



Akdeniz University International Relations Office

Newsletter

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Akdeniz University International Relations Office



@AkdenizUni_IRO

June 2017 Issue 16

-DECLARATION of 15th JULY-



As is known in Turkey, on the night of July 15th 2016, terrorists in military uniforms, in alliance with the Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), attempted a bloody and unprecedented coup against our democracy and republic. Bombs hit parliament and other state buildings, tanks drove over civilians, and at least 260 people were killed and 2,200 wounded in violence perpetrated with the intention of overthrowing the institutions of government all over Turkey. This coup attempt failed thanks to the Honourable Turkish Nation, the security forces, and the decisive and courageous stand taken against the traitors adopted by the members of the government following the call issued by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. As a result of this ongoing resistance by the Turkish Nation, the victory of democracy has been achieved.

Human life is precious and human rights are fundamental. Any coup attempt is unacceptable for any government, particularly in the case of modern constitutional states. I am sure you will appreciate that any government elected to power by its citizens should only be changed again democratically by the will of the people. As the founder of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Atatürk said “Sovereignty unconditionally belongs to the people”.



AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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Despite this coup attempt, Atatürk's principles and reforms, as well as the accomplishments of the Republic of Turkey as a secular, democratic and a social state of law as specified in our Constitution, are still in place and will continue to be so in the future. All the institutions of our republic stand in unity with great courage and dignity. Akdeniz University, together with all its stakeholders, has always stood by our democracy and national sovereignty. On the first anniversary of the events of July 15th 2016, we as Akdeniz University unequivocally condemn this inhumane and bloody coup attempt.

We want to assure you that although immediately after the events of July 15th 2016 vital and urgent measures were taken in each area in our country, no disruption has been experienced in any of our educational programmes. In addition to the education and training activities of our university, our programme of social, cultural and sports activities are continuing as normal at all levels.

You will always be welcome to come to our country and visit our university, which is located on such a fascinating campus, and we are eager to maintain and strengthen our mutual cooperation in the future. We look forward to welcoming the honourable members of your academic staffs who wish to deliver lectures, and your students who would like to study through the Exchange programmes supported by Akdeniz University.

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Ünal
Rector, Akdeniz University



**THE AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXAMINATION
(AKUS/AKDENİZ YÖS-2017)**



The AKUS/AKDENİZ YÖS-2017 Examination for international student candidates who would like to study on associate or undergraduate programmes at Akdeniz University was held on May 6th, 2017 at 14.00 (Turkish Time) in 16 different centres in 8 different countries.

The Rector of Akdeniz University, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Ünal, has recently pointed out that interest among international students in attending Akdeniz University has been increasing year by year, and this has resulted in greater interest in the AKUS/AKDENİZ YÖS Examination which was held recently with the participation of approximately 2,300 international student candidates. Despite the difficulty of organizing such an important event in 16 different centres in 8 countries, the examination went smoothly and successfully. Akdeniz University was the first Turkish university to organize an international student examination in Linz, Austria, and our aim for the next academic year is to reach even more international students who would like to study at Akdeniz University by making the examination available in many more countries.

The results of the AKUS/AKDENİZ YÖS-2017 Examination were announced on May 22nd 2017 at the following web address; <https://bys.akdeniz.edu.tr/akus/?lang=en>, and the preference process was completed online between May 29th and June 19th 2017. The results of the placement results were announced on June 22nd 2017, one week earlier than previously scheduled, on <https://bys.akdeniz.edu.tr/akus/?lang=en>.

