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## **Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)**

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The Institution agrees to publish this overall strategy (all three parts) on its website within one month after the signature of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education by the European Commission.

Please describe your institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy. In your description please explain a) how you choose your partners, b) in which geographical area(s) and c) the most important objectives and target groups of your mobility activities (with regard to staff and students in first, second and third cycles, including study and training, and short cycles). If applicable, also explain how your institution participates in the development of double/multiple/joint degrees. (max. 5000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Anadolu University verbalizes its vision as 'to become a world university with a specific focus on lifelong learning'. The university puts internationalization in the center of its development strategy and it allocates all the available sources for the promotion of internationalization. AU's internationalization strategy is built upon four pillars: continuing to be a pioneer university in international mobility programs, internationalizing its open and distance education system, increasing the number and scope of international joint degree programs, and becoming a center for designing and implementing international collaborative courses.

AU has been a leading university in Turkey in former Socrates and LLP Erasmus mobility programs, after being awarded the Erasmus University Charter in 2004. According to total student and staff exchange numbers, the university has always been among top Turkish Universities. The aim is to further increase these numbers and improve the quality of exchange in the following years. Having both the ECTS (2011-2014) and DS (2010-2013) Labels, AU targets the fair recognition, a key element in qualified study and training mobility activities. Even though the mobility with non-EU countries is less than LLP Erasmus, AU always gives importance to a sustainable and increasing exchange with these partners. AU aims to reduce unbalanced exchange numbers within the framework of signed bilateral agreements and gives priority to reviving passive agreements with no or little mobility. To increase the number of incoming students, new courses with ERA codes will be provided in English. AU will also have meetings with international companies about the traineeship possibilities in their offices abroad to improve traineeship program. Besides, the top priority of the staff exchange for University is to encourage the exchange of the administrative staff as much as academics in Staff Training Mobility. In order to realize this goal, all the administrative units have been invited to periodic meetings and supported for improving the language proficiency. AU would like to extend its mobility network with Mevlana Exchange Programme launched by Turkish Council of Higher Education starting with the current year. This programme also gives possibilities to go in partnerships with non-EU countries, Turkic, Asian and African universities in particular. With its young and well-motivated staff, the Office for International Affairs shall continue serving all the incoming and outgoing students and staff members within the framework of Erasmus and non-EU mobility activities.

AU's Open and Distance Education System was founded 30 years ago, offers flexible, student-centered lifelong learning opportunities to millions of students. Owing to the high number of students and graduates, Au is named as one of the mega universities in the world. This strength in the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) field, emanates from the technological, communicational and academic expertise of the academic and administrative staff. AU has expanded its open education services to Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Western European countries in 1986, focusing on the educational needs of Turkish Cypriots and the Turkish citizens living in Europe. The demand has grown in years, since 2011-2012 academic year, AU has enrolled students in Azerbaijan. The internationalization strategy has led to collaboration with countries in the Balkans and expanding services to Macedonia and Kosovo in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Being among the first universities to offer international joint degree programs in Turkey, AU has been an active partner in many joint degree programs for over a decade. Currently, in partnership with American and English universities, the university offers many joint short-and-first-cycle programs. For the future, the university's strategy regarding joint degree programs is to increase the number and scope of such programs by entering into new partnerships to offer not only first-cycle, but also second-and-third-cycle joint programs, and by designing new joint degree program models including the distance education system. The university's long-term aim related to joint degree programs is to provide almost all of its students with the option of pursuing a joint degree with an international partner university.

AU also aims to be a leader university in offering international collaborative courses which are designed and implemented by two or more instructors from various universities who offer a similar course together to the students of all the involved universities via video conferencing and online learning tools. Since participation to such courses does not involve any money and credit transfer these courses are not only feasible but also effective.

With its global campus vision, AU will continue to devote its sources to the development of the internationalization of higher education in every possible aspect.

