



Akdeniz University International Relations Office (IRO)

Newsletter

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Akdeniz University International Relations Office



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December 2025, Issue 49

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings from the 49th issue of the Newsletter of the International Relations Office (IRO).

I would like to begin my remarks with a piece of positive news from our internationalization efforts, which we have accelerated under the leadership of our Rector, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan. A Protocol on the Establishment of “Regulation On Joint Education and Training Programs Between Turkish Higher Education Institutions and Higher Education Institutions Abroad” has been signed between Akdeniz University and the Azerbaijan Sports Academy. While a joint program had previously been conducted at the graduate level, this protocol holds particular significance as it constitutes our University’s first international joint undergraduate program. Students graduating from this joint program will be awarded two separate and independent bachelor’s diplomas of a dual (double) nature—one from Akdeniz University and the other from the Azerbaijan Sports Academy. In order to establish International Double/Joint Degree Programs, our Office organizes informational meetings, manages the relevant processes, and provides support to academic units. We will continue to hold exploratory meetings aimed at developing international joint/double degree programs at various levels and across different disciplines.

Our University has been accepted as a member of The Union of Turkic Universities (TÜRKÜNİB), to which our application was submitted under the coordination of our Office, thereby strengthening academic solidarity within the Turkic world. Membership in international organizations, one of the most significant dimensions of internationalization, enhances both the academic cooperation and international visibility of our University. Another important development associated with this membership is that it has enabled us to initiate the Orhun Exchange Program, which facilitates student and academic staff mobility among member state universities in the Turkic world. I sincerely hope that this membership will be beneficial and auspicious for both our University and our country.

In this issue, we have also included news regarding our University’s achievements in international university ranking organizations, as well as information about incoming and outgoing students and visitors from higher education institutions across various regions of the world.



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In the final issue of our 2025 e-Bulletin, to provide a general evaluation of our Office's activities: as is well known, our Office strives to achieve the internationalization goals defined in the Strategic Plan through the international activities carried out by our University's academic units. By appointing deputy administrators responsible for internationalization within the International Relations Office and our academic units, as well as coordinators at the department/program level, our organizational structure has been fully established.

In parallel with the activities of the Akdeniz University International Relations Office, our University has continued to rank highly in the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) Monitoring and Evaluation Reports (2023 and 2024) in recent years. According to the data presented in the "YÖK University Monitoring and Evaluation General Report-2025," Akdeniz University ranked third among Turkish state universities in 2025 in terms of both outgoing and incoming academic staff within the scope of exchange programs, owing to its strong performance in international academic mobility. Furthermore, it ranked ninth among Turkish state universities in terms of the number of students sent abroad within the framework of exchange programs.

As the International Relations Office, we continued our activities over the past year in line with the internationalization objectives set both by the Council of Higher Education and our University. In this context, while striving to carry out all procedures related to the programs conducted under the responsibility of our Office—such as the Erasmus+ Program, Bilateral Cooperation Agreements (MoU), the Free Mover Program, the Bolashak Scholarship, and the IAESTE Internship Program—in a complete and meticulous manner, we also organized numerous face-to-face training programs on Erasmus+ KA2 and KA107 Projects, with the aim of enabling a greater number of our academic staff to benefit from international opportunities. In addition, we promoted international scholarship and internship programs such as Jean Monnet, Fulbright, DAAD, and Chevening, thereby supporting a large number of our students and academic staff in benefiting from international opportunities.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere wishes that the year 2026 will be a prosperous and successful one for all our students, academics, and partners.

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

A PROTOCOL on the ESTABLISHMENT of a INTERNATIONAL JOINT UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM BETWEEN AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTY and THE AZERBAIJAN SPORTS ACADEMY



A protocol on the Establishment of “Regulation On Joint Education and Training Programs Between Turkish Higher Education Institutions and Higher Education Institutions Abroad” has been signed between Akdeniz University and the Azerbaijan Sports Academy. The protocol, prepared as a result of approximately one year of work carried out under the coordination of our Office, is distinguished as the first International Double Diploma Program established at the undergraduate level by our University.

