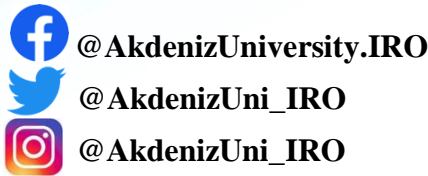




Akdeniz University International Relations Office

Newsletter

iro.akeniz.edu.tr



March 2021, Issue 31



AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE NEWSLETTER

March 2021 Issue 31

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear students, colleagues and partners around the world,

Greetings from the International Relations Office (IRO) of Akdeniz University.

International students benefit from international ranking institutions such as “Times Higher Education World University Rankings”, “QS World University Rankings”, “Academic Ranking of World Universities” and “CWTS Leiden Ranking” when choosing the university to study at.



These ranking institutions determine rankings of universities each year by looking at different abilities and competences of them. University administration should develop policies for the parameters that will affect such rankings to attract successful and qualified students. Main policies should primarily focus on recruiting productive and fundraising academicians, keeping current academicians’ motivations high, improving working conditions, providing academician interaction and cooperation with international activities as well as becoming a member of international accreditation organizations.

In the new period, Akdeniz University has the strength to achieve the target of a Turkish University ranking in the “World’s Top 500 Universities”, which was put forward by the President of the Republic of Turkey, by using all the advantages introduced by Antalya, a world city. As the International Relations Office of Akdeniz University, we are committed to work aiming to contribute to this target and also to the internationalization of our university.

Prof. Dr. Olgun Kitapcı
Head of the International Relations Office

ACCESSIBLE UNIVERSITY AWARD TO AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY

Akdeniz University has been awarded the first prize in the category of “Accessible University” within the scope of the Turkey Accessibility Awards.

Rector of Akdeniz University Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan received the award from the First Lady Emine Erdoğan and the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk. Our Rector Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan stated “We are working to ensure an appropriate infrastructure of educational environment for our students with disabilities. This jury award encouraged us for new tasks in this scope.”

Turkey Accessibility Awards were granted for scientific researches, successful projects, applications implemented, and services that contribute to the participation of persons with disabilities in social and economic life by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services.

Üniversitemiz Aile, Çalışma ve Sosyal Hizmetler Bakanlığı tarafından 9 kategoride düzenlenen 2020 Türkiye Erişilebilirlik Ödüllerinde, 'Erişilebilir Üniversiteler' kategorisinde 1'inci oldu. Rektörümüz Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, ödülü Sayın Emine Erdoğan Hanımefendi ve Bakanımız Sayın Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk'tan aldı.



In cooperation with the International Relations Office and the Faculty of Education, four projects were implemented within the scope of Erasmus+ KA2 between the years of 2014 and 2021. In cooperation with the Disabled Students Unit Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Emel Sardohan Yıldırım, the local activities of “Guide Us Into Arts - GUIA2!” Erasmus+ KA2 project, coordinated by EU Projects Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne, were held at Akdeniz University and these project activities for students with disabilities were also mentioned in the application form of the Accessibility Awards.

Since 2014, four Erasmus+ KA2 projects have been carried out for individuals with disabilities. These are; “Educational theatre as the place for raising inclusion and employability of people with disability”, “Theatre Pitching for Employment” and “GUIA2!” projects. "Urban Survival Kits" Erasmus + KA2 project, funded in October 2020, will be carried out between 2021 and 2023 under the coordination of Northern Ireland and its target group is disabled individuals.

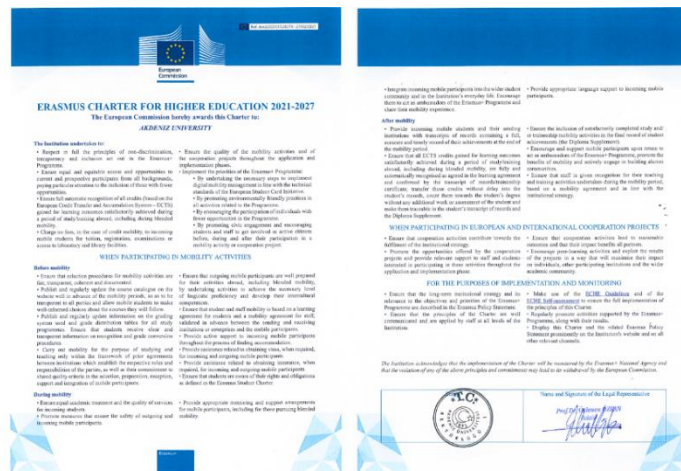
ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (ECHE) CERTIFICATE WAS SIGNED BY OUR RECTOR

The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) for 2021-2027 Erasmus+ Programme period was signed by the Rector of Akdeniz University Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan.



