



# Akdeniz University International Relations Office

## Newsletter

*[iro.akdeniz.edu.tr](http://iro.akdeniz.edu.tr)*



Akdeniz University International Relations Office



@AkdenizUni\_IRO

*December 2020, Issue 30*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear students, colleagues and partners around the world,

For the last year, humanity has been struggling with the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In order to prevent the spread and recognize the virus, many states have not opened their borders to foreigners unless required. Most people haven't even left their homes for a long time.



As in every field, this immobile environment has also negatively affected higher education. Trainings are conducted online and interaction between young people is provided by social tools.

University life is important for a youngster. Furthermore, it is a totally different experience for a university student to spend part of his/her university life in another country by participating in student exchange programmes. This abroad experience is not limited to education. Besides education, cultural interaction and getting to know new places and people is an important learning process for young people.

The expectation of the whole world is the invention of the savior vaccine at its soonest. With normalization process, universities will reopen their doors to students and exchange programmes will become the favorite of our students as they used to be.

As Akdeniz University family, we are preparing ourselves for normalization and looking forward to welcome our new guests with great enthusiasm in the near future.

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

## THE APPLICATION OF AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY FOR ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (ECHE) 2021-2027 HAS BEEN ACCEPTED

As Akdeniz University International Relations Office (IRO), we are proud to announce that the application of our university for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) for 2021-2027 Erasmus+ period has been accepted.



Prof. Dr. Özlenen Özkan, Rector of Akdeniz University, said of this achievement; “The application of our university for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) for 2021/2027 has been accepted with 100 full points by the European Commission. As a member of Erasmus+ Programme family, Akdeniz University is ready for new Erasmus+ projects, bilateral agreements and collaborations in order to increase the student and staff exchanges within the scope of the upcoming period of Erasmus+ Programme”.



AKDENİZ UNIVERSITY  
DÜMLÜPINAR BULVARI Kampus  
07058 ANTALYA  
TURKEY

**Subject: The European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport**  
**Call: EACEA-43-2020-1**  
**Project: 10101541 — AU**  
**Certificate award letter**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in connection with your application for the above-mentioned call.

Having completed the evaluation, we are pleased to inform you that your application has been positively evaluated and that your institution will be awarded the “ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION 2021-2027” quality certificate.

Please find enclosed the evaluation summary report (ESR) for your application.

⚠ Please note that this letter does **NOT** constitute any **commitment for funding**. EU quality certificates merely constitute a pre-requisite for being allowed to **apply** for funding under EU calls.

⚠ Please also note that compliance with the quality standards will be subject to regular monitoring, and that we reserve the right to **withdraw** the certificate in case of non-compliance.

Please be advised that you will be able to access your Erasmus Charter for Higher Education in all Erasmus+ Programme official languages in the following weeks. It will be uploaded on the Funding Portal account. We invite you to upload it visibly on your website.

For any questions, please contact us via your [Funding & Tenders Portal account](#).

Yours faithfully,  
Vanessa DEBLAIS-SAINTON  
Head of Unit

Enclosure: Evaluation summary report (ESR)

European Commission, B-1049, Brussels, BELGIUM

## PREPARATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Within the scope of the preparations of the Internationalization Strategy Document of Akdeniz University, a meeting was held with coordinators of the IRO on 5 November 2020, under the leadership of the Head of the International Relations Office Prof. Dr. Olgun Kitapcı.



During the meeting, Prof. Kitapcı said “Our university, which is located in a world city Antalya, has not been able to implement a strategic plan for internationalization in certain terms until today. As the International Relations Office, one of our main duties is to determine our internationalization model and our policies based on this model. With this model, we should spread the 3rd generation university philosophy to the entire university. What we plan to do here is not only to increase the number of student and staff exchange as it has been done to date, but also to increase the number of qualified publications and patents of the researches conducted by the foreign academic staff, whom we will host and the number and budget of international outsourced projects. Furthermore, we should aim to cooperate with international funds, which will generate income for our university. While carrying out all these tasks, we should not only aim for a quantitative increase in determining the higher education institutions we will cooperate with, but also for a qualitative increase by evaluating the qualitative performance of the institutions by taking into consideration of their THE and URAP performance. In this sense, International Relations Office has a lot of work to do. I sincerely believe that we will achieve all this, all together”.