The signing ceremony, held in the Senate Hall of Akdeniz University, was attended by the Rector of Akdeniz University, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan; the Rector of the Azerbaijan Sports Academy, Prof. Dr. Fuad Hacıyev; Vice Rector of the Azerbaijan Sports Academy, Prof. Dr. Ülkər Babayeva; Vice Rector of Akdeniz University, Prof. Dr. Cengiz Toker; Dean of the Faculty of Sport Sciences Prof. Dr. Tennur Yerlisu Lapa; Vice Deans of the Faculty of Sport Sciences, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Yıldız and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neşe Toktaş; Coordinator of the International Relations Office, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan; and International Joint and Double Degree Coordinator, Lecturer Emel Aktaş.

At the signing ceremony, our Rector Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan stated: “Since the first day we assumed office as Akdeniz University, we have signed protocols to enhance our academic relations both nationally and internationally. Today, we are signing this protocol with the Azerbaijan Sports Academy, a deeply rooted and esteemed university of our brotherly country, Azerbaijan. With this protocol, the sharing of educational quality between the universities of the two countries will be strengthened, and our students will have the opportunity to develop themselves within different countries, universities, and education systems.” Rector Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan also expressed her wish that the signed protocol would contribute to the greater presence of the flags of Türkiye and Azerbaijan in international organizations, particularly the Olympic Games.



Rector of the Azerbaijan Sports Academy, Prof. Dr. Fuad Hacıyev, stated: “We feel as if we are in our own country. We are proud and happy to have realized this protocol with Akdeniz University. Students of both of our universities will have the opportunity to improve themselves and become more effective and competent in their respective fields. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the signing of this protocol.”

In his evaluation on the matter, our Office Coordinator, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, stated that within the scope of our internationalization efforts, which have gained momentum under the leadership of our Rector, our Office organizes informational meetings, manages processes, and provides support to academic units in order to establish International Joint/Double Degree Programs. As a result of effective planning and implementation throughout this process, the Protocol on the Establishment of an International Joint Undergraduate Education and Training Program in the Field of Coaching Education between Akdeniz University and the Azerbaijan Sports Academy was signed in 2025. It is planned to commence student admissions in the 2026/2027 Academic Year. This protocol holds particular significance as it represents our University’s first international joint undergraduate program. In addition, exploratory meetings aimed at establishing international joint/double degree programs at different levels and across various programs are ongoing.



With the protocol signed regarding the scope and implementation of the International Joint Undergraduate Education and Training Program to be carried out in the field of Coaching Education between Akdeniz University in Türkiye and the Azerbaijan Sports Academy, the language of instruction of the joint program will be Turkish at Akdeniz University and Azerbaijani Turkish at the Azerbaijan Sports Academy.

The parties will exchange student information and official transcripts of those who fulfill the academic requirements of both universities and qualify for graduation. Students graduating from the joint program will be awarded two separate and independent bachelor's diplomas of a dual (double) nature—one from Akdeniz University and the other from the Azerbaijan Sports Academy.

The protocol will enter into force upon approval by the Council of Higher Education and the authorized bodies of the parties and will remain valid for a period of five years. It has been signed in two original copies in Turkish and Azerbaijani Turkish, with all texts being equally valid.

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY HAS BECOME A MEMBER OF THE UNION OF TURKIC UNIVERSITIES (TÜRKÜNİB)



The 8th General Assembly of the Union of Turkic Universities was held under the hosting of Tashkent International University. During the assembly, which brought together more than 70 university rectors, academics, and representatives from across the Turkic world, significant decisions were taken to strengthen cooperation in the field of higher education.

Within the scope of the General Assembly, Akdeniz University's membership in the Union of Turkic Universities was officially approved. Thus, Akdeniz University has become a member of this important union, which enhances academic solidarity within the Turkic world.

At the General Assembly, it was also decided to admit 62 new universities as members of TÜRKÜNİB. With this development, the total number of member universities in the union reached 172. Among the decisions taken were the establishment of a dedicated fund for the Orhun Exchange Program and the strengthening of TÜRKÜNİB's institutional structure.

