appreciated additional complementary master studies in the field of conducting research for industry have been started in Italy. It takes 18 months to complete the studies which provide an opportunity to use research skills in a real working environment.

European industry must stress innovativeness and research in its development in order to survive in the times of aggressive global competition. "Most companies ignore the correlation between expenditures for research and innovativeness. The companies have a tendency to appropriate their profits for anything but research and development" - says Professor Francesco Jovane from ITIA-CNR, the institute to create the new approach.

The studies are supposed to help sustain the growth and competitiveness of European industry on the global market. "Most our students are engineers" says professor Jovane. During the studies, each student participates in a one year research project which requires the co-operation of the institute and enterprises. Thus, they gain experience in working "on both sides" and they can assess the practical use of science for the innovativeness, and not just learn theory.

The results have been very good so far. 85% students of the first edition of studies found job within few weeks after receiving the diploma of the National Scientific Board of Italy. Next students have commenced studies. "We enjoy the achieved results, however, we should educate more specialists" says professor Jovane. The programme of studies is supposed to form a bridge to create soon a European Studies Programme in this field.