As a result of the meeting, it has been decided to share the draft of the Internationalization Strategy Document with the academic units after the approval of the senior management and to finalize it with a participatory and democratic method after taking stakeholders opinions.

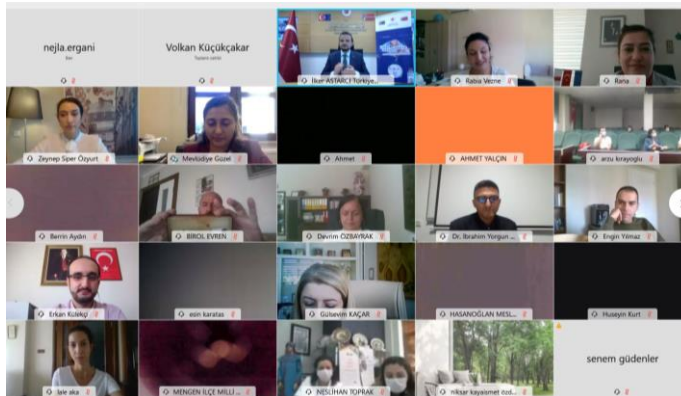
## “ERASMUS DAYS” EVENTS

On 15, 16 and 17 October 2020, 5.024 #ErasmusDays online events were held all around the world with the purpose of celebrating the benefits of the Erasmus+ Programme. More than 84 countries took part in the celebrations. As Akdeniz University, we took our place in the Erasmus Days events. The videos of feelings and thoughts of Erasmus beneficiaries and partners were shared online on our website and social media. Akdeniz University Antalya State Conservatory students’ musical performances were featured in the video.



## ERASMUS+ TALKS

Within the scope of #ErasmusDays, “Erasmus+ Talks”, which was organized by Turkish National Agency and Directorate for EU Affairs, was held online on 16 October 2020 with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı. The main purpose of the event was to give the institutions the opportunity of disseminating their projects and activities. EU Projects Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne attended the online event and presented detailed information about the projects carried out by Akdeniz University and the #ErasmusDays events organized by the IRO.



## PARTICIPATION IN THE TRT ANTALYA RADIO PROGRAMME

On 13 November 2020, EU Projects Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne attended the TRT Antalya Radio "Voice of the Mediterranean" programme in order to present information about the EU projects of our university and the #ErasmusDays events organized by Akdeniz University IRO.



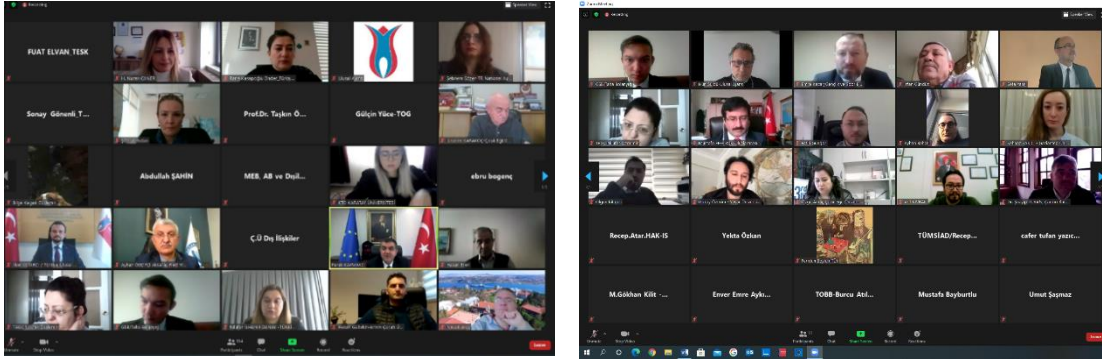
## ONLINE SEMINAR WAS HELD IN THE SCOPE OF THE ERASMUSDAYS EVENTS

An online seminar called "A World Apart: Advancing Online Learning and Assessment in Education: An International Seminar" was held on 16 October 2020. EU Projects Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne attended the seminar to disseminate information on Erasmus+ projects of Akdeniz University and give information about online learning.



