



## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Suleyman Demirel University (SDU)'s mission statement puts strong emphasis on providing education, doing research, providing services and solutions in interaction with the society at international standards. SDU aims to be a university that gives inspiration and direction by producing information, technology and services on a universal scale in a manner which prioritize not only local but also greater society. Fairness, transparency, accountability, participation, interdisciplinary scientific approach, excellence, productivity, innovation, creative thinking, intellectual freedom, freedom of speech, compliance with ethical rules, quality, student orientation, social-environmental-aesthetic sensitivity, shedding light on the future and improving the job satisfaction are the core values of SDU. Our policy statement strictly depends on the two supra policy documents which are 2021-2025 strategic plan of SDU and 2018-2022 Internationalization Strategy Document of Turkish Higher Education Council. First of all, SDU Strategy for 2021-2025 shelters 4 axes:

- **Institutionalization:** This axis covers the objectives and goals that SDU obtains in order to become a participating institution which possesses academic tradition and institutional memory, and grounds on productivity and efficiency with a complete updated infrastructure.

- **Innovativeness:** This axis covers the objectives and goals that SDU obtains in order to produce and use new information, method and system.

- **Mobility, Cooperation and Recognition:** This axis covers the objectives and goals that SDU obtains in order to become a recognized institution that provides opportunities of exchange at national and international level for both academics and students, conducts projects at various levels, and produces prestigious publications.

- **Social and Environmental Sustainability:** This axis covers the objectives and goals that SDU obtains in order to increase the quality of life and feature the social and environmental awareness in the city and the area in which it has been settled. 2018-2022 Internationalization Strategy Document of Turkish Higher Education Council highlights three themes. These themes are *Access to Higher Education* (which refers to the development of policies that will facilitate the involvement of international students and faculty members in our higher education system.); *Quality* and *Institutional Capacity*. In the context of these three themes, the issues adopted by the Higher Education Council as the basic policy in the next five years have been gathered under two strategic goals. The first of these to ensure the universities in Turkey become the center of attraction for international students and staff. The second goal is to increase institutional capacity in internationalization. In order to achieve these strategic goals and increase the recognition and quality of our universities following targets are stated:

- Increasing the number of qualified international students, lecturers and those who are benefiting from the exchange programs;

- Determination of pilot state universities to be supported in the context of the internationalization of Turkish Higher Education;
- Increasing the number of Turkish universities in the top 500 in international rankings;
- Increasing the number of programs providing education in a foreign language;
- Determining possible education and cooperation areas with target/focus countries;
- Increasing the number of cooperation agreements signed with foreign governments and multinational institutions;
- Training foreign lecturers to work in higher education institutions of their origin country;
- Increasing the accommodation capacity reserved for international students;
- Increasing the number of scholarship opportunities.

In line with above mentioned target/focus country determination stated in 2018-2022 Internationalization Strategy Document together with the axes listed in SDU's strategic plan, we encourage close cooperation with the EU for realization of a European Higher Education Area. For this endeavour, in 2019 we began to arrange international days within the framework of the country windows determined by the European Commission in the context of KA107. On 16-17 December 2019, we held 'Southern Mediterranean Window' specific International Days titled as 'From Unity in Diversity in European Higher Education to Academic Mobility and Cooperation Projects with Partner Countries: Past, Now and Future of KA107 and CBHE'. In this event we hosted head of Palestinian National Erasmus Office Nedal Jayousi; Palestine HERE platform member Arwa Shtayyeh; head of Jordan National Erasmus Office Ahmad Abu el-Haija and project manager Dr. Reem Alkhader. Also in 2019 call year we applied for three KA107 budget to ensure mobility with our strongest Mevlana Exchange partners that are Malaysia, Bosnia and Kazakhstan in law, business administration, food science, theology, economics fields and received the grant amount of 127.900,00€. In order to diversify KA107 partnership pool of SDU in 2020, we made applications for 12 different countries and increased the number of project proposals by 300% relative to 2019. One of our goals to maintain this increase in following calls. To ensure that in September, 2020 we foresee one week long cooperation visit to Jordan to expand our pool of Mevlana and Memorandum of Understanding as well as KA107 partners. Besides, on December 2020 we are planning another International Days within the framework of Central Asia in order to embody SDU's internationalization strategy designed to foster exchange cooperation opportunities based on European Commission's KA107 specific country windows. In this context, similar the event we hosted in 2019, we are planning to invite Head of Kazakhstan National Erasmus Office- Shaizada Tasbulatova, project manager Gulmira Kuttybayeva and Head of Uzbekistan National Erasmus Office Aziza Abdurakhmanova and project officer Gulshoda Karlibaeva to SDU. From 2021-2027 we are planning to hold similar International Days within the framework of Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Russian Federation, Latin America, Asia, Southern Africa and Region 9 (Iran, Iraq, Yemen) respectively. With its 27 years of history and experience SDU believes that future of our country, region and humanity is directly related to academic studies and desires its students be graduates equipped with the highest level of professional values. For this endeavour in the past 7 years, SDU designed three KA108 consortias with local authorities/associations. The first consortia attempt was in 2019 in coordinatorship of SDU and

in partnership with Isparta University of Applied Sciences (ISUBU) and Isparta Young Entrepreneurs and Business People Association. SDU got 52.650,00€ extra budget to be expended on student mobility for placement (18 students) and staff mobility for teaching (16 staff) of SDU and ISUBU. In 2020 SDU got coordination of two more consortias and got accreditation for three years. First consortium of 2020 was in thematic field of sports and health in partnership with Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University (MAKU), Isparta and Burdur Provincial Directorate of Youth and Sports. Second consortium of 2020 was in thematic field of civil aviation in partnership with Atılım University, Lakes Region Technocity, Aviation Safety Agency Association. SDU also got KA110 Accreditation of Youth Volunteering Organisations in 2017. To provide extra mobility opportunities to our students and staff apart from current KA103 and KA107 budgets of SDU we are planning to design three more new consortiums in mining, pedagogical sciences and intangible cultural heritage between 2021-2027. Also SDU achieved a KA203 project titled 'Reserve a Lane for the Disabled' in 2018. For the new period, SDU targets to double number of KA2s, for this endeavour we made an application in robotethics in partnership with Universitatea Valahia Targoviste from Romania, Universita Politecnica Delle Marche from Italy, Panepistimio Patron from Greece, Nara Augmented and Virtual Reality Consulting Agency from Turkey, Scuola Di Robotica from Italy. Besides robotethics we applied another KA2 project titled 'Fashion and Textiles for the Future' in partnership with Fjölbrautaskolinn from Iceland; Centro Integrado de Formacion Profesional Las India from Spain. For 2020 call year we applied a KA347 project "INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND AWARENESS IN THE WAY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE" in partnership with IZMIR OLGUNLASMA ENSTITUSU, University of Usak, Akdeniz University, Isparta University of Applied Sciences. Another goal of SDU in terms of programme is by 2022 applying for one more KA3 project in sustainable energy and Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Programs in food science, mining, banking and finance.