The Vice-Rector for international relations Prof. Dr. Gülbin Arıcı, Head of the International Relations Office Prof. Dr. Olgun Kitapcı and Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator H. Nuran Caner were also present during the signing ceremony.

Rector Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan said of the achievement; “We are proud that our application was accepted with 100 full points. As a member of the Erasmus+ family, we will continue our efforts to ensure that our students and staff benefit more from Erasmus+ programme with the approved and renewed ECHE. I wholeheartedly congratulate our friends who contributed to getting the ECHE with full points.”



SUCCESS OF OUR COMPUTER ENGINEERING STUDENTS ON INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS

The students of the Department of Computer Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering, where the medium of instruction is 100% English, continue to achieve great success on international platforms as a result of the education they received.



Alperen Aksoy, graduated from the Computer Engineering Master Programme in 2019, ranked the first in the field of “Network Technologies” of the Ministry of National Education’s MEB YLSY scholarship exam held in 2019 and he was awarded a scholarship for a doctoral programme in Germany. He has started his doctoral studies in the Department of Computer Science at Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, which is one of the leading universities of Germany in the field of network technologies. Our graduate student stated that the three years he spent as a student and a staff member in the Department of Computer Engineering encouraged him to take steps at an international level and Alperen also emphasized that he benefited from the experience of the internationally experienced academic staff throughout his education.



A graduate student of the year of 2020, Gizem Ünlü was invited to and attended the Google I/O'19 event. She said of the event; "I/O is an event that Google has started to organize since 2008. This event, held once a year, lasts for three days and is a large scale event, where Google announces its new technologies, applications developed and updates. Google hosted its annual I/O conference at the Shoreline Amphitheatre, Mountain View in the USA with participation of more than 7.000 participants and it was opened with keynote presentation of Google's CEO Sundar Pichai and lasted with technical presentations. The year I attended, it focused on topics such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, augmented reality. On the last day of the event, I had the opportunity to visit Computer History Museum (CHM). In CHM, they grouped the changes in the technological world and the technologies developed by year and it was an amazing experience to see most of the things taught in our lectures. As a computer engineering student, I am very happy to have spent time there."

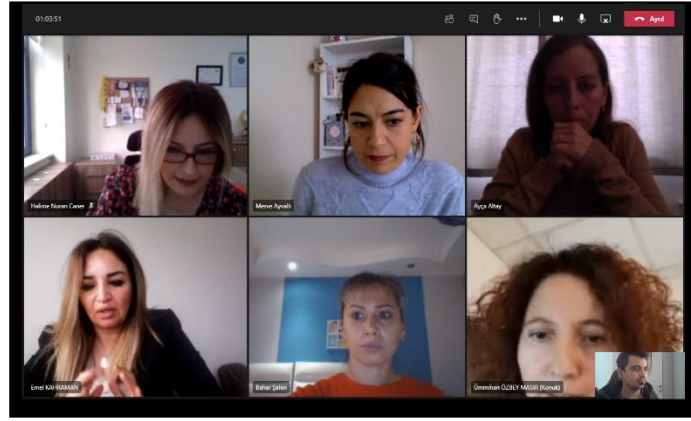


M. Fatih Baysan, graduated from the same department in 2020, stated that he has been aiming to study abroad since the first year he started to study at a bachelor's degree at Akdeniz University and added that he is delighted for having been accepted to the master programme of Technical University of Munich in Germany. He also stated that the fact that academic staff members of the Department of Computer Engineering have international experience was an advantage in education and job applications abroad.

We would like to congratulate our students for their international achievements and wish them success.

