



Akdeniz University International Relations Office

Newsletter

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Akdeniz University International Relations Office



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December 2023 Issue 41

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings from the 41st issue of the Newsletter of the International Relations Office (IRO)

First and foremost, I would like to begin my words by expressing my hope that the year 2024 brings health, happiness, peace, and success to all of us.

The work of our office continues unabated into the new year under the leadership of our newly appointed Vice Rector, Prof. Dr. Şükrü Özen. We wish him success in his new role.

We close this year with the news that our university has been ranked among the top 1000 universities in the world in seven fields in the 2024 Subject-based World University Rankings published by Times Higher Education. Continuing its ascent in various disciplines, our university ranked among the top 4 universities in Turkey in Health Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physics. We continue to extend our full support to our Rector, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, in her goal of placing our university among the top 500 in the world.

Another piece of good news is that our university ranked first among Turkish universities in the "University Monitoring and Evaluation General Report-2023," evaluated by the Higher Education Council, for the highest number of faculty members participating in international exchange programs.

To enhance the international recognition and visibility of our university, we participated in the Bolashak Forum and International Education Fair held in Astana on November 30, 2023, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Kazakh/Bolashak International Scholarship. The fair, attended by many universities and education representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Kazakhstan, and Asian countries, was visited by over 2000 international student candidates and education representatives. We were proud to represent our university at this successful and productive event.

In this issue, you can also find information about the informational meetings organized under the Erasmus+ Program, which is under the responsibility of our office, as well as information about our guests who participate in Erasmus+ teaching or training mobility at our university.

I conclude my words by wishing all our students, academics, and partners a prosperous and successful academic year 2023-2024.

Prof. Dr. İrfan TURHAN
Coordinator of the International Relations Office

**AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY RANKS WITHIN THE TOP 1000
AMONG WORLD UNIVERSITIES**



Akdeniz University ranked among the top 1000 universities in the world in 7 fields in the 2024 World University Rankings by Subject published by Times Higher Education. Continuing its ascent in many disciplines in the subject-based ranking, Akdeniz University secured its place among the top 4 universities in Turkey in Health Sciences, Life Sciences, and Physics. Rector Özkan, stating their aim to be among the top 500 universities globally, emphasized that they are making steady progress towards their goals.

The international higher education ranking institution, Times Higher Education (THE), announced the World University Rankings by Subject-2024 following the World University Rankings. Akdeniz University was placed among the top 1000 universities globally in 7 fields out of 11 evaluated subject areas. According to the report, Akdeniz University ranked in the range of 501-600 in Physical Sciences and Engineering, 601-800 in Health Sciences, Education Sciences, and Life Sciences, and 801+ in Social Sciences, Business, and Economics. In the subject-based ranking consisting of 11 main and 25 subcategories, Akdeniz University also ranked high among Turkish universities.

In the field of Life Sciences, which consists of subcategories such as Agriculture and Forestry, Biological Sciences, and Sports Science, Akdeniz University rose from the 800+ range last year to the 600+ range this year globally and secured a place in the top 3 among universities in Turkey. Similarly, in Health Sciences, including Medicine, Dentistry, and other health-related areas, Akdeniz University climbed from the 800+ range last year to the 600+ range this year globally. In the field of Health, among Turkish universities, it rose from the 13th to the 4th position. Furthermore, in Physical Sciences, Akdeniz University climbed from the 600-800

range globally to the 500-600 range and rose from the 6th to the 4th position among Turkish universities.

Reminding of the recent announcement of the World University Rankings by THE, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, the Rector of Akdeniz University, stated that they had risen from the 1200-1500 range to the top 1000, and now they have also reached the top 1000 in subject-based rankings. Stressing their aim to be among the top 500 universities globally, Rector Özkan noted their steady progress towards their goals. Especially in certain fields, Rector Özkan stated, "We are working to raise our quality standards across all our units in line with the objectives of the Higher Education Quality Board. Seeing our rise in global rankings in line with the steps we have taken is gratifying and a sign that we are on the right path. We will continue to work with our academic and administrative staff to move our university to better positions."

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE COORDINATION MEETING

We held our International Relations Office Coordination Meeting in our Office Meeting Room on December 6, 2023, under the chairmanship of our Vice Rector, Prof. Dr. Şükrü Özen.



**AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY RANKS FIRST AMONG ALL TURKISH UNIVERSITIES
IN THE NUMBER OF FACULTY PARTICIPATING IN INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN 2023**



Akdeniz University ranked first among Turkish universities in the number of faculty participating in international exchange programs in 2023, as reported by the Higher Education Council's "University Monitoring and Evaluation General Report-2023," which evaluated 208 universities in Turkey. The report assessed international interaction and collaborations under the category of "internationalization," revealing our university's progress in this area. According to the report, while the number of international students increased from 223,978 in 2021 to 260,316 in 2022, it was announced that 1245 faculty members from 97 universities visited foreign universities under international exchange programs, and 2294 Turkish faculty members from 127 universities visited universities abroad. At Akdeniz University, 165 faculty members participated in international exchange programs abroad, with over 200 faculty members benefiting from international exchange program mobility in total.

Expressing their joy at ranking first among 208 Turkish universities in terms of the number of faculty members sent under international exchange programs, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, Coordinator of the International Relations Office at Akdeniz University, stated, "The Higher Education Council attaches great importance to the internationalization of our universities. Under the leadership of our Rector, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, many improvements have been made in various data as a result of decisions taken at our university. Our success in being ranked among the top 1000 universities globally in 7 fields in the 2024 Subject-based World University

Rankings by the Times Higher Education (THE), especially in the fields of medicine, health, and natural sciences, has significantly contributed to enhancing our international visibility."



İ.2-4 Uluslararası değişim programlarına katılan öğretim elemanı sayısının en yüksek olduğu üniversiteler

Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan also mentioned the activities carried out by Akdeniz University to promote its international presence, stating, "Our participation in various international education fairs in different regions and signing numerous exchange

protocols under the International Exchange Programs have played a crucial role in this success. Additionally, through the International Relations Office, we organized numerous information sessions for our university academics, resulting in our achievement of ranking first among 208 universities in terms of the number of faculty members sent under international exchange programs. We are confident that with improvement efforts in other indicators under internationalization, we will achieve similar success in those areas as well."

OUR OFFICE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) AT OUR UNIVERSITY



Akdeniz University continues its internationalization efforts without slowing down. Under the leadership of our Office Coordinator, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, we held an online meeting with THE Regional Representative, Lewis Tuthill, to gather information on how to achieve higher rankings in the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings.

Speaking about the meeting with THE officials for the first time, Prof. Dr. Turhan stated, "We had our first meeting with THE officials. During the meeting, we obtained information not only about the 'THE Campus+ Partner' membership to enhance the international visibility of our university but also about the areas we need to develop to achieve higher rankings in the coming years. Our meetings were highly productive, and we look forward to further collaborations in the future."

**AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATED in the 30TH BOLASHAK FORUM
AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR HELD in ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN**



On November 30, 2023, we participated in the Bolashak Forum and International Education Fair held in Astana, Kazakhstan, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Kazakhstan/Bolashak International Scholarship. The fair, which hosted numerous universities and education representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Kazakhstan, and Asian countries, was visited by over 2000 international student candidates and education representatives.

Regarding the matter, Akdeniz University's Rector, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, stated, "We attach great importance to participation in such international forums and education fairs to increase the visibility of our university and attract more Bolashak Scholars, one of the most prestigious scholarship programs in the region, to choose our university. The Bolashak International Scholarship is provided by

Kazakhstan, covering all expenses for students to study abroad on the condition that they return to Kazakhstan upon completion of their studies. Since its implementation in 1993, more than 15,000 scholarships have been awarded."



At the fair, we presented our university and undergraduate and graduate programs to Kazakh students who are interested in choosing our university. Additionally, we established contacts with authorities in Kazakhstan during the forums to discuss innovations, new practices, strategies, and goals in higher education, aiming to strengthen collaborations. We are delighted that Akdeniz University is the most sought-after Turkish university among recipients of the Bolashak Scholarship who choose an educational institution in Turkey. In this context, we conducted discussions with Bolashak Scholarship officials at the forum regarding possible collaborations to attract more scholarship recipients to our university. Such educational collaborations are of great importance for further solidifying the relationship between our two countries."

