

## 1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

### 1.1 Erasmus activities included in your EPS

In this section, you need to tick the Erasmus activities covered by your Erasmus Policy Statement. Please select those activities that your HEI intends to implement during the entire duration of the Programme.

#### Erasmus Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility:

The mobility of higher education students and staff

#### Erasmus Key Action 2 (KA2) - Cooperation among organisations and institutions:

Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Partnerships for Excellence – European Universities

Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Partnerships for Innovation

#### Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3):

Erasmus Key Action 3 (KA3) - Support to policy development and cooperation:

### 1.2 Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area<sup>1</sup> and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the priorities of the European Education Area, such as recognition, digital skills, common values and inclusive education, please consult the following website: [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

Atatürk University (ATAUNI), one of the pioneers of the “New Generation” universities that blends education, research and social integration, defines internationalization as one of the important components of its 2019- 2023 Strategic Plan. “Internationalization” together with “Entrepreneurship and Innovation” and “Scale (large in ATAUNI context)” were determined to be the universities’ one of three main themes. In this context, using internationalization as a locomotive power, it aims to become a World-renowned university with an international profile. Our main strategic objective is to develop joint programs and scientific research mobility projects with leading universities of the World and to provide more staff and student mobility through mobility programs. In this context, with this vision in mind, the University has been continuously expanding the number of its international partners and its visibility in the international arena. ATAUNI is member to many international academic and research networks; Turkic Council-Turkic Universities Council and leads Orhun Exchange Programme with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Hungary; and founder of Central Asian Universities Union, which also enables mobility within the bilateral agreements between institutions. ATAUNI have bilateral agreements with 309 universities / institutes in 57 different countries around the World (153 cooperation protocols in 27 countries in the European continent, 128 in 23 countries in the Asian continent, 10 in 3 countries in the American continent and 18 in 4 countries in the African continent). As attested by over 300 exchange and cooperation agreements in nearly 60 countries, ATAUNI surpasses national universities in terms of depth and breadth of international ties. The university hosts over 3.300 international students from more than 80 different countries and nearly 1.700 of this number is enrolled to Faculty of Open Education whose online education infrastructure is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highly reputable (with 329.703 enrolled students) among national universities. And the university aims to increase international student ratio in formal education programs from 2.4% to 4.5% by 2023.

With Turkey's increasing involvement in the Erasmus Program, since 2003- 2004 academic year, ATAUNI has had a chance to expand its international mobility opportunities to include many European HEIs. With increasing mobility, the numbers of our Erasmus agreements and European partners have increased to levels exceeding those of non-EU mobility programs. In addition to Europe, ATAUNI also aims to increase its visibility in North America, East and South Asia by establishing new partnerships with the well-known HEIs of these regions. In this context, since 2015, ATAUNI manages Erasmus+ Individuals Mobility with Partner Countries, with rising number of new countries and partnerships each year. As stated in European Education Area, through Erasmus Program ATAUNI aims to improve; multilingualism; digital and technology-based competences; interpersonal skills, the ability to adopt new competences; active citizenship; entrepreneurship and cultural awareness and expression which are key competences needed for personal fulfillment, a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, employability, active citizenship and social inclusion. To reach these objectives, ATAUNI aims to start with implementing a creative and internationally oriented learning structure and a curriculum in all faculties and departments in line with the "New Generation" university concept. In accordance with this purpose, ATAUNI thinks that Erasmus Program boosts language learning, introduces into education and training the concept of language awareness and identifies and promotes innovative, inclusive and multilingual teaching methods using tools and platforms at the EU-level. Mobility is an important part of education and digital technology is key for improving it further. With its technological infrastructure for online and distance education, ATAUNI has the capacity to be the pioneer in implementing and promoting blended mobility in all levels. The university also has a diverse research infrastructure that can enable young people to thrive in the modern labor market in an interdisciplinary environment. The diverse infrastructure welcomes everyone and give the opportunity to access high-quality education, irrespective of their socio-economic background which overlaps with European Education Area's vision. Moreover, these opportunities provide traineeship mobility, which fosters the development of key competences and experiences that are crucial for active participation in society and in the labor market.