THE TELEVISION PROGRAMME “GÖNÜLLÜ ELÇİLER” by TRT HABER The First Episode at Akdeniz University

The first episode of the television programme ‘Gönüllü Elçiler’, which is produced by TRT Haber, has been broadcast with the participation of our international student Alyona Yakovleva, who chose to continue her postgraduate education at Akdeniz University after studying for 1 year at



our university within the scope of the Mevlana Exchange Programme as part of her undergraduate education. Alyona said that she was very happy with the standard of education provided by Akdeniz University, and added that she had also taken the opportunity to participate in a wide range of cultural, artistic and sporting activities. She emphasized the benefits of Turkey becoming a popular destination for international students due to the warm climate, access to the sea, the natural beauty of the landscape, the lower cost of living and affordable tuition fees, as well as the high level of cooperation in higher education with many countries around the world. The episode of “Gönüllü Elçiler” which includes our student, Alyona Yakovleva, and a contribution by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Ünal, is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpuaDmtb7sE>

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE HAPPY STUDYING AT AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY

According to the Foreign Student Satisfaction Survey (YÖMA-2017), which was conducted to determine the level of satisfaction among international students in Turkey regarding the universities at which they study and the cities in which they live, Akdeniz University ranked 5th on the list of state universities. In the survey, in which international students were asked questions under the following topics; quality of education, satisfaction with campus services, academic support given by trainers, university administration, richness of resources for learning opportunities and support for personal and career development given to the international students, Akdeniz University ranked at the top of the list in all categories. The Rector of Akdeniz University, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Ünal, emphasized the great importance that Akdeniz University gives to the student centred approach, and added, “Each of our

students is valuable for us. Because international students come from many different countries and diverse cultures to study at our university, it takes a little more time for them to become accustomed to their new environment, and we try to make this process easier for them. The interest shown by international students who come here from different countries is constantly increasing, because we offer the opportunity to study in one of the most beautiful cities in Turkey.



In this survey, the ranking achieved by Akdeniz University demonstrates the level of satisfaction experienced by our international students. We invest all our energy into ensuring their satisfaction, providing successful training, and making sure that they return home with beautiful memories”.

SUPPORT FROM TURKISH SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS FOR THE 1ST TURKEY- AFRICA AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING AND AGRIBUSINESS FORUM



The 1st Turkey-Africa Agriculture Ministers Meeting and Agribusiness Forum, organized by the Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, was held in Antalya between April 27th and 28th 2017 with the participation of Binali Yıldırım, Prime Minister of Turkey, and

Ministers responsible for food, agriculture, livestock, fishery and rural development from 54 African Countries. Representatives from the private sector and international institutions also participated in the Forum. During this event 32 African students studying at Akdeniz University as part of the Türkiye Scholarships programme assisted the ministers, administrators and businessmen from their own countries by giving cultural and linguistic support in cooperation with their Turkish counterparts. Our international students were awarded a Certificate of Attendance by the Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock.

PARTICIPATION IN NAFSA 2017

Akdeniz University was represented by a delegation from the International Relations Office at the "NAFSA 2017" education fair, the most prestigious educational conference and fair in the field of education in the world, which attracted more than 10,000 participants from 100 countries to Los Angeles in the USA between May 28th and June 2nd 2017.



Representatives from 20 Turkish universities were present in the "Study in Turkey" pavilion to promote Turkish higher education, and to increase internationalization and bilateral cooperation between universities. The delegation was made up of Advisor to the Rector for

International Relations Assoc. Prof. Dr. Binnur Genç İltter, Erasmus+ and Mevlana Exchange Programme Institutional Coordinator Nurgül Büyükkalay, and International Cooperation and Publicity Coordinator Ayça Altay. During the fair, members of the International Relations Office held a series of meetings with our international partner universities to discuss cooperation, and made available information about Akdeniz University to encourage new collaboration agreements.



VISITS TO AHMET YESEVI UNIVERSITY IN KAZAKHSTAN



Between May 15th and 19th 2017, the Dean and Vice-dean of the Akdeniz University Faculty of Dentistry, Prof. Dr. Kürşat Er and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alper Kuştarıcı, visited Kazakhstan Ahmet Yesevi University, an institution with which we are conducting a joint project within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme Mobility Activity with Partner Countries (KA107). This provided an opportunity for higher education students

and staff members to learn and gain vocational experience in a country outside the EU. During the visit information was shared and a seminar was held.