Representing our university at the fair were Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, Coordinator of the International Relations Office; Instructor Emel Aktaş, Coordinator of the Mevlana and Farabi Exchange Programs and International Scholarships and Opportunities; and Instructor Dilek Hale Aybar, Responsible for Erasmus+ Program KA107 and KA171 Projects and Bilateral Agreements for Erasmus+ Program KA1 Projects



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR OUR BOLASHAK SCHOLARSHIPS



Under the coordination of our office, we organized an orientation program and welcome dinner on Friday, October 13, 2023, for the Bolashak International Scholarship recipients who chose Akdeniz University for their internships. The event took place at the Akdeniz Restaurant on our university campus and was attended by our International Relations Office Coordinator, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, Coordinator of the Mevlana and Farabi Exchange Programs and International Scholarships and Opportunities, Instructor Emel Aktaş, and the interns participating in the Bolashak Program. During the program, a general introduction to Akdeniz University was provided to the scholarship recipients who started their internships in the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Commenting on the matter, our Coordinator Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan stated, "The Bolashak Program (Bolashak International Scholarship) is a scholarship provided by Kazakhstan, covering all expenses for students to study abroad on the condition that they return to Kazakhstan upon completion of their studies. Since 1993, more than 15,000 individuals have been awarded this scholarship." Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan also mentioned that besides Kazakh students enrolled in graduate programs, individuals working in different fields could also benefit from this scholarship.





Prof. Dr. Turhan emphasized the importance of promotional efforts to enhance the international visibility of Akdeniz University and attract a greater number of visiting researchers. He stated, "As the International Relations Office, we have been promoting international scholarship opportunities for about two years through information sessions, our website, and social media channels. In this regard, we are actively working to attract more Bolashak Scholarship recipients, one of the most prestigious scholarship programs in the region, to choose our university. We engage with authorities in Kazakhstan to promote our programs and guide prospective candidates to relevant academic contacts."

Expressing satisfaction with the growing interest in Akdeniz University at the international level, Prof. Dr. Turhan said, "As a result of these efforts, we are pleased to note that Akdeniz University is the most sought-after Turkish university among scholarship recipients who choose an educational institution in Turkey. Such educational collaborations are of great importance for further strengthening the relationship between our two countries. In this context, we recently organized a Welcome Dinner and Orientation Program for the scholarship recipients who started their internships in the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. We listened to the views and requests of our Kazakh interns, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to them once again to Turkey and Akdeniz University."



**OUR BOLASHAK SCHOLARSIPS ARE EXPERIENCING THE PRIVILEGE OF
BEING PART OF AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY.**



Akdeniz University became the most requested Turkish University by students in Kazakhstan within the scope of Bolashak International Scholarship Programme in Kazakhstan. Students expressed that receiving education at Akdeniz University is a privilege for them.

Being the most requested Turkish university by Kazakhstani scholarship holders, Akdeniz University continues to be a favorite among international students due to its quality education, social and cultural opportunities, and its campus of exceptional beauty. Within the scholarship program, students and interns from Kazakhstan receive theoretical and practical education in various departments of Akdeniz University.

Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, the Coordinator of the International Relations Office at Akdeniz University, stated that they are continuing their efforts to attract more Bolashak scholars to Akdeniz University, which is one of the most prestigious scholarship programs in their region. Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan also emphasized the significant importance of such educational collaborations in further strengthening the relations between the two sister countries.

Scholarship holders who stated that studying at Akdeniz University is a privilege for them also noted that being associated with Akdeniz in their future careers will greatly contribute. Scholarship holders shared their satisfaction with Akdeniz University through a video they prepared, where they narrated their experiences at the university. The video has been made available for viewing on student accounts based in Kazakhstan.

WE ORGANIZED ERASMUS DAYS PROGRAMME



Erasmus Days is an event has been running since 2018 in order to celebrates the Erasmus + Programme as a whole. The event celebrates the programme's success and showcases the benefits of the life-changing learning experiences it offers. This international celebration is based on a very simple concept: over three specific days, promote European values, mobility benefits and Erasmus+ project results, in order to boost visibility for citizens, stakeholders, media and policy makers. Our office celebrated this day enthusiastically by organizing various events within the scope of "Erasmus Days".



We held an information meeting as part of the events. Many students and academics attended this meeting.



ERASMUS+ DEPARTMENT COORDINATORS INFORMATION MEETING

First Erasmus+ Department Coordinators information meeting for 2023-2024 academic year, held online via Teams under the coordination of Our Coordinator, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan.



ERASMUS+ INFORMATION MEETINGS

Erasmus+ Information Meetings, which we hold every Friday in our Office regarding the implementation of Erasmus+ Program projects, continue. We would like to thank you to all our participants.



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME PROJECTS WORKSHOP



Within the scope of the Erasmus+ Programme, KA2/ESC 30 Project Writing Workshop was held by our office for the academic staff at our University between 18-22th December 2023. Our Coordinator Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan made the opening speech and pointed out the importance of international projects.

