

In the following sections of the application form, you will need to explain how your institution will fulfil the ECHE principles if the Charter is awarded. You are encouraged to consult the [ECHE Guidelines](#) for support in completing this application.

Please note that your Erasmus+ National Agency will monitor your Erasmus Policy Statement and your answers to the questions given in the application. The Erasmus+ National Agency reserves the right to request more information on your activities and propose supplementary measures, for the purposes of monitoring and implementing the Charter principles by your institution.

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 Area¹ 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)

Internationalisation has been a crucial part of the agenda and strategic plan of Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University (BAIBU). The scientific and educational strategic plan of BAIBU is constructed on four main points: i) innovation and modernisation, ii) industry linkage, iii) interdisciplinary programmes, and iv) internationalization. Erasmus+ programme has been one of the pillars of the internationalisation strategy of BAIBU which has been committed to being a part of the European Education Area since 2004. As the university motto states “accelerating the quality and global dimension of higher education” with the emerge of global, digital and mobile environment era, and having been ranked the 4th in quality education in Turkey and 101-200 in the world by THE University Impact Rankings in 2020, BAIBU aims at improving the quality of higher education at home and beyond the borders to promote internationalization of the knowledge, skills and intercultural understanding through cooperation with EU and third countries as expressed in EEA policy and programme priorities, namely *the right to quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, social inclusiveness, transparency, numerical, scientific and engineering skills, digital and technology-based competences, multilingualism, active citizenship, entrepreneurship, cultural awareness, interpersonal skills and the ability to adopt new competences*. BAIBU is also committed to being in cooperation with educational providers to foster transversal competences such as social and civic competences, cultural sensitivity and expression, digital competences, entrepreneurship, a sense of initiative and learning to learn. All activities including student and staff mobilities, recognition of studies/trainings undertaken abroad in the transcript of records and diploma supplement and development of joint projects are already and will be conducted in the context of lifelong learning understanding.

BAIBU has been actively participating Erasmus mobility programme and carrying out student and staff mobilities with EU countries since 2004 and been an active partner in consortia for traineeship. BAIBU also started establishing partnerships under Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility with the higher education institutions in third countries in 2017 and has been awarded grant for student and staff mobilities since 2018. With the knowledge and experience in mobilities, especially under Erasmus+ programme, BAIBU is eagerly planning to enhance collaboration with existing partners, establish new partnerships and continue student and staff mobilities with programme and third countries taking into consideration the EU policies and aims and objectives of EC. BAIBU aims to improve the quality of education and training opportunities, develop partnership with international research institutions and higher education institutions, promote student/staff mobility, improve the infrastructure for blended mobility, carry out international scientific innovative and knowledge-sharing projects and increase the number and quality of international students and staff to adapt with the emerging global trends and challenges and provide opportunities for staff and students at BAIBU and international partners. Erasmus+ mobility programme will contribute much to learning and training opportunities of both incoming and outgoing students, professional development of academic and administrative staff and internationalisation at home and thus modernisation of the institution based on the principles of the programme. The mobility programme will also help BAIBU to improve its recognition and reputation globally.

BAIBU has already been partners to and coordinator of some KA2 projects and plans to be involved in more projects in the future to contribute to existing collaboration with partners for scientific R&D, to increase the number of scientific projects, and share knowledge, know-how

¹ 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

and best practices with partners for innovative methods.

To sum up, being awarded with ECHE for the next period will provide BAIBU the opportunity to continue and enhance the existing partnerships and scientific projects, provide opportunities for participants, and contribute to internationalisation and modernisation at home.

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.

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

BAIBU is strongly committed to internationalization both at home and abroad. The key policy element of the University's internationalization strategy is the strong encouragement and support provided to researchers, staff and students to pursue international research, training and study. Thus, BAIBU's internationalization agenda does not only encourage individual mobility but also aims to establish cooperation and take part in joint research projects.

Internationalization at BAIBU has a strong EU component as part of 15 years of Erasmus mobility programme. Being awarded the Charter will give BAIBU the opportunity to carry out mobilities such as study and traineeship mobility of students and teaching and training mobility of academic and administrative staff. Therefore, BAIBU mainly focuses on student and staff mobility with EU and third countries. The most important objective of the mobility activities of BAIBU will be to strengthen our European and non-European links and broaden the range of mobility activities available to our students and staff. Student mobility will be the main priority for improvement with an objective to balance the incoming/outgoing exchange student numbers. Staff, especially academic staff, mobility is considered as vital for establishing new bilateral relations and serving as the starting point for the development of new partnerships in both student/staff exchange programmes as well as developing bi/multilateral scientific and research projects. To this end, BAIBU aims to increase the number of the participants to mobilities twofold as also envisaged by the EC for the next seven-years period. Considering its experience and knowledge, BAIBU has already built the infrastructure necessary to carry out the mobility programme and procedures for incoming/outbound students and staff: commissions and criteria for selection of students/staff, implementation of the project, courses to be offered for exchange students under Bologna process, providing guidance and assistance for students/staff etc. as set by the EC and National Agency in Turkey.