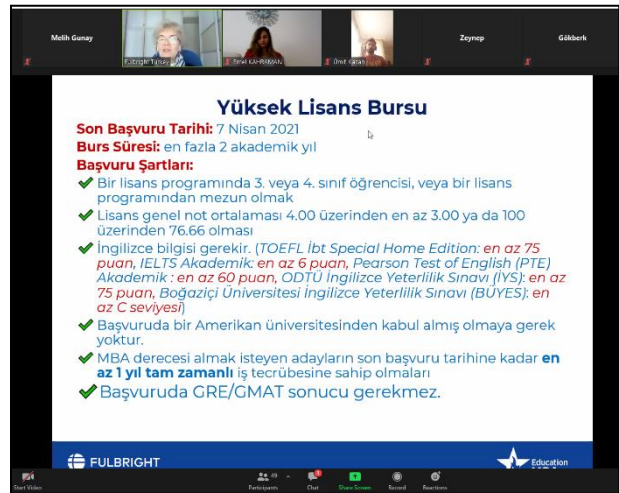
TSE AUDIT TO THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

On 8 January 2021, an external audit meeting was held online as a part of the audit programme for Akdeniz University Rectorate ISO 9001:2015 KYS. The audit to the IRO, conducted by the auditor of the Turkish Standards Institution (TSE), was successfully completed with the efforts of the members of the IRO.



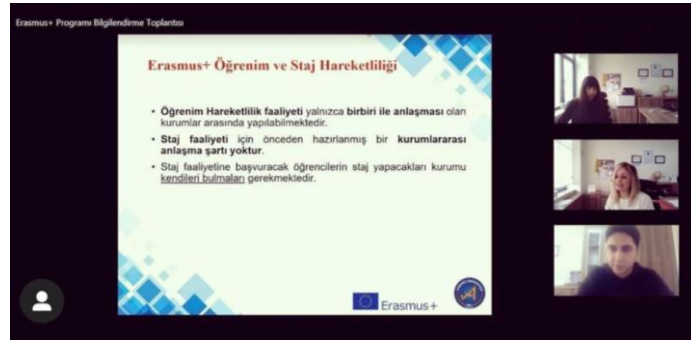
WEBINAR ON FULBRIGHT GRANTS

An information webinar was held dealing with Fulbright grants including details of master's and doctorate levels grants and educational opportunities in the USA. Under the coordination of the IRO, the information seminar was held online on 15 March 2021 by the Turkish Fulbright Education Commission to introduce and promote Fulbright grants.



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME INFORMATION MEETING

On 18 February 2021, an information meeting was held online for the students who would like to benefit from the Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator H. Nuran Caner and the staff responsible for the Erasmus+ Derya Lökçü and Enes Bener presented information about the programme.



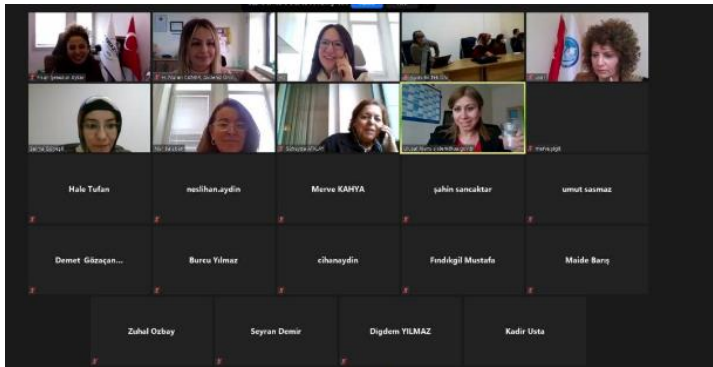
ERASMUS+ INFORMATION MEETING FOR GÖYNÜK CULINARY ARTS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Upon the request from Göynük Culinary Arts Vocational School, an online information meeting was held for the students and academic staff members of Göynük Culinary Arts Vocational School on 17 March 2021. Derya Lökçü, Erasmus staff from the IRO provided information about the Erasmus+ programme.



PARTICIPATION IN THE ECHE APPLICATION INFORMATION MEETING

Turkish National Agency organized an online information meeting on application for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) on 24 March 2021. Upon the invitation from the Turkish National Agency, Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator of Akdeniz University H. Nuran Caner shared our university's experience on the issues that need to be considered in the context of higher education institutions that would make applications to ECHE.