During the workshop, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramazan Eren, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rabia Bayındır and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zuhal Demir not only provide information on project writing but also gave details about each step of the application process on the sample form. The event attracted such great interest from academics that the event has been scheduled for one week.



**ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 2020 KA103 and
2021 KA131 PROJECTS COMPLETED**



In the Erasmus+ 2020 Project Period, our KA103 project witnessed participation in staff mobility for teaching activities by **23** individuals and staff mobility for training activities by **16** personnel. The project was successfully concluded in May 2023.

During the Erasmus+ 2021 Project Period, our KA131 project saw participation in staff mobility for teaching activities by **26** individuals and staff mobility for training activities by **32** personnel. The project was successfully closed in October 2023. The Erasmus+ staff mobility for teaching and training activities for the 2020 and 2021 project periods were completed successfully in 2023.

We would like to thank the participants and all our staff who contributed.



ERASMUS+ HIGHER EDUCATION MOBILITY (KA131) PROJECT MANAGEMENT MEETING



Our office was represented by Lecturer Bahar Şahin and Specialist Instructor Halime Nuran Caner at the Erasmus+ Higher Education Mobility (KA131) Project Management Meeting held at Afyon Kocatepe University on November 21-22, 2023.

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY PROJECTS (KA171) INFORMATION MEETING



Lecturer Dilek Hale Aybar and Ayşe Tuğcan participated to the "International Credit Mobility Projects (KA171) Information Meeting" organized by the Türkiye National Agency at Eskişehir Technical University in Eskişehir on November 23, 2023.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

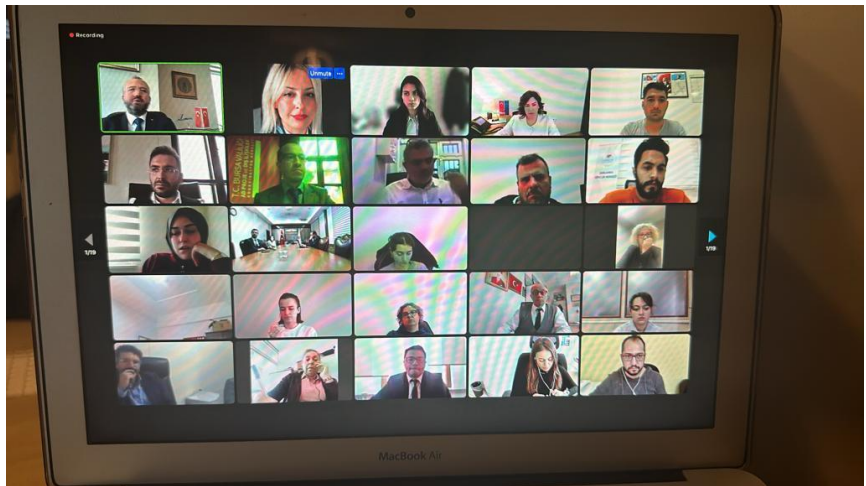


We attended the Erasmus+ Programme Advisory Committee Meeting on December 18, 2023, Monday. The Meeting was held with the participation of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and EU Presidency Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay and President of the Turkish National Agency Mr. İlker Astarıcı to

provide general assessments regarding the status of the Erasmus+ Program in our country in 2023, inform about the activities carried out by our Agency, gather opinions from Advisory Board members, and discuss proposed agenda items.

DISSEMINATION and EXPLOITATION of RESULTS (DEOR) MEETING FOR THE 2023 ERASMUS+ PROJECTS

We participated an online meeting for “The Dissemination and Exploitation of Project Results of the Erasmus+ Programme” was held in November 16, 2023. With DEOR Meetings, it is aimed to introduce the results of the projects carried out in our country to the institutions and



organizations that can benefit from these results. The concept of DEOR in Erasmus + Projects means that the project outputs are shared with a wide audience and the outputs are either implemented, support policymaking and / or serve as sources of inspiration for other projects.

VISIT of HEAD of ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN)

We came together with Emirhan Yılmaz, new head of ESN, for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. We held discussions about the activities and arrangements to be made within the scope of the Erasmus+ programme. As the International Relations Office, we wish him success in his new position.



WE ORGANIZED AN APPLIED TRAINING FOR ERASMUS+ PROGRAM DEPARTMENT COORDINATORS

Regarding the implementation of KA1 (131/171) projects in Akdeniz University, practical information on inter-institutional bilateral agreements, outgoing student mobility process (before-during-after), incoming student mobility process (in the Departments) was provided for Erasmus+ Program Unit / Department Coordinators working in the academic units of our University on 7-8-9 November 2023. The staff's questions on relevant issues were answered and their suggestions were taken into consideration. For staff who could not participate in it, the same study will be repeated every Friday between 22 December and 26 January 2024.

