

*Please describe briefly your institution's strategy, objectives and priorities for its Erasmus activities (mobility, multilateral projects, etc.) and any other actions in the context of the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007 - 2013).*

*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)?*

The main strategy of Yasar University for the Erasmus activities is to increase and strengthen the efficient participation of the university to the programme. Although, it is our second year in the Programme we have 37 agreements from 17 different countries covering 12 departments. We realized 33 student and 55 TS exchanges in 2 years. (SM 10% of the total eligible student population and TSM ranks 55% of the total teaching staff of the university). Yasar University aims to enhance its cooperation agreements with new partners and also extend its current cooperation agreements to the other fields of LLP (LDV under our Vocational School and Grundtvig under our Continuous Education Center). It has already succeeded in participation with new EU education projects with its Erasmus partners. Additionally, it gives more priority to include more Vocational School students to the programme. In Turkey the Vocational School Programmes are considered to be less advantageous when compared with the Faculty students especially during their graduation and work placement. Erasmus Programme contributes to the Vocational School Programmes by increasing popular respect for the programmes and the students. Due to the relationship between Yasar University and the Yasar Corporation (one of the leading industrial companies in Turkey), it aims to realize a strong Erasmus student placement experience by integrating the university and industry. The former Erasmus University Charter has been put in the most visible places of the university where students and teaching staff can easily see it. The Charter and the EPS are also being published at our university's web site which is specifically designed and regularly updated for Erasmus activities. The EU Center of the university that coordinates the Erasmus Programme entirely, organizes seminars for students and teaching staff about Erasmus Programme, prepares posters and promotion CDs, short films and has established an "Erasmus Social Responsibility" group among former and new Erasmus students. Since the university has close relations with local newspapers, every Erasmus activity of the university finds its place at the news and this encourages the interest of the students and teaching staff to participate. Concerning the gender equality, all male and female students and teaching staff have equal rights to apply and participate to the programme as it is the general case for all the activities at the university. The same applies for the cultural or social differences. Every applicant is being evaluated under the general rules of the Erasmus Programme - such as academic success, language competence etc. We did not receive any application from a disabled student or staff until now. If it happens, the university highly supports their participation and provides any possible assistance for these students and staff members on the basis of non-discrimination principles.

*Quality of academic mobility activities:*

*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.*

Yasar University has been implementing ECTS since 2005. All the courses at Faculty level and even at Vocational School are re-designed according to ECTS. Accordingly, the university also accepted and declared its conversion table concerning the local and ECTS grading systems. All the course descriptions and their ECTS details are published via a separate website specifically designed for ECTS studies. The ECTS Guide of the university is also updated every year. The university has already completed its preparation for the Diploma Supplement and expects to present it for the all students at end of this academic year. Concerning many differences in course programmes between Erasmus partners, Yasar University implements a flexible system of transferring the courses, credits and grades of Erasmus students without putting formalities concerning the equivalency of the courses. The University confirms the full recognition of the credits and grades received by the students. The main logic of Yasar University is to facilitate all the procedures for the Erasmus students and recognize their credits without extending their study. Therefore Erasmus department coordinators are working hard to prepare the best course list and LAs in a mutual counseling with the students. Concerning the incoming students, the university organizes a orientation week for them (practical information about Turkish culture, life in Izmir, city tours, historical and cultural trips around. The students have an academic mentor and also volunteer Yasar students are assigned to help them for their practical needs. The university implements a house placement system and students choose their flat (self-stay or sharing with a friend) from our website before they come to Izmir. A Turkish language course is also organized for them for 2,5 months with 3 ECTS free of charge. Since the medium of instruction is English at Yasar, students do not need to have Turkish to follow the lectures.

*Quality of student placement activities:*

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

Yasar University has been established and supported by one of the Turkey's bigger corporate conglomerates, Yasar Holding. The corporation has expressed its ambition to perform a successful student placement activity. The Career Development Center at Yasar University is currently coordinating the internships of the student in cooperation with their academic department coordinators. All student placement activities are being carefully arranged and coordinated by the academic department coordinators in order to have the right type of company and intern activity for the right student. After the completion of the intern period, the students are required to submit their own intern activity report which has to be signed by their director. Additionally, the university has the opportunity to provide student placement at one of the Yasar Companies that are active in the sector of foreign trade, food production, marketing, tourism, and chemicals. During these placement activities, priority is given to the students who have obligatory internship in their curriculum. Most of our Vocational School Programmes requires practical training, thus the university already has close relations with many companies in Izmir region, experience about student placement and recognition in the curriculum. Concerning new Erasmus Programme, we believe that it will contribute a lot to the students to offer them work experience in another country. We already have some of our Erasmus partners that are willing to have intern exchanges. We would like to extend our network and in the following days, the University will have a meeting with the Aegean Region Chamber of Industry since we have been informed that they are in need of interns who have good command of a foreign language. We will also have a meeting with the newly established Regional Development Agency in Izmir and will establish a wide consortium in Izmir to provide more opportunities to have successful student placement activity under Erasmus.