According to 2019- 2023 strategic plan, the faculty members will be encouraged to conduct international joint research, and this criterion will be included among the performance and upgrade criteria. Recently, the university has initiated a joint graduate degree program in the field of applied sciences with Universiti Putra Malaysia. On the other hand, ATAUNI has implemented strategic partnerships in the fields of higher education, adult education and youth in environmental consciousness, social inclusion and information technologies areas and it has to be said that ATAUNI is the pioneer university in Turkey in the former European Voluntary Service Program. Partnerships with international NGOs are significant for the internationalization of students, faculty and campuses. In this regard, Atatürk University is aiming to develop more joint projects and to be in close cooperation with international NGOs with the help of Erasmus Program. With its all faculties and departments nearly in all fields, Atatürk University is capable of implementing many projects that focuses on social issues, environment, sustainability and assistance at international level. With these new projects to be developed, it is aimed to contribute to the international recognition of the university as well as internationalization of students and staff. The last but not least, the university has already started a social integration-oriented course for all of its students irrespective of their faculties. This course can be seen as the early footsteps of the new policies related to social integration.

European Universities Initiative aims universities, learners, researchers, enterprises, local bodies and citizens to be enabled to co-create original educational pathways and relevant innovative solutions for challenges to the advancement of society. ATAUNI is a new generation research university that blends research with education and societal impact so the cooperation to be carried out will contribute to the development of both faculty members and students and also for the community on and off the campus (Erzurum at large). PhD students are of great importance within the scope of the research output. In this context, the university aims to increase the number of international

doctoral students to 10% by 2023. Also, the university aims to send all ATAUNI PhD students with English proficiency to abroad at least for a semester using the Erasmus+ program funds and the funds created within the scope of the newly established "ATAUNI International Research Mobility Program".

According to Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027 Guidelines, the HEI must ensure a high-quality support to staff in the preparation of applications for mobility projects and cooperation projects, to follow the quality standards defined in the ECHE for mobility and cooperation activities and their participants from the HEI and to provide support and follow-up during and after the implementation phase of the mobility and cooperation projects in terms of management involvement, resources and staff recognition. In this regard, "Intercultural Relations" education shall be provided for all the ATAUNI personnel who have connection to international students and academic personnel, as well as for volunteer ATAUNI personnel. Organization of activities has been planned throughout the campus to raise awareness on diversity and multiculturalism. The works by the academic and administrative personnel in the context of internationalism shall be included into appraisal and the related performance criteria.

ATAUNI's strategic plan acknowledges that Erasmus Programme is one of the central elements of its institutional policy and strategy for internationalization and it ensures that the institution will: promote and support student and staff mobility, especially for individuals with fewer opportunities, and further develop non-discrimination policies; pursue a clear policy towards the development of integrated, transnational teaching activities (joint courses curricula, joint degrees etc.); recognize the importance of, and provide visibility to, the results achieved by their staff members and students engaged in individual mobility or in cooperation projects with strategic partners and finally take into account the results of European and international mobility and cooperation activities to date, thus further improving its international performance as stated in Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2021-2027 Guidelines.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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As stated in ET 2020 framework, ATAUNI believes that participating in the Program improves the quality and efficiency of education and training provided by the HEIs, promotes equity, social cohesion, and active citizenship and enhances creativity and innovation at all levels of education and training. Within the scope of internationalization efforts, ATAUNI's primary goals are to expand international network and profile of the University, to increase the number of international students and academic staff, to augment exchange programs and education programs in a foreign language. In this regard, ATAUNI would like to take part in all three actions, KA1, KA2 and KA3. According to the 2020 Round University Ranking (RUR); ATAUNI is ranked 636th in the world in Research category while according to the World University Ranking prepared by Times Higher Education (THE), one of the rating institutions accepted as the authority in the world in education; ATAUNI is among the top 200 universities in the world in the fields of Qualified Education and Life on Land. ATAUNI ranks among the top 300 most influential universities in the world in the field of 'Industry and Innovation', where education, research, number of citations, industry income and the international outlook of universities are evaluated. As stated above, the university, with its all faculties and departments nearly in all fields, is capable of implementing many projects that focuses on social issues, environment, sustainability and assistance at international level.