Our Rector, Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, in her statement on the matter, emphasized that our University attaches great importance to participation in international associations. In this context, our University became the first Turkish university to join the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) in 2024. It has also been a full member of the European University Association (EUA) since 2010. She further stated: “With the objective of strengthening academic solidarity within the Turkic world, Akdeniz University’s membership in this strong union will contribute to the education of generations with a high awareness of shared identity, grounded in the common historical, cultural, and linguistic heritage of Turkic states, and aligned with contemporary, scientific standards of education.”

Our Office Coordinator, Prof. Dr. İrfan Turhan, stated: “One of the most important dimensions of internationalization is increasing both the academic cooperation and international visibility of our University through membership in international organizations. In this regard, we continue our efforts with great commitment. We hope that this membership will be beneficial and auspicious for both our University and our country.”



FULBRIGHT MASTER'S and DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS INFORMATION MEETING

Within the scope of its internationalization activities, the International Relations Office of Akdeniz University continues its efforts to promote international scholarship and internship opportunities to students of Akdeniz University.

In this context, a seminar on the Fulbright Master's and Doctoral Scholarships was held on Monday, 22 December 2025 at 13:30 at the Conference Hall of the Faculty of Communication, with the participation of Irem Arıcan Yiğit, Coordinator of the Türkiye Fulbright Education Commission in Ankara, under the coordination of our International Relations Office.

During her informative presentation, Irem Arıcan Yiğit provided detailed explanations regarding the eligibility criteria of the scholarship, required documents, and the application process.



In the program, our master's student Efe Deniz, who successfully applied for the Fulbright Scholarship last year and became a Fulbright scholar, also shared his experiences. He stated that he initially had reservations about applying, but that the officials were very supportive throughout the application process, and he provided valuable insights regarding the interview stage and obtaining admission from universities in the United States. The program concluded with a question-and-answer session. The seminar was moderated by Lecturer Emel Aktaş, Coordinator of International Scholarships and Opportunities at the International Relations Office.



AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY RANKED AMONG THE TOP 300 in the TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE RANKINGS

Akdeniz University has achieved a significant success by ranking among the world’s leading universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) 2026 Interdisciplinary Science Rankings, with a position in the 251–300 band.

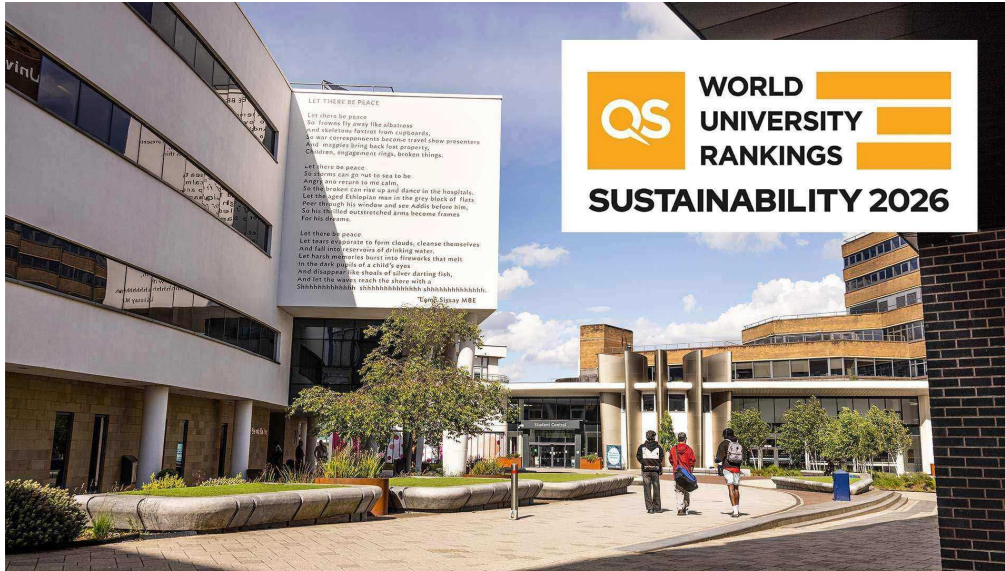
The Times Higher Education (THE), one of the most prestigious higher education ranking organizations in the world, has published the “2026 Interdisciplinary Science Rankings.” In the ranking, which evaluated 911 universities worldwide, Akdeniz University was placed in the 251–300 band globally. Among 82 Turkish universities included in the ranking, Akdeniz University ranked 16th overall and 13th among Turkish state universities.