ERASMUS+ ECHE (YÜKSEKÖĞRETİM ERASMUS BEYANNAMESİ) BAŞVURUSU BİLGİLENDİRME TOPLANTISI

24 Mart 2021 Çarşamba

TOPLANTI PROGRAMI

- 14:30-14:40 Açılış
- 14:40-15:30 Yükseköğretim için Erasmus+ Programı ve Ulusal Ajans Genel Tanıtımı
Özlem YÜCEL, Türkiye Ulusal Ajansı, Uzman
- 15:30-16:20 Yükseköğretim için Erasmus Beyannamesi (ECHE) Başvurusu:
Başvuru Süreci, ECHE Başvuru Formu Nasıl Doldurulur
Hülya ÜRÜNÜDİ, Niğde Ömer Halisdemir Üniversitesi, Erasmus Koordinatörü
- 16:20-16:30 Çay/Kahve Arası
- 16:30-17:10 Yükseköğretim için Erasmus Beyannamesi (ECHE) Başvurusu:
İçerikte Dikkat Edilmesi Gereken Hususlar
H. Nuran CANER, Akdeniz Üniversitesi, Erasmus Koordinatörü
- 17:10-17:20 Kapanış

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAM

On 6 March 2021, Erasmus+ Programme Foreign Language Exam for the 2021-2022 academic year was held online with the participation of 2.520 students. The results of the exam were announced on 8 March 2021 on the official website of our university.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS

Within the scope of the Erasmus+ programme, an orientation programme was organized online for incoming students who came to study at Akdeniz University in the spring semester of the 2020-2021 academic year. All the necessary information was provided to the students by Enes Bener, responsible staff for Erasmus+ incoming students.



THE VISIT OF THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

The Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry Prof. Dr. Alper Kuştarıcı visited the International Relations Office to discuss about the incoming students and staff who came to the Faculty of Dentistry in the spring semester under the terms of the Erasmus+ programme.



PARTICIPATION IN THE ERASMUS+ CENTRAL PROJECTS INFORMATION MEETING

An online information meeting on the Erasmus+ Central Projects in the field of Higher Education was held by the Turkish National Agency on 11 March 2021. Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator H. Nuran Caner attended the meeting in order to represent our university.



GREENER ERASMUS+ FOR A GREENER EARTH

In line with instructions of the European Commission, the digitalization process in Erasmus+ programme will start in all programme countries with the aim of a “Greener Erasmus”.



“Erasmus Without Paper (EWP)” will enable not only replacing the paper-based workflow by a digital one, but also reducing paper waste for environmentally friendly management of Erasmus+ data. The new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 will be more digital and greener.

An online meeting focused entirely on Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) was held on 18 January 2021, hosted by the Ankara University EU Office.

As a result of our diligent work, our university has been the fourth university to be integrated into the EWP system among 195 universities in Turkey.

#OURCOMMONFUTURE DIGITAL COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate for EU Affairs, the digital communication campaign was carried out on social media under the hashtag #OurCommonFuture between the dates of 22 – 26 February 2021. With the participation of the beneficiary institutions of the EU projects, #OurCommonFuture digital campaign aimed at increasing awareness about the results and benefits of the projects implemented under Turkey and EU cooperation.



Akdeniz University participated in the digital campaign with seven ongoing Erasmus+ KA2 projects by sharing project benefits on our social media accounts.

THE LOGO DESIGN CONTEST OF THE “DIVE” ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT

A logo design contest was organized within the scope of “Digital Internationalisation in Vocational Education (DIVE)” Erasmus+ KA2 Digital Education Readiness Strategic Partnership Project (KA226), coordinated by Norwegian University of Science and Technology in partnership with Akdeniz University.