If applicable, please describe your institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. (max. 2000 characters)

Original language [EN]

AU has a Project Support Office (PSO) working under a Research and Development & Innovation and Coordination Center. Today this Center is going under a process which aims at combining university and industry under a joint framework. As a result, the Center will turn into a Technology Transfer Office in the near future. The Center has four modules which are Project, Intellectual Rights and License, Career, and Certificate modules. The Project module which is carried out by PSO supports mainly three types of projects. These are Anadolu University Scientific Research Projects, EU and non-EU International projects, other national projects such as regional industrial projects and scientific research programs. The PSO supports teaching staff to write and manage projects as well as planning the project budgets. The Intellectual Rights and License module supports teaching staff to certify their inventions and creations both in physical and social sciences. It supports license application process. The Career module helps current students and graduates to get together with sector and industry representatives by offering traineeship programs and organising career meetings. The most important function of this module is project-based traineeship program which meets private and public sector with students under a project framework. The Certificate module develops certificate programs in the fields which are highly demanded by public and private sector. The aim of these programs is to encourage partnership between professional institutions, universities, high tech centers and business. These four modules are aimed at training students and developing teaching staff with developed skills which are demanded in labour market, with creative and entrepreneur attributions and with a global perspective. All of these strategies are carried out together with university, public and private sector cooperation. Accordingly, international cooperation projects will contain all these features.

Please explain the expected impact of your participation in the Programme on the modernisation of your institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda\*) in terms of the policy objectives you intend to achieve. (max. 3000 characters)

Original language [EN]

Considered under the 5 priorities, the impact of the participation of Anadolu University (AU) can be described as follows: The number of enrolled students at AU has increased periodically. In 2012-2013 Academic Year, the rate is 16%. This also brings an increase in the numbers of graduates per year, such as 24% for the 2011-2012. Comprising the half of Turkish Higher Education numbers, Open Education Faculty (OEF) of AU has more than 2 million students from all over the country incl. underrepresented, adult and non-traditional learners. OEF also serves in Europe, Balkans and Caucasia. Also at schools like School for Handicapped, AU provides education for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Vocational school students have a right to continue their 2-year education programs after graduation and complete bachelor's degree in related faculties. As a result, AU supports all kinds of developments in terms of increasing the quantity and variety of higher education graduates.

AU encourages different study modes considering the needs of society and labor market. The curricula of AU education develop in accordance with social and technological changes and improvements. For example, a module at our Faculty of Engineering was offered according to the call centers' needs. AU also offers Certificate and E-Certificate Programs to improve the quality of education and student skills. Teaching and administrative staff benefit from staff mobility to learn and transfer new techniques in education; and contribute to the education quality of AU.

Since 2005-2006, AU has used ECTS and increased its standards in line with European education system. Student and staff mobility supports information share and transfer between other universities and AU. While academic units rearrange their curricula in accordance with the needs of incoming students, the number of courses with ERA codes offered for incoming students has been increasing. AU works in cooperation with Turkish National Agency to overcome issues related to mobility.

AU has a close link between education, research and industry. RD & Innovation and Coordination Center has four modules to organize these relations in knowledge triangle. International projects help creating knowledge transfer infrastructure. Projects with regional development agencies contribute to university-industry relation. These strong links and relations provide continuum between basic and applied research and education.

Apart from EU program funds, AU contributes mobility activities by providing financial aids from university budgets. According to the Institutional Strategic Plan, AU staff receives an additional fund to cover expenses such as travelling costs.

Improvement in all these fields are among AU's main policy objectives. AU Strategic Plan gives priority to increase in quantity, quality and capacity in higher education. AU will benefit from transfer of knowledge and cooperation with other universities in terms of modernisation.

\* COM (2011) 567 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0567:FIN:EN:PDF>)

E

## Endorsement of the application

*I, the undersigned, legal representative of the applicant institution,*

*certify that the information contained in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. All Programme activities will be implemented on the basis of written agreements with the relevant authorities of the partner institutions;*

*agree to the content of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) application outlined above and commit my institution to respect and observe these obligations;*

*agree to the publication of the Erasmus Policy Statement by the European Commission*

Place: *Eskisehir*

Name: *Prof. Dr. Davut AYDIN* Date (dd/mm/yyyy): *13.05.2013*

*I have read and accept the Privacy statement*

Original signature of the legal representative of the Institution (as identified in section A.2 above)



Original stamp or seal of the Institution