Launched for the first time in 2025 by THE, this ranking assesses university performance under three main dimensions—inputs (19%), process (16%), and outputs (65%) through 11 indicators. In the inputs category, the proportion of funding allocated to interdisciplinary research and industry support adjusted per staff member are taken into account. In the process component, universities are required to provide verifiable evidence regarding infrastructure, administrative support, performance metrics, and promotion and appointment policies. In the outputs category, interdisciplinary publication volume and share, the impact of publications across different fields, field-weighted citation performance, and institutional reputation based on researcher surveys are evaluated, providing a comprehensive measurement of institutions’ productivity and impact in this area.

Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026

Powered by 

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY HAS ACHIEVED a SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS by BEING INCLUDED for the FIRST TIME in the 2026 QS SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS PUBLISHED by QS



The 2026 QS Sustainability Rankings, which require institutions to meet specific analytical thresholds for inclusion, consist of three main categories: Environmental Impact, Social Impact, and Governance. Each category is assessed through its own indicators, and an overall ranking is derived from the combination of these three dimensions.

Akdeniz University, being included in the QS Sustainability Rankings for the first time in 2026, has achieved a notable success. The University ranked 850th globally among 2,001 institutions, 282nd in Asia, 60th in Western Asia, 15th in Türkiye overall, and 12th among Turkish state universities. In particular, Akdeniz University demonstrated a strong performance in the Governance category, ranking 7th in Türkiye, thereby reflecting its commitment to sustainability and institutional governance.

In the global rankings, Akdeniz University was placed 850th overall among 2,001 universities. By category, it ranked 828th in Environmental Impact, 1,136th in Social Impact, and 452nd in Governance.

In the Asian rankings, among 851 universities, Akdeniz University ranked 282nd overall, 291st in Environmental Impact, 368th in Social Impact, and 113th in Governance.

In the Western Asia rankings, among 169 universities, it ranked 60th overall, 67th in Environmental Impact, 76th in Social Impact, and 19th in Governance.

In Türkiye, among 52 universities, Akdeniz University ranked 15th overall, 18th in Environmental Impact, 23rd in Social Impact, and 7th in Governance.

For the related video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgZvVk8Zqjw>

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY IS RISING in GLOBAL RANKINGS with ITS RESEARCH STRENGTH



Akdeniz University has once again demonstrated its scientific productivity at the international level by rising to 878th place worldwide and 15th place in Türkiye in the Leiden World University Rankings.

The results of the Leiden World University Rankings, prepared by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University in the Netherlands, have been announced. CWTS Leiden Ranking, one of the four global evaluation organizations recognized by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), assessed 1,594 universities this year. Among 45 Turkish universities included in the ranking, Akdeniz University achieved a remarkable improvement, rising from 912th to 878th place globally in terms of scientific impact, and from 17th to 15th place in the national ranking.

In the field-based rankings covering five broad disciplines, Akdeniz University also demonstrated strong performance. Based on scientific impact indicators, it ranked 6th in Türkiye in Life and Earth Sciences, 8th in Social Sciences and Humanities, 12th in Biomedical and Health Sciences, 17th in Mathematics and Computer Sciences, and 31st in Physical Sciences and Engineering.

The CWTS Leiden Ranking evaluates universities based on Web of Science data, using indicators such as scientific impact, international and industry collaboration, open access, and gender distribution.

AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY ADVANCED 119 PLACES in UI GREENMETRIC RANKINGS



Akdeniz University has risen by 119 places in the UI GreenMetric 2025 rankings, one of the world's most prestigious sustainability indices, reaching 424th place worldwide.