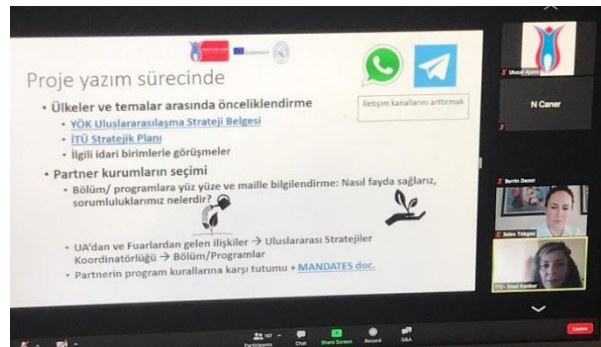
## PARTICIPATION IN THE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FOR 2020

With the participation of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı and the Director of the Turkish National Agency İlker Astarıcı, the Advisory Board Meeting was held online on 21 December 2020 in order to make a general evaluation of the year 2020 and to receive the expectations and evaluations of the board members regarding the upcoming term. In order to represent Akdeniz University, Head of the IRO Prof. Dr. Olgun Kitapçı and Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator H. Nuran Caner attended the online meeting of the Advisory Board, of which Akdeniz University is also a member.



## ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL CREDIT MOBILITY (KA107) PROJECT MANAGEMENT MEETING

With the participation of representatives from higher education institutions in Turkey, the project management meeting for Erasmus+ KA107 projects was held online by Turkish National Agency on 1 October 2020. Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator H. Nuran Caner and Erasmus+ Programme staff Derya Lökçü, Enes Bener and Özge Kaya attended the online meeting.



## **PARTICIPATION IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME YEAR-END MEETING**

With the participation of the representatives of higher education institutions in Turkey, Erasmus+ Higher Education Programme Year-End Meeting was held online by the Turkish National Agency on 30 December 2020. Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator H. Nuran Caner, Erasmus+ staff and Atahan Taşyürek who is responsible for IT attended the online meeting.



## **APPLICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME STAFF MOBILITY**

The applications for the 2020/2021 academic year Erasmus+ Programme Staff Teaching and Training Mobility were made between 2 November and 22 November 2020.

In accordance with the announcement of the results on our website, 24 staff for teaching mobility and 17 staff for training mobility were entitled to benefit from the programme.





### **EU PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE 2020 APPLICATION PERIOD**

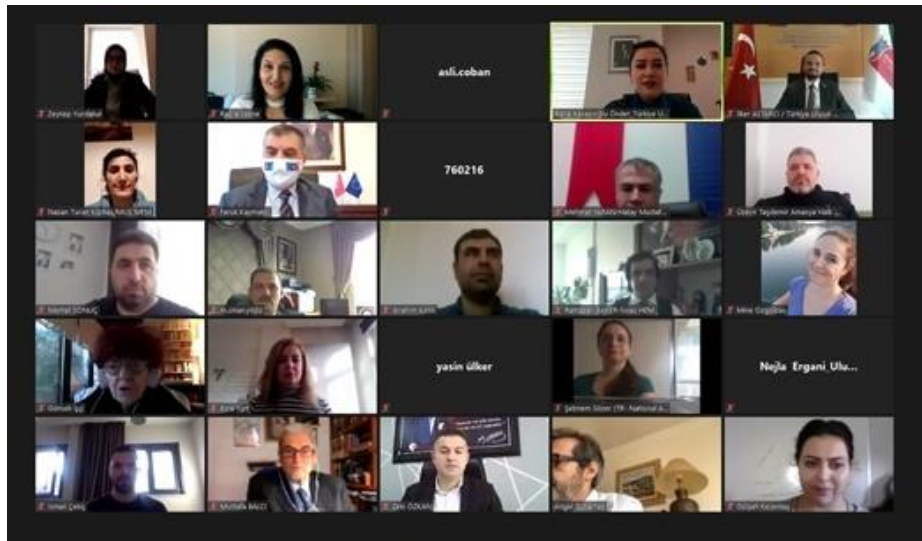
Within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme, “Digital Internationalization in Vocational Education – DIVE” Erasmus+ KA2 Digital Education Readiness Strategic Partnership Project (KA226), coordinated by Norwegian University of Science and Technology in partnership with Akdeniz University, has been funded by the Norwegian National Agency in the 2020 application period. We would like to congratulate and wish success to Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne, who will carry out the project in Akdeniz University.

