**I/o modules** are input and output devices through which the PLC interacts with the circuit to be controlled. The communication takes place via **analog or ON/OFF signals.** The former consists in the transmission of numerically ranging values and are converted within the PLC into digital signals (ADC and DAC devices); the latter, instead, can only have two separate values, just like an open/closed contact. There are also remote I/O modules, which are connected to the PLC, but disposed in different positions.

**Programming devices** are the equipment used to write, compile and load user programs to the PLC memory. We can distinguish between the ONLINE programming, when the program is directly placed into the PLC, and the OFFLINE programming, when it is stored in an EPROM, which will be transferred to the PLC only afterwards.