The UI GreenMetric, an international ranking system that evaluates the sustainability performance of universities based on comprehensive environmental criteria such as infrastructure, energy, water management, waste, transportation, and education, has released its 2025 results. In the UI GreenMetric 2025 World University Rankings, 1,745 universities from 105 countries were evaluated. According to the results, Akdeniz University achieved a remarkable success by climbing 119 positions and ranking 424th in the world.

In line with its commitment to a more environmentally conscious and sustainable campus, Akdeniz University further demonstrated its global competitiveness by ranking 145th worldwide among universities with campuses larger than 1,750,000 m², and 214th among universities with a campus population exceeding 15,000 students.



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME HIGHER EDUCATION MOBILITY MEETING (INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY - KA171)



Akdeniz University was represented by Lecturer Dilek Hale Aybar at the “Erasmus+ Program Higher Education Mobility Meeting (International Credit Mobility - KA171)”, which was held on October 16, 2025, hosted by Ankara University and organized by the Turkish National Agency, with the participation of representatives from approximately 150 universities.

The meeting focused on explaining the principles of project management and sharing best practices and experiences.



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME KA131 ve KA171 PROJECTS INCOMING STAFFS



Marek Szczęsny from the University of Warmia and Mazury completed his Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 22.10.2025 - 24.10.2025 at the Department of Painting and the Faculty of Fine Arts. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Painting Department, Lecturer Efe Sembol, for his support in this mobility period.

Muza Kirjusina, Jelena Kirilova, and Sergejs Osipovs from the Daugavpils University completed their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching and Natalja Osipova completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 03.11.2025 - 07.11.2025 at the Department of Chemistry and the Faculty of Sciences. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Chemistry Department, Prof. Dr. Pınar Çamurlu, for her support in this mobility period.



Klemen Bohinc and Rajko Vidrih from the University of Ljubljana completed their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 17.11.2025 to 21.11.2025 at the Department of Horticultural Science and the Faculty of Agriculture. We would like to thank the Dean of the Agriculture Faculty, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Erkan and the Erasmus Coordinator of the Horticultural Science Department, Prof. Dr. Songül Sever Mutlu, for their support in this mobility period.



A Ines Maria Simbrig from UMIT TIROL – Private University of Health Sciences and Health Technology completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 24.11.2025 - 28.11.2025 at the Department of Gerontology and the Faculty of Health Sciences. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Gerontology Department, Prof. Dr. Musfata Cihan Camcı, Prof.

Dr. Gülüşan Özgün Başbüyük, and Prof. Dr. Hasn Hüseyin Başbüyük, for their support in this mobility period.

Kristina Varlid from Stichting Hanzehogeschool Groningen - Prins Claus Conservatorium completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 08.12.2025 - 10.12.2025 at the Department of Music and the Antalya State Conservator. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Music Department, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atahan Kaya, for his support in this mobility period.

Florin Prunar, Silvia Prunar, Ciprian Stroia, and Lucretiu Dumitrie Dancea from the University of Life Sciences “King Michael I” from Timisoara completed their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 08.12.2025 - 11.12.2025 at the Department of



Agricultural Economics and the Faculty of Agriculture. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Agricultural Economics Department, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahmiye Figen Ceylan, for her support in this mobility period.



Mihaela Ribicic Penava from Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 03.11.2025 to 07.11.2025 at the Department of Mathematics and the Faculty of Science. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Mathematics Department, Research Assistant Dr. Murat Karaçayır, and Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Şimşek, for their support in this mobility period.



Miroslava Kolyandova from National Sports Academy (NSA) “Vassil Levski” completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Training in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 22.12.2025 - 26.12.2025 at the Department of Coaching Education and the Faculty of Sport Sciences. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Coaching Education Department, Lecturer. Nihat Ayçeman, for his support in this mobility period.

Cynthia Marie Thornton, from the University of South Florida, completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching within the scope of the KA171 Project in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 21.11.2025 - 30.11.2025 at the Department of Guidance and Psychological Counselling and the Faculty of Education. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Guidance and Psychological Counselling Department, Prof. Dr. Sakine Gülfem Çakır, and Lecturer Dr. Seval Apaydın, for their support in this mobility period.