INCOMING STUDENTS WITHIN THE SCOPE of ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

2023-2024 Academic Year Fall Semester Erasmus+ Programme students started to arrive at Akdeniz University. We wish all our precious students success in their study period for the Erasmus Programme and thank them for being part of our Akdeniz University family.



INCOMING STUDENTS FROM KAZAKHSTAN WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE COOPERATION PROTOCOL



Within the scope of the Cooperation Protocol between our University and Satbayev University 3 incoming students completed their internship at the Institute of Science between the dates of 22 October and 4 November, 2023.

STUDENT CLUBS INTRODUCTION DAY

Our University's Directorate of Health, Culture, and Sports organized Student Clubs Introduction Days on October 24-25-26, 2023, at our university's Sevgi Yolu to explain the activities of student clubs and register new members. We visited the stand of our ESN (Erasmus Student Network) club, which was set up as part of this event.



VISITS OF ACADEMIC STAFF FROM ERASMUS+ PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Nelu Daniel Popa, Corina Mariana Arion, Attila Blenesi Dima, Iuliana Maria Popescu, and Mirela Codrea from the University of Life Sciences “King Mihai I” from Timisoara came to Akdeniz University to complete their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching and Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 16.10.2023 to 19.10.2023 at the Department of Agricultural Machinery and Technology and the Faculty of Agriculture. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Kürşat Çelik for his support in this mobility period.



Vilma Viliene, Monika Nutautaite, and Asta Raceviciute Stupeliene from the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences came to Akdeniz University to complete their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 12.10.2023 to 18.10.2023 at the Department of Animal Science and the Faculty of Agriculture. We are also pleased to host them at Akdeniz University for the second time. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burak Karacaören for his support in this mobility period.



Agnieszka Bukowska and Katarzyna Choros from Lublin University of Technology arrived to Akdeniz University to complete their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 17.10.2023 to 19.10.2023 at the Faculty of Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Prof. Dr. İzzet Ufuk Çağdaş for his support in this mobility period.

Antonino Maddonni and Flavio Danilo Maddonni from Conservatorio Di Musica Nino Rota arrived to Akdeniz University to complete their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 16.10.2023 to 24.10.2023 at the Antalya State Conservatory at the Department of Music. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Prof. Dr. Ceren Hepyücel and Assoc. Prof. Atahan Kaya for their support in this mobility period.



Aleksandar Atasanov from Trakia University arrived at Akdeniz University to complete his Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 23.10.2023 to 27.10.2023 at the Department of Fisheries and the Faculty of Fisheries. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Prof. Dr. Pınar Yerlikaya and Assist. Prof. Dr. Ferhat Çağıltay for their support in this mobility period.



Andrius Juskys from Vilniaus Kolegija Institution of Higher Education arrived at Akdeniz University to complete his Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 23.10.2023 to 27.10.2023 at the Faculty of Law. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Selin Sert Sütçü for her support in this mobility period.

Nicoletta Glanzner from Padagogische Hochschule Wien arrived at Akdeniz University to complete her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 26.10.2023 to 01.11.2023 at the Department of International Relations Office. We would like to thank Nicoletta Glanzner for her visit.



Vaclav Novak and Petr Sarec from Czech University of Life Sciences Prague arrived at Akdeniz University to complete their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 30.10.2023 to 03.11.2023 at the Department of Agricultural Structures and Irrigation and the Faculty of Agriculture. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Assist. Prof. Dr. Yasemin Tezcan and Assist. Prof. Dr. Cihan Karaca for their support in this mobility period.



Zülfukar Çetin from Evangelische Hochschule Berlin arrived at Akdeniz University to complete his Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 27.11.2023 to 08.12.2023 at the Department of Applied Research Center for Migration of Akdeniz University. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Prof. Dr. Erol Esen for his support in this mobility period.

Marek Andrzej Gaworski from Warsaw University of Life Sciences arrived at Akdeniz University to complete his Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2023-2024 Academic Year between the dates 11.12.2023 to 16.12.2023 at the Department of Agricultural Machinery and Technology Engineering. We would like to thank our related Erasmus Department Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. H. Kürşat Çelik and Prof. Dr. Davut Karayel for their support in this mobility period.







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