



Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (Overall Strategy)

Institution's international (EU and non-EU) strategy

Ever since it has been established in 1992, Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University has been in pursuit of quality education and research and community service to contribute to the socio-cultural, scientific, and technological development of the region and country by internationalization. Our institution recognizes the importance of being part of a global network and exchanging ideas about higher education and internationalization and therefore it is a fact that it devotes special attention to international activities and has strong policies to support international involvement using various ways to strengthen its international relations. Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University collaborates with many universities around Europe and the rest of the world, carries out projects, manages student and staff exchange, joins international organizations, and constantly tries to improve its system of study and research. All necessary steps are eagerly taken to participate in EU Education and Research Programmes and related activities that are believed to present great importance towards the strategic development of the University. Relations outside EU also present much significance and ties with institutions in such countries are established through agreement protocols or particular exchange arrangements. Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University is also a member of some prestigious academic networks such as European University Association (EUA) and Magna Charta Observatory.

Over the years Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University has created conditions for its students to obtain international experiences as part of their learning process, which may contribute to their global employability. All students are encouraged to participate in a range of international mobility opportunities under equal conditions. LLP/Erasmus Programme in particular has allowed since 1995 many of our students and staff travel to study/teach in Europe while, in turn, our university has accepted considerable amount of exchange students and visiting staff into its community. Recruitment of international full time degree students from all over the world also contributed greatly towards the creation of the international environment.

Collaboration with higher education institutions abroad are determined by bilateral agreements or special protocols. The selection procedure for partners is done based on the academic equivalence and mutual motivation to cooperate. Practicality and sustainability of mobility activities are also taken into consideration. The prominent geographical area for cooperation appears to be western and eastern Europe. Currently Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University has over 90 partners with over 150 inter-institutional mobility agreements in

various subject areas in 20 different European countries. However, the University intends to cover the whole European Higher Education Area in order to maximize the interaction and contribute to strengthening Europe in terms of higher education. The secondary, but at least as important as the others, the University widens the area of cooperation globally starting from the neighbouring countries to all over the world in line with the interest in carrying the higher education reform and increase mutual benefit.

All study and training activities target the students and staff from first, second, and third cycles while the main focus is the first cycle due to a large number of students and staff in this level. Short cycle students do not normally have the opportunity to benefit from mobility for studies but they are given chance to apply for training activities.

Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University intends to make a certain number of achievable double and joint degree programmes which may create a synergy and help students to become internationally engaged during their studies and even beyond their university education.

Institution's Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme

In recent years, along with the improvements in overall Turkish Higher Education Policy, Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University has made continuous attempts to ensure sustainable and continuous improvement of the institution. Internationalization is one of three key strategic aims of the Turkish Higher Education Council (CoHE/YÖK). Accordingly, our institution has strongly integrated internationalization into its agenda as one of the main strategic goals.

The overall strategy of Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University is to increase student and staff mobility; increase the number and diversity of the degree programmes and participants into all related programmes; and develop robust cooperation partnerships with EU and non-EU countries in terms of teaching, training, and research. Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University has made commitments in its strategic plan for utilizing three internationalization instruments which are internationalization in the curricula; increasing the outgoing and incoming mobility; and increasing the quantity and quality of international projects. The main goals intended to be reached by these instruments will be the effective implementation of the qualifications framework; creating an institutional culture for sustainable quality assurance; increasing the transparency of all teaching and training activities; improving the output of the learning process; complying with the needs of the knowledge society and EHEA; increasing the attendance to higher education; and supporting the employability of graduates.

It is a fact that projects implemented under the Programme optimistically strengthen the global or international outlook of the University. Thus, Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University intends to continue to lead or be a part of such projects.

Expected impact of the participation in the Programme on the modernisation of the institution in terms of the policy objectives intended to be achieved

Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University is aware of the fact that the Europe 2020 education headline target stipulates that, by 2020, 40% of young people should successfully complete higher education or equivalent studies. The attainment level to higher education is increasing ever since Turkey is involved in Bologna Process. The University will increase the visibility and accessibility and be able to pose itself as an important institution to help the needs of a significant percentage of the population. All the modernization instruments to answer such needs are continuously applied while the programme is the main guide in these great efforts.

The policy objectives of Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University are shaped up by the headlines which were established in the modernization agenda. Therefore, the University tries to disseminate and continuously implement some objectives such as; utilize statistics and needs of the labour market in developing curriculums; diversify study modes; improve teaching methods by involving state of the art ICT tools; take measures to track and increase better employment and career growth; introduce in service training and recruiting to excel the quality of staff. Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University also tries to attract students, academics and researchers from EU and non-EU countries to increase the quality of higher education by internationalization beyond EU. The University believes the importance of strong cross linkage among teaching, research and the needs of the society and industries in order to help sustainable growth from local to global extend. The curricula and specific courses are thus designed to promote entrepreneurship and innovative skills. Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University also actively follows modern approaches to better governance of higher education institutions; prepares and follows policies through strategic plans; excavates alternative funding resources; encourages professional governance and management of higher education institutions.

It is indeed considered essential to integrate this strong belief into the shareholders of the University that participation in the Programme would have nothing but a very positive impact on the modernization of our institution.

** As stated in the application for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020 on 16.05.2013, following which Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University was awarded the ECHÉ by the European Commission for Erasmus Plus activities between 2014-2020.*