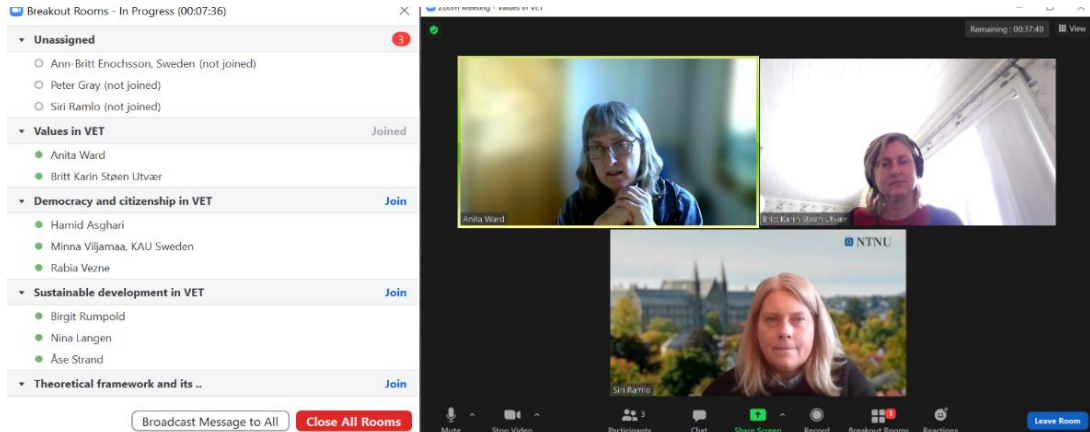
In Norway, Sweden, Germany and Turkey, local logo contests were organized to select a logo for the DIVE project. The first five logos from each local logo contest won the right to participate in the second round.

The logo design of Firat Tunçkaya, a student of Akdeniz University Faculty of Communication, was selected as the winner in the competition as a result of the evaluation of the jury members consisting of the project coordinators of 4 partner universities.



THE ONLINE TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING OF THE “DIVE”

Within the scope of the “DIVE” Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnership project, the first transnational project meeting were held online on 22 March 2021. Project coordinators from four project partner institutions attended the meeting and worked on the number and learning background of vocational education students who will participate in the project activities. The matters on the content of the training modules were also discussed at the meeting. Further information about the DIVE project is available at <https://www.ntnu.edu/dive> .



THE TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETINGS OF “VARTES” ERASMUS+ KA2 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Within the scope of the “Virtual & Augmented Reality Toolkit to Engage Seniors Brain With InterGenerational Understanding (VARTES)” Erasmus+ KA2 Adult Education Strategic Partnership project, coordinated by STUCOM from Spain in partnership with Akdeniz University, four transnational project meetings were held online regarding the COVID-19 process and project activities. Online transnational project meetings were held on the dates of 19 November 2020, 8 January 2021, 19 January 2021, 11 February 2021 and 12 March 2021. Project coordinators from five project partner institutions attended the meetings and worked on the intellectual outputs of the project. Project coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne attended the meetings in order to represent Akdeniz University.



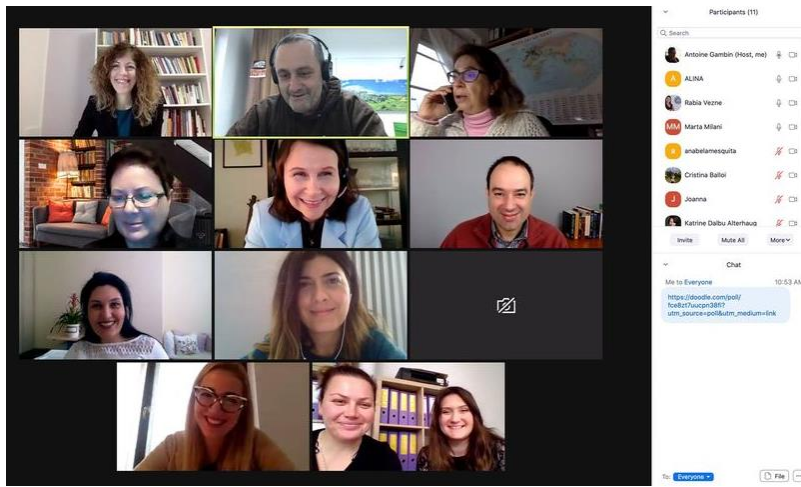
ONLINE AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) TRAINING OF THE “VARTES” PROJECT

Within the scope of the VARTES project, Augmented Reality Materials Preparation Training was held on 25 March 2021. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Özer, Asst. Prof. Dr. Leyla Muslu and Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne, the project team of Akdeniz University, attended the training on the use of Zapworks application and AR code generation. After the training, AR code will be produced for household goods and electric vehicles in order to warn the elderly against the risks at home, and a case study will be carried out.



