

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

In order to complete this section, please refer to the instructions given below. Please note that your EPS shall be given wide visibility in your Institution and must be published on the web page of your Institution.

The EPS should set out the overall Erasmus co-operation strategy of your Institution in relation with its mission statement, underlying its Erasmus cooperation plan as well as any other activities to be proposed in the framework of the Life-long Learning Programme (LLP).

I

a) Please describe briefly (max 600 words) your Institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects and thematic networks) and any other actions in the context of the Life-long 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)?

Hacettepe University (HU), a comprehensive research institution with 31,000 students and 4000 teaching staff, has many research and educational collaborations with different countries in Europe, the United States of America, former countries of the Soviet Union, etc. With the onset of the Erasmus Programme in 2004 HU's internationalisation policy has gained a new dimension and acceleration which will continue into the 2007-2013 period.

The university's participation in the "Doctoral Programs Project", coordinated by the European University Association (EUA) and being in the process of the "Institutional Evaluation Programme" of the EUA, clearly demonstrates that the Erasmus Programme have boosted the spirit of internationalisation of the university community and European collaboration. The European dimension now has and will have a pivotal role in the internationalisation activities, and the Erasmus Programme is a crucial element within this framework.

The vice-rector for international cooperation, the EU office (which promotes the programmes as well as the Bologna process), and the Erasmus coordinators in each department will carry out intensive efforts. The visibility to the Erasmus activities will continue throughout the university. The EPS will be placed on the homepage of the university website.

Certain departments are partners in three Intensive Programs and five Thematic Networks in different disciplines. The Department of Social Work is taking part in a joint master's programme. The university will encourage departments to participate in multilateral projects and reflect the results in their curriculum development studies.

Within 3 years the number of outgoing students arose from 34 to 240; the number of incoming students from 6 to 43. The same increase is valid for teaching staff mobility.

Student mobility will remain an essential aspect of the Erasmus Programme. HU intends to balance the number of incoming and outgoing students.

The use of Erasmus funds will be used to stimulate the faculties, departments, and schools that have no Erasmus Bilateral agreements yet.

The emphasis will not be only to increase the quantity but also the quality of exchange. Since it is easier to reach workable agreements with a partner institution within a framework of a structured relationship, we plan to intensify our relationships with cooperating universities. Student placement will be the new area of cooperation with our partners. HU's commitment to high quality in exchange will also include this area.

The significant growth of Erasmus activities required the adoption of specific measures as well as the technical and administrative support. All units have supported Erasmus activities but there are still some intra-university administrative difficulties. HU plans to develop an advisory and consultation structure in technical and administrative support by written regulations.

The use of ECTS in academic recognition has a positive effect in curriculum development studies. According to the strategic plan of the university all the departments will place ECTS catalogues on their website by 2008. The education committee, a body responsible for the approval of new courses and curricula within the university also asks for ECTS credits in newly proposed courses and curricula.

The number of female students is 14,145 out of 31,000, which is a clear indicator of gender equality.

Equality, integration of disabled students, teachers, and administrative staff, enhancement of social cohesion and combating xenophobia and racism are highly respected at our institution. The disabled students' community regularly consult and give support to those students.

The EU Office will promote new programs and disabled students will be encouraged to participate in these programs.

Through the regularly updated website and e-mail group communications with Erasmus coordinators and incoming/outgoing students, the EU Office will continue to give high support to all parties in every aspect of the Erasmus programme.

box allows max 600 word

II

Quality of Academic mobility activities: (max 400 words)

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 counselling 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.

Student and teaching staff mobility are regarded with equal importance by HU. The 243 Erasmus bilateral agreements nearly all include both student and teaching staff mobility. We believe that mobility assists students to acquire essential competencies and contributes to their personal development and social inclusion. Teaching abroad is very important for its multiplying effect: it will enable teachers to provide a broader range of experiences to their students.

The regularly updated EU Office website, on the homepage of the university website, highly facilitates communication with all parties involved in Erasmus activities.

Comprehensive support services for incoming/outgoing students and teachers are provided not only by the EU Office but also by the Erasmus Coordinators at the departmental level.

Questionnaires are given to all incoming/outgoing students to solicit their observations, experiences, and criticisms.

Incoming students are accepted and treated as HU students. Accommodation is supplied to all incoming students. Each student is welcomed by a buddy at the arrival point and accompanied during the orientation period. The orientation programme, including Intensive Turkish language courses, Turkish cultural habits, is arranged for incoming students at the beginning of each semester.

Short trips are arranged to help develop intercultural communication skills. Meetings with the vice rector and Hacettepe students are arranged to get feedback about their learning, education, and cultural experiences.

The School of Foreign Languages offer Turkish language courses both semesters for beginning and intermediate levels. ECTS credits are given to students from those courses. The ECTS course catalogues are in use in all departments. University transcripts issued by the Registrars Office to all Erasmus students carry ECTS credit information.

HU supports outgoing students on exchange issues with personal counselling. Briefing and orientation programmes including language and cultural studies are provided before departure. Learning agreements contain ECTS credits and are applied for academic recognition.

Information and support about visa procedures and problems are also given.

HU is aware of the fact that when teachers in partner institutions know each other the mobility of students can be more fruitful. Teaching staff mobility may also be an important factor for new collaborations in education and research in the future. Due to that multiplying effect, teacher mobility is strongly encouraged.

Personal counselling is also provided to outgoing and incoming teaching staff. Incoming teachers are accepted as distinguished and they are welcomed to stay free of charge in our guest houses.

box allows max 400 words

III

Quality of Student placement activities: (max 400 words)

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

HU has been successful and involved more than 9 Leonardo da Vinci placement Projects to date. Involving partners in a total number of 12 other countries. HU was the coordinator institution 6 in of these projects.

Social Work, Physiotherapy, Radio/TV, Nursing, and Pharmacy departments have a history of successful management, control, and audit of Leonardo da Vinci projects. The EU Office is very effective in promoting, supporting, and managing EU projects.

Besides participating in various Leonardo da Vinci schemes, our Social Work department is very experienced in other international placement projects. The Social Work Department has strong relationships with NGO's in Ankara and finds host organisations for their partner schools' students' placements.

To be assured of high quality standards Social Work, Physiotherapy, Radio/TV, Nursing, and Pharmacy departments have committees composed of academic staff with international experience. The committees evaluate and monitor placements of incoming students. An academic staff member is appointed as an adviser to the incoming student placements.

Full recognition of study credits and approval of the placement period are done by the faculty or school board of faculty or school and registered by the Students' Affairs Office.

Moreover, specific arrangements for incoming students are prepared by the EU Office such as welcoming them at the arrival point, orientation programmes, Turkish Courses during their placements, accommodations, campus ID's and guidance.

HU intends to develop further cooperation under Leonardo da Vinci through the new Life Long Learning Programme.