The mobilities will be implemented taking into consideration not only the principles to be accepted by signing the Charter and the programme objectives such as transparency, giving the right to quality and inclusive education and training, inclusion of those with fewer opportunities, aiming at numerical, scientific and engineering skills, digital and technology-based competences, multilingualism, active citizenship, entrepreneurship, cultural awareness, interpersonal skills and the ability to adopt new competences but also the internationalisation priorities of BAIBU. As digitalisation has become one of the significant objectives of the programme and the global education, the student mobility will also include blended mobility thanks to the experience BAIBU gained in online lecturing in the last three years, especially the one during the pandemic period, parallel to the objective of the Higher Education Council in Turkey encouraging higher education institutions to be able to conduct thirty percent of lectures online in the following five-years period. The fair, transparent and objective selection of the participants and recognition of all credits of students and mobility of staff will be among the priorities of BAIBU in implementing the programme.

A further objective of BAIBU is to develop cooperation with an aim to develop and exchange information as well as professional experience on new teaching system, that utilizes new ICT's opportunities such as e-learning and blended mobility. For this reason, BAIBU is planning to encourage staff to be more involved in and coordinate KA2 projects mainly on digitalization,

engineering, curriculum development, and environmental issues as well as social, health and sport sciences.

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.

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

Having participated the programme for 15 years, BAIBU is aware of the contribution and impact of the programme at local, institutional and individual level. To this end, BAIBU aims to continue mobilities and projects under the programme after being awarded the Charter.

At institutional level, the programme will contribute to internationalization at home - hosting an increased number of international students through mobility programmes and creating an international environment at home for staff and students, international visibility and recognition of the institution, opportunities for technology transfer through improved quality of research and development projects, enhancing competitive power, giving further opportunities for dual diploma, and modernization in management and administration, better adapting to digitalization, and exchange of best practices between the universities in promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and capacity building and carrying out R&D projects. It will also help BAIBU to have more qualified alumni and improve employability of graduates. Participation of BAIBU in the programme will also contribute to the recognition of European Union, policies and identity at the local level. A successful implementation of the mobility programme will strengthen the ties and initiate further collaboration between the institutions including developing a joint curriculum, dual diploma and organizing scientific meetings and conferences. In addition, BAIBU will lead the partners in third countries in completing their integration to Bologna process and other aspects of EU higher education system.

Erasmus+ programme offers students/staff the opportunity to enhance their skills and global competitiveness through experiencing different academic environment which consequently would improve their employability and transversal skills. For students, the mobility programme will provide an opportunity to experience a different learning environment and to gain and improve capabilities and skills (academic, digital, and social) for employability, a chance to get acquaintance to or learn a new foreign language and a culture, improve personal skills such as self-confidence, independence, creativity, decision-making etc. For the academic staff, the programme will also provide an increased chance to publish scientific research papers in high impact factor journals, opportunities to have collaborations to get internationally funded research grants, to have a different teaching experience, to share knowledge and experience internationally with other researchers, and an improvement of the scientific abilities. For the administrative staff, it will provide them an opportunity to be trained professionally, get an insight of different systems and methods and assist them in adapting to digitalization at home. In order to maintain the quality of the mobility programme, increase the extent, and promote programme recognition, the programme will be monitored, maintained, and improvements based on the following;

- surveys among the participants,
- meetings to share information and experience at faculty and institutional level (before and after the mobility),
- regular social and informative events to harmonize and strengthen the ties between international and local students such as the annual International Students' Day/Erasmus Days, cultural and social responsibility events for civic engagement.
- using website, online internal correspondence system and social media (IBU Ajanda; IROs accounts) and local press to enhance international recognition and promote the

mobility programme,

- preparing booklets, flyers and posters to introduce the mobility programme and new online applications.
- Increased appearance of European Union at the visual, printed and online materials.
- promoting Erasmus Mobile App on social media accounts, university bulletin and orientation meetings before mobility.
- organizing informative meetings for departmental coordinators about new online procedures.

BAIBU has already started digitalisation in mobilities in some aspects such as online application for selection of outgoing students, electronic internal correspondence, accepting scanned interinstitutional agreements, application documents and learning agreements and etc. BAIBU aims to broaden the spectrum of digitalisation with the new procedures of the programme. BAIBU will start to use the Erasmus Without Paper network and to manage inter-institutional agreements and online learning agreements by 2021, to send and receive student nominations and acceptances by 2022, to exchange transcripts of records related to student mobility by 2023 and start Erasmus Student Card Initiative by 2024 as stipulated by the programme rules. BAIBU will use the Erasmus dashboard as suggested by the EC and update its existing internal system to adapt to the dashboard.

For sustainability and quality assurance of the mobilities, the participant reports on Mobility Tool serve as the main resource for feedback. Additionally, in guidance by the Quality Assurance Commission at BAIBU, the Erasmus Office and the responsible Vice Rector will annually evaluate the quality and impact of the programme based on the participants reports, participants' feedback and meetings with students/staff to share experience in terms of the type, flow and number of mobilities, expected and realised targets and results. The partners will also be informed about the results and evaluation and further discussions will be made for continuity and improvement of collaboration with partners and stakeholders.