D. Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)

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]
a) Since its establishment, Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) has the major aim of achieving and sustaining excellence in every area of its teaching and research, and helping its students to be open-minded and research-oriented graduates. Following the acceptance of Turkey as a candidate state for the EU, KTU has set a new strategy to be an integral part of the European Higher Education Area, to contribute to forming "the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world" and to help create and enhance the consciousness of being European. In line with these objectives, the university has adopted an internationalisation strategy which aims to promote longer-term and sustainable networks and partnerships with universities and other organizations in research and teaching for mutual benefit. With this strategy, KTU acknowledges the key contribution of mobile staff and students, and of participation in European and international cooperation projects, to the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience. To further enhance opportunities for students and staff mobility and develop strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances and capacity building with neighbouring and third countries, the University aims to develop new partnerships with higher education institutions worldwide, which is also in compliance with the newly launched MEVLANA Exchange Program of Turkey.

Inter-institutional agreements with other institutions are signed mostly after a thorough assessment of the host institution regarding academic programs and profiles. Partner organizations are selected on the basis that i) a placement of sufficient quality is provided to ensure that the required learning outcomes will be achieved by the student, ii) there is compatibility in objectives, iii) students will have no recognition problems, and iv) the students and staff alike are given sufficient opportunities to get access to a diverse cultural settings.

b) Following its strategic plan, KTU places great importance on the international mobility and partnership programs. To this end, KTU will work towards achieving its objectives by participating in student and staff mobility-, strategic partnerships-, knowledge alliances- and capacity building programs with EU member states, non-EU countries in Europe, neighbouring and all other countries worldwide.

c) KTU aims to assure high quality mobility of staff and students and cooperation with HEIs in Europe and other countries. In line with this objective, utmost attention will be given to comply with the EU 2020 agenda and Bologna process, to observe gender equality, to have a good representation of all degree programs, to have a selection procedure that is fair, transparent and objective for all participants, and to fully recognise the results achieved by the students and staff members engaged in individual mobility or in cooperation projects in line with the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

To facilitate the process, the KTU administrative board holds a panel each semester separately for each degree programme where the students are directly informed of any development. They are also informed of Erasmus activities through e-mails, pop-up screens on the web, notices at the entrances of each department and on billboards on the campus, and periodical meetings. The feedback is evaluated within the advisory committee of the university and the results are announced through the university newspaper and the web page. The university pays utmost attention to visibility and therefore the Erasmus University Charter is included in the web page.

The selection of students is made solely based on their academic success and proficiency in foreign languages. All the candidates are listed according to their cumulative grade with no attention to their sex, race, ethnic background and disabilities. As for the staff exchange, the priority is given to those with less international experience in order to help them broaden their insight.

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]
KTU favors and supports the involvement of its staff members and students in the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme. There are few such programs in progress. However, the University aims to develop further opportunities to internationalize the curricula, so that programmes with international participation can easily be realised and implemented.

The curricula of all the degree programs were revised according to the Bologna declaration, and ECTS was implemented as a means of credit system in all programs. The international office is well established with responsibilities ranging from individual to institutional level. Departments are responsible for student mobility by mutually arranging learning agreements and passing them through departmental committee.

The students selected for the mobility programs are given language courses according to their level of proficiency and provided with basic knowledge about the culture of the hosting society. Newly selected Erasmus candidates are brought together with the old Erasmus students to learn from their experiences. To help outgoing students adapt to the new environment, the departmental coordinators are urged to be in contact with the host institutions to maintain a successful exchange period, and staff exchanges are encouraged to such institutions also for counselling.

Incoming students are treated with traditional Turkish hospitality. They are matched with Turkish partners who have preferably been on exchange to the country of origin of the incoming students. Incoming students are acquainted with the new environment through an intensive orientation program involving various social and cultural activities. The incoming students are provided with a variety of alternatives of accommodation. A Turkish language course is also offered to all incoming students during their stay.

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]

KTU considers the internationalization and modernization of education as a cornerstone. Participation in the Programme is, therefore, part of KTU’s own strategy for modernization and internationalization. Participation of KTU in the Programme will not only contribute to the European Union’s modernisation and internationalisation agenda in higher education, but will also benefit KTU as well as Turkey and other countries.

The involvement of the university in the Programme will help encourage the students and staff for international mobility, placement and training to provide the skills needed in Europe and required for working in a global economy, and will help recruit the researchers with capabilities and competences required for the enhancement of the society.

The university understands the significance of implementing such programmes in order to improve the level of higher education through strengthening quality based on mobility and cross-border cooperation, and therefore pays utmost attention to develop joint and double degree programmes. By doing so, the University expects to develop new links with enterprises and HEIs worldwide with an objective to reach excellence in education and to create new funding opportunities.

KTU has been involved in many international organizations being a member of EAIE, EUA and BSUN and will continue to increase such involvements in the coming years. In addition, KTU will provide logistic and financial support to promote multilateral teaching and research projects in the framework of intensive programs and thematic networks which will contribute to the problems of the European and non-European nations and increase the university’s visibility in Europe, and encourage the academic staff to work in connection with industry to increase the employability, and to produce projects related to adult education based on the experiences of other member states for distribution within the society.

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: Trabzon  
Name: Prof. Dr. Sülçeyman Baykal  
Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 15/05/2013

☐ 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