A visit was also paid to Kazakhstan Ahmet Yesevi University by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Binnur Genç İltter, Advisor to the Rector for International Relations, Nurgül Büyükkalay, Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator, and Alina Aksoy and Ayşe Tuğcan, responsible for the Mevlana Exchange Programme, between May 22nd and 25th 2017.



ERACON 2017 - A MEETING OF ERASMUS COORDINATORS



As part of the Erasmus+ Programme, the 13th Annual Erasmus Congress and Exhibition - ERACON 2017- was held in the city of Maribor in Slovenia between May 9th and 13th 2017. The event was organised by the European Association of Erasmus+ Coordinators – EAEC, and was attended by a wide range of universities from 30 European countries. Akdeniz University was represented at the Congress by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Binnur Genç İltter, Advisor to the Rector for International Relations, Nurgül Büyükkalay, Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator, and Özge Kaya, responsible for Budget and Erasmus Outgoing Staff Mobility.

A GRADUATION SPEECH FROM ONE OF OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Sid Ali Mohamed, a Somalian student who recently graduated from the Public Relations and Publicity Department of the Faculty of Communication at Akdeniz University, made an emotional speech at his graduation ceremony. Mohamed stated, “Akdeniz University is a great university providing education at an international level, so many international students choose to study here. I am happy to be one of the international students benefitting from this opportunity.



All the international students who come from different socio-economic cultures in Turkey, and from every part of world have created a colourful family atmosphere at Akdeniz University. I have been so lucky to live in such a family atmosphere during the 4 years that I have studied here”. Sid Ali Mohamed ended his speech by expressing his gratitude to the Rector of Akdeniz University, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Ünal, who gives great attention and support to international students, to his teachers, to all the administrative staff of Turks Abroad and Related Communities, and all the members of the academic and administrative staff of Akdeniz University.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Applications from international students who would like to attend graduate programmes during the autumn semester of the 2017/2018 academic year will be accepted online between July 24th and August 1st 2017 at the following address; <https://bys.akdeniz.edu.tr/enstitu/>. All international students are personally responsible for the successful completion of their application process on the online application system. The requirements and the quotas will be announced during the application period on the online application website, and on the website of the relevant institutions

"AKUZEM LIVE FORUM APPLICATION" FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

A Live Forum Application has been launched by the Akdeniz University Distance Education Application and Research Centre (AKUZEM) for all International Students, and in particular graduate students who are at the dissertation stage of their graduate programmes. Click on the link for detailed information: <http://akuzem.akdeniz.edu.tr/dinamik/96/1265.pdf>

COHESION MEETING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ECHE

A cohesion meeting dealing with the principles of the ECHE (Erasmus Charter for Higher Education) was held on April 24th 2017 at Mehmet Akif Ersoy University in Burdur under the coordination of the Turkish National Agency, and with the attendance of representatives from higher education institutions, and institutions which are consortium coordinators. As well as the dissemination of



information regarding the main principles of the ECHE, the meeting included workshops held for the purpose of discussing the problems faced by higher education institutions taking part in the Erasmus+ programme, and the presentation of possible solutions. The International Relations Office of Akdeniz University was represented at the meeting by Dr. Ceren Kocabaş, responsible for Erasmus+ Bilateral Agreements and Mobility for Traineeship.

ERASMUS+ APPLICATIONS FROM INCOMING STUDENTS FROM ABROAD

The International Relations Office is now accepting applications from incoming students from our partner universities in other countries who would like to study at Akdeniz University. Applications are being accepted under the slogan “It is time for Antalya”, and the process will continue until August 15th 2017.



ERASMUS+ OUTGOING STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Applications for Erasmus+ Study/Training Mobility for the 2017/2018 academic year were accepted online by the International Relations Office between March 13th and 31st 2017, and resulted in a total of 2,397 applications from students who would like to study abroad.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ESN IN BERLIN

The Annual Meeting of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) was held in Berlin under the coordination of the European Commission between April 20th and 24th 2017. The meeting was attended by the President and members of ESN Mediterranean, as well as members of staff from the International Relations Office. As part of the meeting a march with the flags of the participating Erasmus+ countries took place in Berlin city centre.



