

# Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

In order to complete this section, please refer to the instructions given below. Please note that your EPS shall be given wide visibility in your institution and must be published on the web page of your institution. The EPS should set out the overall Erasmus co-operation strategy of your institution in relation with its mission statement, underlying its Erasmus cooperation plan as well as any other activities to be proposed in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

a) Please describe briefly your institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013).

b) Please also provide information on the following points:

What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what type of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS?

What kind of arrangements, if any, does the Institution ensure to comply with non-discrimination objectives (e.g. actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism)?

1.a) The mission of Afyon Kocatepe University (AKU) is to contribute to the educational, intellectual, cultural, and social development of the people in its sphere of influence to improve their well-being and quality of life. For that purpose, the university has adopted a strategy of universalisation and internationalisation. While the former means the adoption of universally-accepted values, norms, and standards, the latter means the increasing interactions with the universities abroad. The strategy sets the basic aim for the university as to be an internationally recognised university in the near future. This requires international collaborations and participation to multi-national scientific researches.

AKU's Erasmus activities and other actions in the context of the LLP (2007-2013) will be carried out in accordance with the above given explanation. More specifically, our new objectives and priorities will be as follows:

- To be a wanted partner for the international academic community to conclude bilateral agreements or to establish thematic networks,

- To increase the attractiveness of the working environment at our university for the international teaching staff and researchers,

- To increase the mobility of students, teaching and administrative staff, and researchers.

- To increase the number of existing partner institutions, making a large differentiation in terms of country and study area,

- To establish the participation to LLP as an evaluative criteria for career promotion at our university,

- To encourage the involvement in the multilateral projects,

- To strengthen the capabilities of the International Office.

1.b) To strengthen the visibility of the Erasmus activities, the University will continue to its established cooperations with industry, public and local authorities. More specifically, the following actions will be taken:

- Regarding the Erasmus programme and our university's activities, certain awareness raising activities, including conferences, seminar, workshops etc. will be held,

- A special "Erasmus Magazine" will be prepared by our International Office,

- The University Erasmus Coordinator will organize a radio program on Erasmus activities and our EPS,

Regarding the publicity of the EUC and EPS, the following actions will be carried out:

- Both will be issued on the web-page of the University,

- They will also be included into every introductory document on the University, such as booklets, leaflets, bulletins, and activity reports,

- The EPS will be attached to the letters to be sent to our potential partners as well as candidate students.

As a part of our universalisation principle, AKU is determined to comply with the value of non-discrimination on any ground. In this connection, we will continue to ensure gender equality in the selection process, to provide scholarship and some financial and material aid to the needy students through the efforts of our newly established Unit for Charity and Solidarity.

Quality of academic mobility activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility



activities?

Details should be provided on: recognition and credit systems, the provision of information on curricula, information and counselling of outgoing students, tutoring and integration of incoming students, provision of student services (in particular accommodation), preparatory and refresher language courses, support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.

AKU provides a comprehensive and well-established infrastructure for supporting both outgoing and incoming students and teaching staff. In addition to the International Relations Office, the Language Centre, Erasmus Club, Departmental Guiders System are involved in supporting activities, such as accommodation, orientation, tutoring, and arrival services etc.

Increased and improved academic mobility among the students and teaching staff is inserted as an important aspect into the University Strategic Plan for 2007-2013.

The following measures will be implemented to improve the quality of that mechanism:

- Encouragement of the departments to recognize the academic results obtained by their exchange students,
- Ensuring the continued updating activities on ECTS by the departments as well as wide publicity of their curricula through internet and other available means,
- The University will provide any support to the newly established Erasmus Students Club to improve the quality of counselling and orientation activities both for outgoing and incoming students,
- Particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring adequate proficiency in the language of instruction both for outgoing and incoming students and on promotion of multilingualism through the efforts of the Language Centre,
- Extension of compulsory English Preparation Classes at the University,
- Faculties and departments will be urged to sign new bilateral agreements and develop European partnerships.

Special attention will be focused on encouraging less represented study areas to benefit from the Erasmus opportunities.

-The official procedure at the University regarding the teaching staff exchange will be simplified and fastened. The University has been active in Grundtvig took place in 5 project. Our university was awarded with Diploma Supplement on 01.08.2006. AKU was awarded with the "European Language Label Award". Our university was assigned as a member of the council board of the Turkish National Agency.

Quality of student placement activities:

What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in student placements? Give details on how the work-programme and the placement agreement are prepared and implemented. Please describe the practical arrangements agreed between the parties. Please specify also the monitoring and evaluation of the placement period as well as its recognition in the curriculum.

Given the fact that the placement activities under LDV have been transferred to the Erasmus Program for 2007-2013 period, AKU has started to rearrange its work programs to sustain and improve the existing contacts with the partner institutions. (Collaborating with several vocational schools, universities, and companies in Europe, AKU has carried out 24 LDV projects for 2004-2006 period, under which 119 students placements and 23 teaching a staff exchange took place. Owing to this performance, the University has ranked at the first places among the higher institutions in Turkey on the ground of realized LDV projects).

For the new period, AKU aims to continue to prepare training and placement projects, particularly in accordance with the regional priority areas and the needs of business. In the preparation and implementation of the work program and the placement agreements, the following priorities will be taken into account by the University:

- All the activities will be guided by the principles of the Bologna process to which our University is closely bound. In this connection, the common projects and partnerships with the Ministry of Education, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Cooperative of Tradesmen, and the Association of Industry and Businessmen will be sustained,
- Areas related to animal, food, thermal, tourism, health, natural stone, and environment will be given priority as they are the main sources around the University,
- In order to improve the student quality, an orientation program and language course will be provided to the students selected mainly on the basis of academic grades and practical work skills,
- The University units having compulsory training courses will be urged to be involved in the placement activities,
- The future employability of graduates will be the principle objective for the development of the placement programs,
- The ECTS works on the Vocational Education will be accelerated to ensure the recognition of the results.