ATAUNI puts too many efforts on activating its Exchange Programs. For example, within the scope of Individuals Mobility- Higher Education Student and Staff Mobility, at country scale, the University has been awarded substantial amounts of grants for KA107 Projects in 2019 in addition to KA103 projects. In this regard, 2019- 2023 Strategic Plan lays emphasis on recognition of qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad with tools such as Europass, the European Qualifications Framework, the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the Diploma Supplement. ATAUNI was awarded Diploma Supplement Label in 2011 and ECTS Label in 2013. The university runs its very own online student system which lets participants to enroll university and entitle access to student services, prepare their learning agreements, choose classes from English interdisciplinary course pool for incoming students, facilitate digital administrative workflow (uploading administrative documents etc.) and fully recognition of the learning outcomes. The system provides easy online management of the entire mobility process – from student selection to the recognition of ECTS credits for HEIs. ATAUNI believes that mentioned system will accelerate accommodation process of ATAUNI to Erasmus without Paper and European Student Card Initiative. Also, as well as all curricular activities, non-curricular activities of the students will also be included in the diploma supplement that is given automatically to all graduating students. Another important aspect of international recognition is accreditation of faculties and departments by international accreditation bodies. Atatürk University aims to ensure that all faculties and departments have made accreditation applications for their own fields (ABET, MÜDEK,

AACSB, JCI, etc.) by 2023.

European Universities Initiative's another aim is delivering new joint and flexible curricula, where relevant, in the three cycles (Bachelor, Master and Doctoral), based on cross-disciplinary/multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches, integrating innovative pedagogies, including the use of the latest digital technologies. ATAUNI has initiated a pilot mutual online class application with one of its partners from North America and in 2020/ 2021 Academic Year this course will be compulsory for both institutions English Language and Literature students. University's online and distance education infrastructure and years of experience will form a basis for improvement of joint curriculums and programs.

In line with the Commission's Digital Education Action Plan, ATAUNI has signed an agreement with Municipality to raise software developers to contribute national and local level (New Generation University and Digital Transformation Project) objectives. Through adding international dimensions to these collaborations, it is aimed to receive grants for a wide variety of actions aimed at stimulating innovative policy development, policy dialogue and implementation, and the exchange of knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth.

As well as its existing facilities, and capacity, within "New Generation" universities project, 87-transformation project were designed with the participation of 1.500 stakeholders and realized lately. During this process, besides, restructuring of Technocity and Office of International Affairs, Digital Transformation and Software Office, Learning Development Application and Research Center, Project and Methodology Development Offices, Data Management and Analysis Office, Career Planning and Alumni Monitoring Application and Research Center made major contributions. This settlement and diverse structure will play a crucial role on the implementation of activities especially under KA2 and KA3 Actions. Recently ATAUNI finalized an ERASMUS+ KA205 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices; Strategic Partnership for Youth Project named PLANETISE successfully with 5 international NGOs and a national university as partners. The project's main goal was encouraging young people to take part in political and social fields such as protecting the environment, being active citizens and fighting climate change in local, national, European and Global level through and educational tool Planetbook Game and to transfer this innovation and good practice to other EU countries, bringing an added value to the existing teaching and learning methods that are used by youth organizations which are active in the fields of Environment and Sustainable Development. The game brought together nearly 1.000 high school students in Turkey with the permission of Ministry of National Education. The game was also given away to public schools and teachers who were our trainers during the project. ATAUNI thinks that this recent experience demonstrates that with its all faculties and departments nearly in all fields, Atatürk University is capable of implementing many projects that focuses on social issues, environment and sustainability.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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Atatürk University is among the top 20 pilot universities in internationalization announced by The Turkey's Council of Higher Education. In selection of these preferential Universities, the performance of ERASMUS Program activities is highly important. ATAUNI takes place within the top 15% among the Universities regarding the number of exchange students in Erasmus+ at the country scale. In ATAUNI's Strategic Plan, there are 2 main targets regarding with Erasmus+ exchange program of which clearly stated that the indicators contribute to the visibility of ATAUNI on an international scale. Both targets has been exceed as compared with the planned numbers.

