

**D****Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy)****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]

Our University slogan is "An international university is founded in Yalova". This motto indicates our willingness to be open for all sorts of international cooperations. Indeed, the Erasmus Office works in sync with our Office of International Collaborations. We currently have a dual diploma program with Leeds Metropolitan University in UK, another one is on the way with Chester University of UK. Our Divinity Faculty's instruction language is in Arabic and receives some graduate students from the Middle East. Our university does not have a limited geographical focus. We have concluded exchange and cooperation agreements with many American, Central Asian, Russian and Middle Eastern universities. Our next frontier will be Africa and Latin America. As we start more English-instructed programs we will have a more international student profile. Our Erasmus and other exchange students enjoy a truly multicultural atmosphere during their studies in Yalova. According to our 10-year planning, the student body will reach to some 25,000 and 10%-15% of them will be international students representing different continents and regions.

Each department coordinator is also an academic staff and they work with their own assistants. Each assistant as well as the instructors themselves target one country, check the web pages of the most prestigious institutions and evaluate their curricula. They also search the departments' achievements and rankings. They evaluate whether exchange students and staff will make a significant contribution to each institution. They also look for the possibility of enhanced relationships such as joint conferences, publication opportunities, or dual diploma programs. If they are convinced then they sign the agreement form. We do not have geographic priorities. All regions of Europe are acceptable and potential candidate for partnership. Sometimes, our students complain about the insufficiency of funds in more prosperous countries since the living costs are significantly higher.

We are open to all students from different nations. Our most important objective is to improve the quality of education and learning, and make necessary modifications to meet the accepted standards of Europe. The transfer and dissemination of knowledge is our other major objective. That is why we intend to send as many students and staff as possible. We also want to attract hardworking students and academic staff to improve the quality of our program. This is of particular importance for 2nd and 3rd cycle education.

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]

Yalova University is open for partnerships and exchange programs. In fact, one of our vice-rectors is in charge of international cooperation agreements. We currently have one dual degree program with Leeds Metropolitan University in UK and another one on the way with Chester University of the same country. We are continuing our plans for graduate programs with them. We also have an exchange program with Benedict College of Columbia, SC in the USA. As a matter of fact, two of Benedict College students are studying here under the exchange agreement. We have concluded other collaboration agreements under Erasmus-style programs with non-European countries in order to enhance our teaching, project as well as training capabilities. Of course, this is not enough and our institution intends to improve both the quantity as well as the quality. We encourage and financially support the staff to participate in these collaborations.

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]

1. Increasing the number of University graduates: Unfortunately, university graduation percentage in Turkey is lower than European average. Moreover, there is also growing need for university graduates in the job market due to the higher economic growth rate and globalization. Therefore, the Turkish Government decided to increase this rate and began to open new public universities and increase the student capacity of current universities. This is in the same line with European policies. Yalova University will contribute to the alleviation of this issue.
2. Increasing the number of qualified graduates: As mentioned above, due to the economic growth and large young population, Turkey also faces a great demand for qualified graduates. There is an overlapping interest of both Turkey and Europe. We increase the number of students in 2nd and 3rd cycles of education to meet the higher demand for qualified labor force.
3. Increasing the connection between higher institutions and the industry. Republic of Turkey allocates more percentage of GDP for research and development. As a matter of fact TUBITAK funds many projects in natural and social sciences. Furthermore, Development Agencies cooperate with universities to select the right project. YOK (Higher Education Commission) encourages and requires universities to enhance their cooperation with industries. It funds many projects for research and development. There are special funds for particularly small and medium-size entrepreneurs.
4. Advanced governance and funding. Yalova University has a department (BAP) (scientific research projects) specifically funding academic staff projects. If selected, staff can entirely fund their research projects through university sources. This enhances the University's vision.
5. Yalova University adapts the slogan of "A Worldwide University in Yalova". To fulfill that, we have Business and International Relations departments all in English. Engineering Faculty offers 30% of their courses in English. Furthermore, our Divinity Faculty has an Arabic prep school and all courses are taught in Arabic so that they can attract many students from the Middle East. We also have exchange agreements with non-European countries. For instance, we have an agreement with Benedict College in the US and International Black Sea University (IBSU) in Georgia. As a matter of fact, we currently have two students from Benedict College and 4 students from IBSU. One of our students is studying at IBSU. We are about to sign another agreement form with Zenica University in Bosnia. Yalova University is also open for international academic staff. Currently, we have instructors from the Middle East and the US. It is also worth mentioning that we have a dual diploma program with Leeds Metropolitan University. Currently 30 students are studying at Yalova University and they will spend their senior year at Leeds Metropolitan University. At the end, they will have two diplomas from Yalova and Leeds Metropolitan universities.

\* 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*

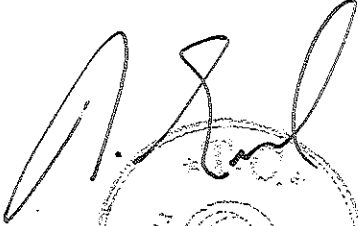
Place: Yalova

Name: M. Niyazi ERUSLU

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 08/05/2013

*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