In the 2020 application period, a total of 13 projects, of which our university is either a coordinator or a partner, were funded.



### **ONLINE DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF PROJECT RESULTS (DEOR) EVENT**

With the participation of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs Ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı and the Director of the Turkish National Agency İlker Astarçı, an online meeting for "The Dissemination and Exploitation of Project Results of the Erasmus+ Programme” was held on 4 December 2020 in order to disseminate Erasmus+ project results. Akdeniz University was represented by the Head of the IRO Prof. Dr. Olgun Kitapçı and EU Projects Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne in the online “DEOR” meeting which was attended by approximately 500 participants.



## ONLINE PROJECT MEETINGS OF THE “GUIA2” ERASMUS+ KA2 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

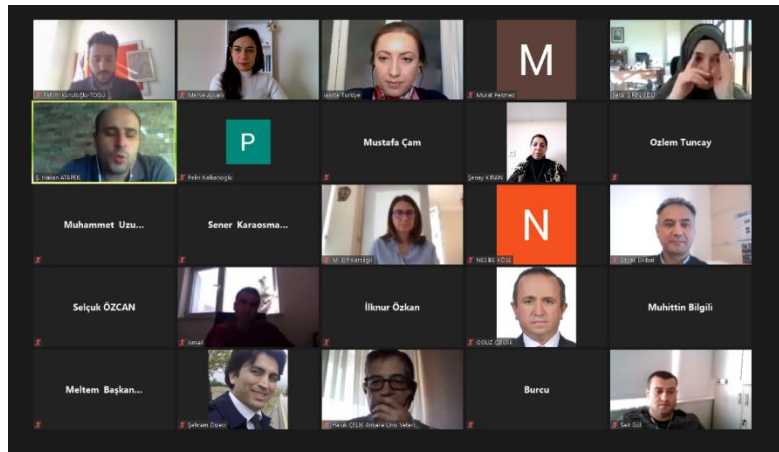


Two project meetings of the "GUIA2 (Guide Us Into Arts 2)" Project, Erasmus+ KA2 Adult Education Strategic Partnership Project in which Akdeniz University is the coordinator, and funded by the Turkish National Agency, was held online on the dates of 25 May 2020 and 21 October 2020.

Project coordinators from 7 partner institutions attended the meeting to discuss the COVID-19 period, activities to be planned and outputs to be prepared. Akdeniz University EU Projects Coordinator Asst. Prof. Dr. Rabia Vezne coordinated the online meeting.

## IAESTE TURKEY ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

IAESTE (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) Turkey annual representatives meeting was held online on 27 November 2020. IAESTE Representative of Akdeniz University Merve Ayvallı participated in the online meeting which was attended by 45 representatives from 30 universities.



## IAESTE APPLICATIONS FOR 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

The application process of the students who would like to benefit from the IAESTE (the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) programme was completed. The foreign language exams of the programme were held online in English and German languages in December 2020.



## MEVLANA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME PROTOCOLS



Within the scope of the Mevlana Exchange Programme, the protocol periods of 20 universities whose protocols with our university have expired, have been extended. In addition to that, new protocol signing process has been initiated with 12 universities from 4 different countries.

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We would like to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous  
New Year for 2021, and offer you our most sincere regards.

Akdeniz University  
International Relations Office



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### Editorial Board

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 **Erasmus+**

