

## *Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University*

### *Erasmus Policy Statement*

Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University aims to reach one of the top leading universities in the world in terms of teaching and research with the help of forming and developing its internationalisation strategies on the basis of cooperation with national and international institutions. With this respect, international and European partnerships and collaboration keeps an important place in development of our university. As a university taking part in Erasmus+ project for 16 years, KSU regularly promote exchange several students and staff to/from several European countries every year. Additionally, our university takes part in national and international education fairs in order to strengthen and develop new and already existing network of our institution. While choosing its partners, KSU takes several criteria into consideration such as common research and teaching interests, academic performance, technical quality and language ability.

Our institution guarantees to respect the equality and transparency criteria set out by the programme for selection of the participants of the projects. Therefore, there will be equal opportunity supplied by our university to participants coming from all kind of candidates without regarding gender, ethnicity, race, religion, nationality, social or economical backgrounds. Taking the Erasmus User's Guide rules into consideration, participants with disabilities are also promoted with additional points during selection process.

Erasmus exchange program is one of the most important parts of our university's internationalisation strategies as it enhances academic and professional development of the students and staff through mobility activities. Additionally, it promotes their career and helps their employment. Within this respect, KSU makes several attempts to increase the visibility of the programme in our city, region, country and in international platforms. Erasmus+ program is promoted at KSU through several ways. At regular intervals, Erasmus Office hold information meetings about the program for students, staff and departmental coordinators. All the information and developments about the program are announced at our website and other types of information sharing such as brochures, e-mails, announcements, meetings and activities are implemented.

KSU is determined to follow the principles of Erasmus User's Guide rules, taking the direction towards modern internal management and active promotion of the university, as well as increasing participation in international programmes and scientific initiatives of EU countries and fulfill and create international educational and scientific programmes. This strategic aim of the university conforms to the activities within the framework of Erasmus+ programme. These activities have supported the priority goals of the university for the years 2021-2027 aiming at greater internationalisation and have led to obtaining a European profile. Considering the above, the university still intends to make use of the innovative potential of the Erasmus programme and pursue the following priority goals:

- extending our cooperation scope with scientific centres at international level in order to make available the body of scientific work of other countries for our students and staff and allowing them to increase their qualifications,

knowledge and experience which are essential elements of a successful career, both at university and in the workplace.

- KSU will support the mobility initiatives of staff and students of all three study cycles to the institutions abroad through making use of the experience of international exchange programmes and appreciating fully the importance of the period of study/traineeship/practice realized abroad.
- KSU contemplates to extend the existent offered courses in foreign language and to develop already existing integrated curricula in order to execute the balance in exchange and to increase the mobility activities.
- KSU aims to increase the competitiveness of the university, students and staff in Turkish an international marketplace through Erasmus+ actions. Those actions will also put an effect on performance of our university and the cultural and economic development of our region and country by allowing the participants to use their full capacity of scientific potential and therefore it will increase the quality of education.

International research, lectures and publications abroad, as well as the ability to work in a multicultural environment are important criteria at KSU. The university also has several staff who have academic experience and scientific degrees at international universities from all over the world and we aim to increase the number of those staff. The most important aim in staff mobility exchange is to disseminate the academic achievement, to develop the education system through cooperation to develop common educational and research project and to benefit from knowledge and experience of the incoming staff. Another important aim of our university is to strengthen the quality of administrative issues through administrative staff mobility. Therefore, KSU will contribute to their adjustment skills for working in an international environment which meets flexibility, international and integration demands of the university in terms of all educational/scientific/administrative activities undertaken in international area along with the regional and global demands. For choosing the partners, effectiveness and quality factors in particular academic disciplines and developmental possibilities within Erasmus+ programme's key actions will be taken into consideration. Additionally, our research profile will be another criteria for developing cooperation with universities. Besides, KSU aims to reinforce actions which makes access of business people into scientific database and university's research outcomes possible. KSU constantly expands its offer of foreign language courses in order to create an integrated curriculum of courses in foreign languages for extending its internationalization. Those actions will result in developing double, multiple and joint degrees. Within this respect, KSU follows and takes part in preparatory visits, contact seminars and international meetings with an attempt to gain partners and candidates to study in the double, multiple and joint degree system.

KSU designates to support the organization and implementation of international cooperation projects in teaching and training within the scope of the programme. Within this respect, it is planned to several actions as follows:

- The most important priority of our institution will be to introduce innovational education solutions such as modern distance learning opportunities which is gaining

importance in global education each passing day, an advanced and effective technology platform for Erasmus without paper and to use modern information technologies that prepare the youth to enter the demanding job market.

- KSU will promote international cooperation projects in teaching and training in medicine, humanities, science and engineering in order to raise diversification and practical verification of the teaching and training offer.
- KSU will also develop and adopt a new system for concluding agreements in online platform in order to ensure transparency of the roles of the parties and conditions of financing. Therefore, these enterprises will promote student and staff mobility.
- Our university's existing system for disseminating information on projects available within the new programme period will also be enhanced. Within this respect, International Relations Office of our university will share regular information about available projects, will support departments during application and realization of the project and supports departmental research and international cooperation delegates who are responsible for management of the project and dissemination of its effects.
- Appropriate university authorities and subordinate units will be responsible for implementation and organization of international projects in order to evaluate and measure whether outcomes are sustainable and balanced. There will be an active digital platform for advertising results and effects of respective projects.

The envisaged impact of our participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on our institution can be summarized as follows:

- As KSU is a higher education institution, supporting and promoting research and educational methods which would join the students and scientists' efforts leading to important scientific discoveries is one of the most important target of our university. All kind of beneficial interdisciplinary and international scientific research will be promoted by our institution. One of our most important priorities will be to establish scientific and cultural connection in international platform. Our staff and students will be provided with the opportunities to provide them with the skills required and needed in global area.
- As quality of the staff and international reputation of the university has an important effect on the education system and qualification of our graduates, taking part in Erasmus+ program will enhance the quality of our education system which will result in skilled and talented graduates who can meet and adjust to the international demands in workplace. Through mobility actions, we will have the possibility to observe, modify and adopt our curricula with respect to dynamically changing education systems.
- Erasmus+ programme will also have an undeniable positive effect on teaching quality and reinforce international research and teaching. Staff mobility and gained experiences will result in teaching students to be open to new ideas, good at creative problem solving and effective in team working. Such experiences will promote life long learning which will promote graduates to be more successful in marketplace.

- KSU aims to keep and develop already existing science and business contacts in order to comply with the needs of employers while designing curricula. In this respect, KSU will share and commercialize the research or development outcomes for improvement of enterprises.
- In order to simplify administrative work and facilitate quality control, KSU will enhance its management and financial policy which will combine quality and efficiency of administrative works supporting scientific, publishing and teaching activities.