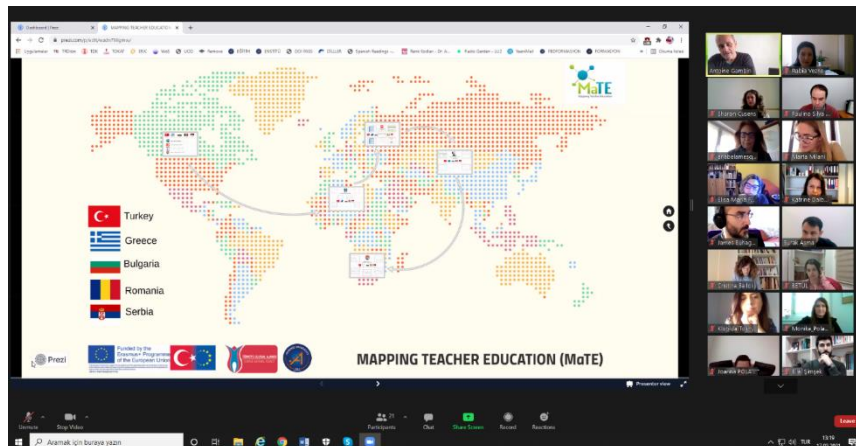
THE ONLINE TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING OF “MATT” ERASMUS+ KA2 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Within the scope of the “Mapping Teacher Education in Europe (MATT)” Erasmus+ KA2 Higher Education Strategic Partnership Project, coordinated by Akdeniz University, a transnational project meeting was held online focusing on the COVID-19 process and project activities on 22 January 2021. Coordinators of the six project partner institutions attended the meeting and worked on the mapping activity of native language teacher education in Europe.



ONLINE TRAINING OF THE “MATT” PROJECT

Within the scope of the MATT project, two online trainings were held on the dates of 4 March 2021 and 17 March 2021. Staff from six project partner institutions attended the trainings. The admission procedures to Native Language Teaching (NLT) Department, course contents and teaching practice implementations in 25 European countries were presented by partner organizations. Especially the similarities and differences in NLT education in 25 countries were emphasized in the training.

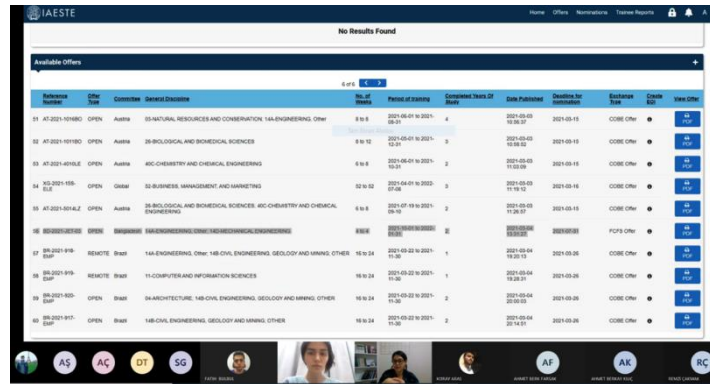


IAESTE

Within the scope of the IAESTE internship programme, the Foreign Language Exam for the 2020-2021 academic year was held on 21 December 2020. As a result of the Foreign Language Exam, 25 students were qualified as candidate students to benefit from the IAESTE.

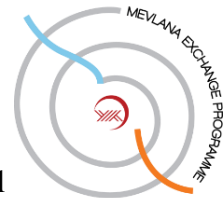


On 5 March 2021, a meeting was held online for candidate students of IAESTE by Merve Ayvallı, IAESTE Representative of Akdeniz University.



CANCELLATION OF THE MEVLANA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

According to the decision taken within the scope of the COVID-19 precautions by the Council of Higher Education Executive Board on 20.01.2021, the Mevlana Exchange Programme, Project-Based International Exchange Programme and Turkey-Pakistan International Exchange Programme for the 2021-2022 academic year were cancelled.



NEWS FROM THE IRO

In accordance with the decision of the senior management of our university dated 19 February 2021, Emel Kahraman, Farabi Exchange Programme Institutional Coordinator, has also been appointed as the Mevlana Exchange Programme Institutional Coordinator of Akdeniz University.



We would like to wish her success in her new appointment.



Please send contributions and comments to international@akdeniz.edu.tr

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