Objective (A1)	To provide high quality, innovative, entrepreneurial and competitive graduates by providing qualified education and training activities in all units.
Target (H1.2)	To increase the number of students participating in international exchange programs by 10% compared to the previous year
Target (H1.2) Performance	208 %

Responsible Unit	Office of International Affairs				
Performance Indicators	Effect on Target (%)	Plan Period Initial Value * A	Year-End Targeted Value in Monitoring Period (B)	Realization Value in Monitoring Period (C)	Performance (%) (C-A) / (B-A)
PG1.2.1: Number of students participating in international exchange programs	%80	132	145	181	%377
Evaluation of Performance Indicators					
Relevance	There is no need for a change in the performance indicator. effectiveness				
Effectiveness	The indicator value has been exceeded. There may be an update for indicator values in the coming years. The targeted values will be revised according to the realization status in 2 consecutive years.				
Activity	The indicator contributes to the visibility of our university on an international scale.				
Sustainability	The performance indicator has been adopted as a primary target within the scope of internationalization. Sustainability will be achieved through a more stable ownership process.				
PG1.2.2: Number of students coming from international exchange programs	%20	44	48	67	%575
Evaluation of Performance Indicators					
Relevance	There is no need for a change in the performance indicator. effectiveness				
Effectiveness	The indicator value has been exceeded. The indicator value will be updated in the coming years. Efforts to increase internship opportunities and to provide opportunities to international students by creating financial resources have produced effective and rapid results. In addition, the number of students coming with the creation of English Lesson Pools is expected to increase.				
Activity	Promotion processes will be carried out to increase the number of incoming students.				
Sustainability	New opportunities will be offered to increase the number of students who come with an administrative approach aiming at on-site internationalization.				

The desired impact of the KA1, KA2 and KA3 Actions on beneficiaries and participants:

- to graduate our students with a global point of view,
- to improve interpersonal communication skills,
- to provide inland and overseas employment opportunities to our graduates,
- to observe different applied sciences and practices,
- to improve our participants language skills,
- to bring our institutions a universal approach and have graduates respectful to universal values and diversity.

The desired impact of the these actions on ATAUNI:

- to activate institution's international dimensions, increase its capacity and potential,
- to improve co-ordinately instructional plans,
- to contribute its internationalisation, access equity and modernisation,
- to learn and practice transnational methods, approaches, policies and practices,
- to expand EU project awareness and initiate other EU funded projects.

The desired impact of the actions at local and national levels:

- to trigger new sectoral collaborations and to provide workforce to various sectors,
- to use both staff and student experiences for national level entrepreneur/ innovative activities.
- to expand our collaboration network with the help of our partners so provide interaction with different bodies at national level.

<b>ATAUNI Internationalization Plan</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Erasmus Agreement Numbers (Student Mobility)	120	130	140	150	160
Outgoing/ Incoming Student Numbers	124/7	135/10	150/15	170/25	200/50
Faculty/ Staff Exchange Numbers	41	45	60	75	100
Awarded KA107 Projects (Mobility of Individuals between Program and Partner Countries)	6	10	15	20	25
International Student Ratio (Active student numbers in formal education were taken into consideration)	2.4%	3.0%	3.3%	4.0%	4.5%
Joint Programs (Master & PhD)	5	7	9	12	15
Including students' all academic and voluntary activities on Diploma Supplement		✓			
Automatic mutual recognition (at least one country recognition is aimed each year)		✓			
Being affiliated with international accreditation bodies (faculty level)					✓
Determining on international NGOs to cooperate with					✓
Increasing the number of students attending international traineeship programs (10% each year)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promoting international voluntary activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Determining on Erasmus projects regarding civil society and making applications					✓
Preparing society, environment, sustainability and welfare oriented international projects and implementing them					✓
Training ATAUNI staff on "Intercultural Relations"					✓
Including international activities for academic and administrative staff performance assessment					✓