Özden Sungur, from Huron University College, completed her Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching within the scope of the KA171 Project in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 30.10.2025 - 14.11.2025 at the Department of Urban and Regional

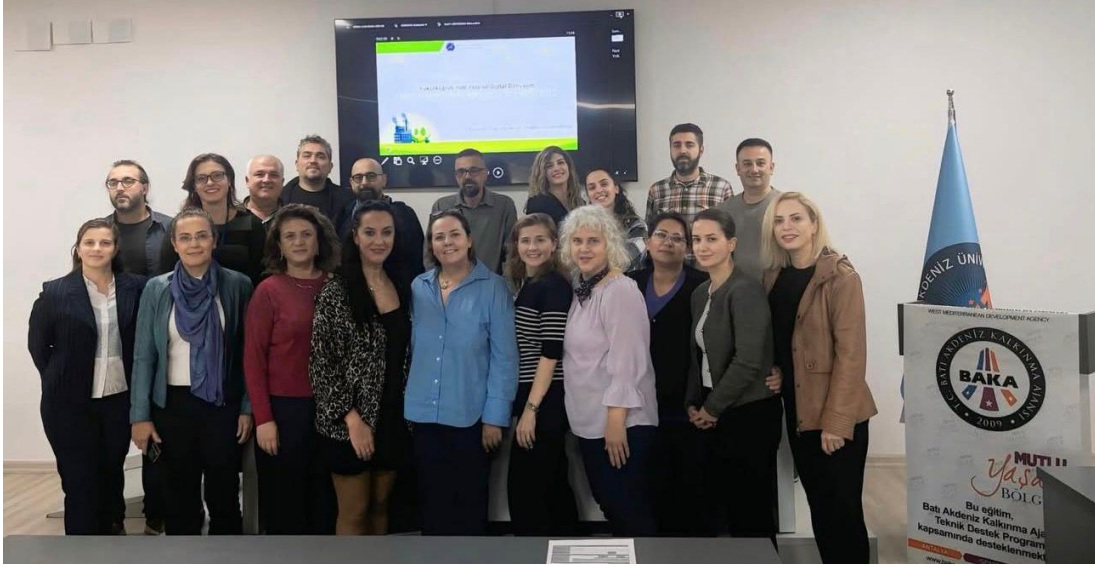


Planning and the Faculty of Architecture. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Urban and Regional Planning Department, Prof. Dr. Hilal Erkuş, for her support in this mobility period



The Rector of the Comrat State University, Serghei Zaharia, and Vladlena Lisenco from the University of Comrat State completed their Erasmus+ Staff Mobility for Teaching within the scope of the KA171 Project in the 2025-2026 Academic Year between the dates 06.10.2025 - 10.10.2025 at the Department of Law and the Faculty of Law. We would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator of the Law Faculty, Asst. Prof. Cem Ümit Beyoğlu, Prof. Dr. Nedim Yüzbaşıoğlu from the Tourism Faculty, and Lecturer Metehan Yaykaşlı from the Vocational School of Finike for their support in this mobility period.

WE PARTICIPATED in the PROJECT TRAINING TITLED “GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION in HIGHER EDUCATION: AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE and CLIMATE-FRIENDLY CAMPUS”



In support of our university’s sustainability vision, the International Relations Office participated in the first training session of the project titled “Green and Digital Transformation in Higher Education: Akdeniz University Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Campus,” held between 27 November and 3 December 2025, organized by the Institutional Research and Data Management Coordination – Sustainability Office with the support of the Republic of Türkiye Western Mediterranean Development Agency (BAKA).

The aim of the event was to provide training and consultancy programs for administrative staff to contribute to operational practices, reporting, policy development, and process improvement efforts within our university’s green transformation process.

Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills in areas such as carbon footprint, waste management, sustainable transportation, environmental policies, and institutional sustainability reporting.