THE ERASMUS+ ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR OUTGOING STUDENTS

After the announcement of the results of applications for the Erasmus+ Study and Training Mobility, an Orientation Programme was held for the 158 Erasmus+ students who are eligible for the study programme, and for the 95 Erasmus+ students eligible for training. During the orientation programme, the duties and responsibilities for which Erasmus+ students are liable, and information about the requirements of the programme both before and after mobility were given to the students. Presentations were made by Nurgül Büyükkalay, Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator, Dr. Ceren Kocabaş, responsible for Erasmus+ Bilateral Agreements and Mobility for Traineeship and İsa Gök, responsible for Erasmus+ Incoming and Outgoing Students. The programme was attended by more than 200 students.



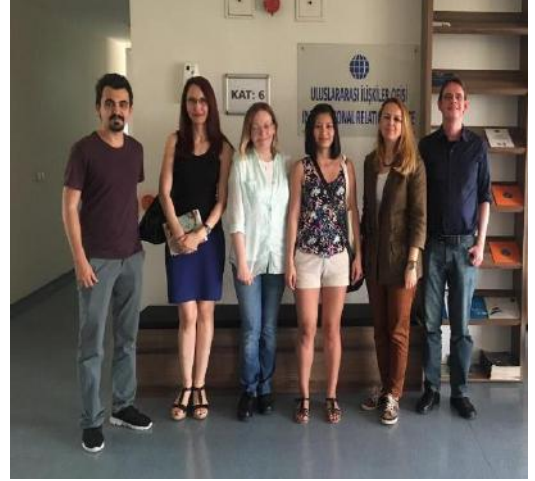
DIVING ACTIVITY WITH MEVLANA AND ERASMUS+ STUDENTS

As part of the 30th Anniversary of the Erasmus+ Programme, a scuba-diving activity was organised by the International Relations Office in the Kaş district of Antalya for incoming Erasmus+ students from Germany, the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland and Romania, as well as incoming Mevlana students from Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Student divers unfurled the flags of Turkey and Akdeniz University underwater.



ERASMUS+ INCOMING ACADEMIC STAFF

Incoming members of the academic staff from Bochum University in Germany, with which we collaborate under the terms of the Erasmus+ programme, held a workshop on making brain models from clay in the anatomy laboratory, and a seminar in the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Letters. Our guests from Germany also visited the International Relations Office, where they were accompanied by Assist.Prof.Dr.Seda Bayraktar from the Department of Psychology.



Marja TURUNEN and Dr. Anna-Maria SAARELA, members of the academic staff of the University of Savonia in Finland, visited the International Relations Office on May 10th 2017. During the meeting there were discussions on the subjects of developing bilateral cooperation opportunities, and accelerating initiatives to increase the number of Erasmus+ agreements between the two universities at the faculty and departmental level. Dr. Ceren Kocabaş, responsible for Erasmus+ Bilateral Agreements and Mobility for Traineeship, attended the meeting on behalf of the International Relations Office.

MEVLANA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR OUTGOING STUDENTS

Within the scope of the Mevlana Exchange Programme coordinated by the International Relations Office, an orientation programme was held for outgoing students who will attend universities with which we have signed protocols under the terms of the Mevlana programme during the autumn and spring semesters of the 2017/2018 academic year. The orientation programme was attended by Erasmus+ and Mevlana Exchange Programme Institutional Coordinator Nurgül Büyükkalay, as well as Alina Aksoy, and Ayşe Tuğcan, who gave the students information about the procedures they should follow and preparations to make before their departure. Outgoing students have the opportunity to study in the following countries; Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Russia, and Sudan.



