

BAŞKENT UNIVERSITY ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Q 1

Please describe briefly your institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007 - 2013).

b) Please also provide information on the following points: What specific actions are planned to give visibility to Erasmus activities and what type of publicity will be given to the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS? What kind of arrangements, if any, does the Institution ensure to comply with non-discrimination objectives (e.g. actions related to gender equality, integration of disabled students and staff, enhancement of social and economic cohesion and combating of xenophobia and racism (3000)

Baskent University (BU) is the first Foundation University of Turkey generating science and service in health, encompassing numerous science fields with 11 faculties, 7 institutes, 11 research centers, a conservatory, and 3 vocational schools. The Faculty of Medicine contributes to national and international scientific community by diversified research facilities. Taking an operative role in scientific and technological progress, educating students, and offering high-quality education have always been among the fundamental objectives of the University. BU, which focuses on scientific research and production—perfecting learning and responding to the requirements of the community as its essential strategies—aims at being a leader in the higher education system with its various practices nationally and internationally. In the last four years, expanding the University's European linkages, bilateral and multilateral programs of mobility, participation in joint research projects together with partner European institutions has become a top priority for BU. Creating the European Space in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Process, enhancing administrative support for European Policy and activities, encouraging and sustaining institutional links with European Universities through projects and mobility facilities take place among the main objectives of BU. Moreover, encouraging mobility activities by providing information on advantages of cross border education, increasing the number of international students through participation in the LLP, supporting the European Higher Education Area with the effort of sustaining multicultural harmonization and developing common curricula by enhancing collaboration with the European partners also hold a place among the

fundamental objectives of the university. International Relations Coordination Office (IRCO) was established to provide guidance for the University community's participation in the EU's Framework Programmes as well as to facilitate its involvement in exchanges funded through LLP with a supply of expertise and know-how about the structure and procedures of these programmes. BU seeks to create an environment that welcomes students and academicians of all backgrounds with no distinctions based on national origin, ethnicity, gender, religion, or physical disability. We believe in the importance of effective research and education networks to share expertise and experience with other European institutions committed to the same challenging mission of the Bologna Declaration. The University bears full awareness of the importance of the Bologna Process and therefore the EPS is prepared in the Academic Assessment Coordination Office in consultation with Faculty LLP coordinators which was then approved by president of the University. Monitoring EPS implementation and any necessary revisions will be conducted by the Academic Assessment Coordination Office.

Q 2

Quality of academic mobility activities: What kind of specific measures are implemented in the institution to ensure high quality in academic mobility activities? Details should be provided on: recognition and credit systems, the provision of information on curricula, information and counseling of outgoing students, tutoring and integration of incoming students, provision of student services (in particular accommodation), preparatory and refresher language courses, support and acknowledgement of staff mobility.(2000)

BU advocates quality before quantity. More intensive relationship with a more limited number of partner institutions also makes it easier to promote and develop mobility. During the last four years the number of international institutions with which the University has active mobility agreements have increased sharply by 26 bilateral agreements with 9 European countries in 16 different subject areas. IRCO manages the coordination between the departments and the EU partners via the LLP Department Coordinators and set up the necessary structures to facilitate this communication. BU is planning to be a part of the European Higher Education Area by 2010. The full and efficient functioning of ECTS in the years ahead is another important priority of the University in the area of European cooperation. BU has completed its preparations for ECTS with the participation of all its departments according to the learning outcomes and student workloads. With the use of ECTS all outgoing/incoming students have full academic recognition after the exchange period. The University also prepared the diploma supplements in order to prepare a strong basis for full entry and successful implementation of the mobility action of LLP. To ensure high quality of mobility information will be

provided to all interested individuals via e-mail or personally by academic and administrative staff. The IRCO's main goal is to help incoming and outgoing students in adjusting to their new environment and Turkish culture by preparing orientation programs, intensive Turkish language courses, information booklets and tours of the university campus, assisting to find accommodation, promoting cultural and social activities as well as mobilizing Turkish study buddies as peers to host them. Information for incoming and outgoing students will be given directly in the web site that is updated regularly. Following the approval of the European Commission the EEUC and the EPS will be announced directly in the University web site.

O 3

Quality of student placement activities: What kind of specific measures are implemented to ensure high quality in student placements? Give details on how the work-programme and the placement agreements are prepared and implemented. Please describe the practical arrangements agreed between the parties. Please specify also the monitoring and evaluation of the placement(s) period as well as its recognition in the curriculum.2000

In several faculties like Engineering, Communication, Administrative and Economic Sciences, Commercial Sciences students have compulsory practical training courses in order to achieve their diplomas. Because of these curricula BU would like to be issued with Extended Erasmus University Charter. The curricula are updated periodically by academic staff due to the BU Total Quality Standards. BU students will be able to harmonize and utilize the most updated theoretical knowledge that they have gained throughout their education with their European experiences. In this way the students would find the opportunity to increase their employability in European space. Besides, incoming students would also find the opportunity to broaden their knowledge with the experience they gained in Turkish culture throughout their placements. The IRCO will be ready to answer to all technical and practical problems of the exchange students based on prior experience with other exchange schemes. As well as the student mobility, the placement will remain an important focus of the University's international programs. The IRCO works close with the faculty LLP coordinators provides fast and efficient dissemination of information to the students and the staff, and thereby contributing to the promotion of activities in the LLP. For both mobility and placement activities two different levels of preparation are planned. First the students will receive full academic support, recognition and guidance from their academic advisors. Secondly students will be prepared for their new European experience through "intercultural learning" training offered by IRCO. The office will approach to sign placement agreements with the best compatible

institutions/organizations, recommended by the academic advisors in the relevant subject areas. The placement activities will be monitored and evaluated through the placement reports of students and the feedback reports of the institutions and organizations.