WE ORGANIZED THE IAESTE CANDIDATE STUDENT INFORMATION MEETING for the 2025–2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



The 2025-2026 Academic Year IAESTE Candidate Student Information Meeting was organized by Ayşe Tuğcan, the IAESTE Representative of our office, on Friday, December 19, 2025, between 15:00 and 17:00. The meeting took place at the International Relations Office Meeting Hall, located on the 6th floor of the Rectorate Building. During the session, candidate students were provided with comprehensive information regarding the required documents, application procedures, and process stages.

INTERNATIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY OUR ACADEMIC UNITS IN 2025 WITHIN THE SCOPE OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

The management and organizational structure of internationalization processes at the University has been defined. This structure supports the implementation of the University's internationalization policy. Decisions related to internationalization are implemented by taking into account the University Strategic Plan, national/international ranking organizations (THE, QS, ARWU), policy and strategy documents, YÖKAK institutional accreditation criteria, and research-oriented university criteria.

In this context, regular meetings are held at the International Relations Office (IRO) at least once a month, and decisions are recorded in accordance with quality standards. Similarly, based on feedback obtained from studies/surveys conducted with department/program coordinators and external advisors, necessary measures are taken and activities are improved.

As stated in the University's objectives, coordination is carried out with the aim of "becoming a preferred university in research at the international level, a model in the country, and a leader in the region," and "increasing the recognition of our country and our university in

academia

through



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internationally collaborative projects, high-quality publications, and bilateral agreements.” In this context, the IRO aims to promote an internationalization culture from the bottom (unit/department/program) to the top (senior management).

In order to conduct international activities, the IRO employs 12 expert staff members. In addition, within the scope of international exchange programs (Erasmus+, Mevlana, Free Mover, Cooperation Programs), a total of 430 departmental/program coordinators have been appointed across academic units. The activities carried out by the IRO are reflected in the units, and restructuring within the units has also been ensured.

In many faculties, International Relations Coordinatorships similar to the central International Relations Office have been established. For example, similar to previously established structures in the Faculty of Sport Sciences and the Faculty of Law, in 2025 an “Internationalization Coordinatorship” was established within the Antalya Conservatory for the implementation of internationalization activities, and it has been published on the unit’s official website.

Many faculties monitor and publish their internationalization performance annually. For example, the Faculty of Nursing submits reports on the extent to which its internationalization targets have been achieved to the Dean’s Office every six months through the Faculty Quality Management Commission. The Faculty of Education has also organized a meeting on research university goals, student and staff mobility, and curriculum update processes from an internationalization perspective, and a final report has been published.

Within the Faculty of Letters, the “German Studies Research and Application Center” (Almarum) continues its activities. This center is the first research center of its kind established among Turkish universities under this name and purpose. It has defined its scope of work, published it on its website, conducted international activities in 2025 in line with its objectives, and disseminated all activities through e-bulletins on its website.

A quality meeting was held in 2025 to evaluate the current state of internationalization processes and their development within the Faculty of Education. In this meeting, comparisons were made with Faculties of Education of internationally recognized universities; the research university goal, student and staff mobility, and curriculum update processes were addressed from an internationalization perspective. These evaluations demonstrate that internationalization processes are handled at the managerial level and are associated with a quality assurance approach.

In addition to EU, TÜBİTAK, and other projects carried out or participated in by faculty members, internationalization funding can also be obtained from various other sources. For example, the three-year academic collaboration project titled “New Perspectives in German-Turkish Germanistics Studies (Pader-Akdeniz-Marmara),” signed between Paderborn University (Germany) and Akdeniz University within the Faculty of Letters, is currently in its second cycle and is fully funded under the DAAD “Lehramt International” program.

WITHIN THE SCOPE OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2026
OBJECTIVE 5.1: INCREASING INTERNATIONALIZATION CAPACITY
ACTIVITIES AND IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Internationalization performance monitoring mechanisms and processes at our University are established, sustainable, and supported by documented improvement actions. Internationalization management performance is monitored in line with the University Strategic Plan, YÖK University Monitoring and Evaluation indicators (C. Internationalization subcategories C.1–C.6), international indices (THE, QS, ARWU), and YÖKAK institutional accreditation criteria.