VISIT FROM A MEVLANA STUDENT

Şatgül Aytbek Kızı from Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, who enjoyed the benefits of taking part in the Mevlana Exchange Programme in the Department of Sociology of the Akdeniz University Faculty of Letters during the 2014/2015 academic year, recently visited the International Relations Office. Şatgül Aytbek Kızı spoke about her experiences and the changes in her life after participating in the Mevlana Exchange Programme, and expressed her happiness at the opportunity to visit Akdeniz University again.

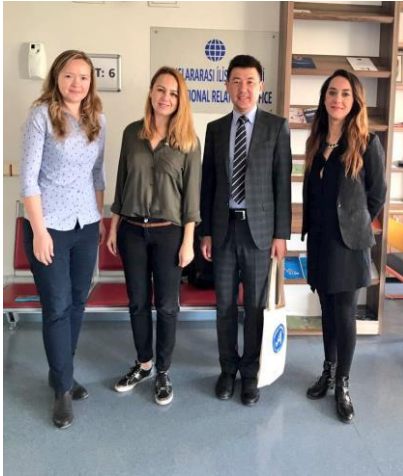


FAREWELL TO MEVLANA STUDENTS



Having completed their courses under the terms of the Mevlana Exchange Programme during the 2016/2017 academic year, Aycamal Amanova (Faculty of Tourism/Department of Tourism Management) and Begayim Abdıraeva (Antalya State Conservatory/Theatre) from Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University have now returned to their country. Before their departure, Aycamal and Begayim explained that they will share all of their experiences with their fellow students and academic staff members in Kyrgyzstan. They added that they were certain that all students and academic staff members would benefit greatly and broaden their horizons as a result of taking part in the Mevlana Exchange Programme.

MEVLANA INCOMING ACADEMIC STAFF



Farkhat Zhumabayev, member of the academic staff from Kazakstan/L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University, recently visited Akdeniz University and gave a series of courses in the Faculty of Education within the framework of the Mevlana Exchange Programme. He expressed his pleasure at the opportunity to come to Akdeniz University thanks to the Mevlana Exchange Programme.

Assoc. Prof. Amani Abbas, member of the academic staff of Sudan - Shendi University, recently visited Akdeniz University within the framework of the Mevlana Exchange Programme and gave a series of courses in the Faculty of Agriculture. Assoc. Prof. Abbas, who was visiting Turkey and Akdeniz University for the first time, shared her happiness at this great opportunity, and added that under the terms of the Mevlana Exchange Programme, collaboration between Akdeniz University and Sudan University would gain in strength.



THE 7th “EDUCATHE+” INTERNATIONAL THEATRE WORKSHOP

“EDUCATional THEatre is a space which promotes inclusion and employability for People with Disabilities”. This is a KA2 Adult Education Strategic Partnership Project in which the Akdeniz University EuroMed Youth Centre is a partner with the support of the International Relations Office, and funded by the Croatian National Agency. The seventh workshop was held in Sofia in Bulgaria between June 12th and 16th 2017 with the participation of 8 organisations from 7 different countries including Croatia, Turkey, Belgium, Latvia, Bulgaria, Italy and Greece. At the end of the workshop in Sofia, an international theatre performance with the title “Life with Masks” was performed with the participation of local audiences.



GREEN AKDENİZ WITH THE GREEN CRESCENT PROJECT

Green Akdeniz with the Green Crescent Project, funded by the Turkish Green Crescent, aims to increase knowledge and awareness of addiction among students. Two training programmes dealing with different kinds of addiction were held as part of the project, as well as one preparatory visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina and one study visit to the Süleyman Demirel University Green Crescent Student Community. Three therapy workshops were also held at the Akdeniz University Research and Application Centre for Alcohol and Drug Addiction (AMBAUM) and, after the workshops were concluded, the products made by the participants were exhibited in a fair held at AMBAUM. A video competition about addiction was also organised as part of the project, and graffiti about Green Crescent was created by students from the Akdeniz University Faculty of Fine Arts.





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