Across all strategic plans of our University, target sets have been developed, monitored, and improved regarding student and staff mobility, the number of international students, and cooperation agreements with high-quality educational and research institutions.

Within the 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, under Objective 5.1 “Increasing Internationalization Capacity,” the following activities are reported:

PG 5.1.1 Student mobility (incoming/outgoing students)

The number of incoming and outgoing students within exchange programs was 490 in 2018, 377 in 2019, 116 in 2020, 121 in 2021, 224 in 2022, 316 in 2023, 346 in 2024, and 537 in 2025 (ongoing for the 2025–2026 academic year).

Erasmus mobility grants and quotas are determined and published by the Turkish National Agency (OD4). Although the Mevlana and Farabi Exchange Programs have been discontinued, the target in the Strategic Plan has been achieved through Erasmus+, Free Mover, and bilateral cooperation activities.

To ensure that students benefiting from international mobility do not lose credits, semester, or courses, continuous communication is maintained with relevant units and partner universities. Feedback is collected from students experiencing credit recognition issues, and corrective measures are implemented (such as revising or cancelling bilateral agreements or being more selective in new agreements).

Each year, events are organized within the scope of Erasmus+ Days to promote the program and foster interaction, primarily targeting incoming and outgoing students.

Key improvement measures include:

- Student selection is conducted according to Turkish National Agency criteria (e.g., additional points for earthquake victims and disabled students) to promote inclusiveness.
- Meetings are organized with departmental coordinators to increase the number and quality of bilateral agreements.
- Student affairs units must timely process course equivalencies and mobility data.
- Students should be required to submit presentations or reports after mobility (e.g., alumni sharing).
- Improvements in accommodation and foreign-language course offerings are needed to increase incoming student numbers.

- Foreign-language

course criteria are determined by Senate decision, and academic staff are encouraged through incentives.

- Staff with sufficient language proficiency should be encouraged to teach foreign-language courses.
- Information meetings on exchange programs and scholarships continue, with incentives (e.g., raffle prizes) to increase participation.
- Units should strengthen their websites and assign responsible personnel to improve visibility.

PG 5.1.2 Academic staff mobility

The number of incoming/outgoing staff was 9 in 2021, 86 in 2022, 178 in 2023, 121 in 2024, and 179 in 2025 (ongoing).

According to YÖK 2025 monitoring data, Akdeniz University ranked 3rd among Turkish state universities in terms of sending and receiving academic staff through exchange programs, and 9th in terms of student mobility.

Staff mobility is primarily conducted under Erasmus+ agreements, which require bilateral agreements. Increasing these agreements at the department level is essential to increasing mobility.

Key improvement measures include:

- Selection based on National Agency criteria ensuring inclusiveness.
- Incentives for academic staff to conduct research abroad.
- Internal presentations by outgoing staff.
- Strengthening unit-level visibility and information dissemination.

PG 5.1.3 Number of international students

The number of international students was 2050 (2019–2020), 2549 (2020–2021), 2179 (2021–2022), 2179 (2022–2023), 1872 (2023–2024), and 1580 (2024–2025).

The Strategic Plan target was 2600 (2022) and 2700 (2023). The target was achieved through cumulative figures and admissions.

International students are admitted via TR-YÖS (ÖSYM) and postgraduate quotas.

PG 5.1.4 Bilateral agreements with top 1000 ranked universities (THE, QS, ARWU)

The number of bilateral agreements (Erasmus+, Mevlana, bilateral cooperation) was 488 (2020), 460 (2021), 452 (2022), 547 (2023), 496 (2024), and 545 (2025).

Due to changes in partner universities' rankings and Erasmus institutional changes, numbers may vary; however, strategic targets have been achieved. Akdeniz University also receives cooperation requests from strong universities in Central Asia and the Caucasus, particularly in fields such as Fine Arts and Turkish Language and Literature, which are not always included in global ranking systems but are academically strong. Agreements are signed with such institutions, especially in the social sciences.

This area is fully authorized under the responsibility of the International Relations Office.



Happy
NEW YEAR
2026

We would like to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year for 2026, and offer you our most sincere regards.

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