

## **ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT OF NIGDE ÖMER HALISDEMİR UNIVERSITY**

International programmes are among the priorities in the scientific and educational activity of Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University (herein after called as NOHU). This has been indicated by the participation in the Erasmus+ Programmes. All the Faculties have been recently involved in actions targeted at internationalization, and the idea has been expressed in the documents pertaining to the University's mission, vision and strategy. The internationalization strategy of our University acknowledges the key contribution of mobile staff and students, and the participation in European and international cooperation projects, to gain the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience. Therefore; NOHU offers an international experience to all of its students either via the curriculum or mobility by encouraging broad participation in its academic and administrative staff by the help of different opportunities connected to the main areas of educational activity. It is already known that the HEIs contribute to the European Union's modernization and internationalization agenda in its education including the following priorities:

1. increasing achievement levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs
2. improving the quality and relevance of higher education
3. strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation
4. linking higher education, research and business for excellences and regional development
5. improving governance and funding

Curriculum and mobility are closely interconnected with greater emphasis now being placed on identifying mobility windows where students are encouraged to go abroad. All students with a minimum of 60 ECTS can apply for an international mobility experience provided they meet the language requirements (the university provides additional language training to support students). NOHU continues to expand its network of international partners to ensure a broad variety of destinations both in Europe and beyond. This is not only to ensure choice for outgoing students but also to ensure greater diversity of incoming students in the classroom. The University continues to develop a range of activities with its partners from semester exchanges and double degrees to intensive programmes and virtual mobility semesters to ensure a broad range of alternatives to students. Partners are selected on a number of criteria such as geographical location, academic standing and programme compatibility. Given the rapidly changing nature of the world economy, new countries may emerge as potential locations and NOHU seeks to ensure that it has partners in all countries that are of interest to the particular disciplines it offers. The most important target groups are first, second and third cycle students where the university has currently a mobility rate of 10 % of graduates and has set itself a target of 20%. The major focus is currently on mobility for study purposes although placement mobility is being developed more in order to offer international work experience to students in the scope of Erasmus KA103 and Consortium Erasmus projects for the traineeship mobility. Academic and administrative staff mobility are carried out as well in great numbers in the scope of Erasmus + projects and many academics realize the mobility is important to find partners for the other international projects by the help of the Erasmus+ exchange mobility as well.

The main focus of NOHU is to carry out projects that support the institution's development strategy, and are in line with the EU Modernization Agenda for Higher Education. The institution will continue to expand its cooperation with other HEIs in Europe for the joint implementation of educational solutions that foster the adoption of best practices, as well as joint development of curricula, teaching and learning resources, policies and regulations that built the trademark of European education. The institution aims to propose projects linking the world of education with the world of work through the creation of the new multidisciplinary curricula that promote entrepreneurship and develop relevant skills and competencies. The aim is to create programmes that address the needs of an industry and are deeply rooted in a daily practice of the company. Another important factor is the exploitation of research results in industry and paving new ways for the long-term strategic partnerships that foster the generation of new ideas and interdisciplinary research initiatives. The priority for NOHU is also to enhance the potential of the institution to set long-lasting partnerships with external environment, such as local

authorities, NGOs and others. These partnerships would enable to expand the areas of activity, become more accessible to non-traditional students, and propose solutions for vocational training and continuing education. Another important area of activity is the implementation of projects with countries outside the EU to support changes to the organization of work, processes, and procedures to strengthen areas of functioning that are significant for the development of the partner countries' institutions. These would enhance the processes of modernization and lay the foundations for the internationalization, as well as enable more intense cooperation in the domains of teaching research and mobility of students and staff.

Present focus of NOHU is to improve its efficiency to better face challenges referring to increasing entrepreneurship and attracting students. Priority is put on creating encouraging environment for academics to develop their scientific interests, initiate new projects, develop international cooperation and build partnerships with non-academic and business organizations.

1. Due to the demographic changes the number of people entering HEIs is decreasing. The aim of NOHU is to prevent the negative trend by developing innovative solutions for widening participation and targeting non-traditional HEIs learners and underrepresented groups. Participation in the Programme will enable to build frameworks of supportive strategies and resources for the transition to HEIs of these groups and successful completion of their education.

2. The evolution of European workplaces demand new skills and competences and at the same time offer new opportunities for learning. The participation in the Programme would help develop new means of eliciting performance improvement in students, to achieve deep understanding and an ability to apply business concepts and develop business thinking skills. The expected impact of the Programme is the enhancement of methodology of teaching that would result in the acquisitions of skills and competences that positively influence students' employability.

3. Study or training period abroad promotes the interactions among students and fosters a collaborative construction of knowledge through the exchange of experiences with their European colleagues. Cross-border cooperation in the domain of higher education leads to more intensified exchange of experiences, adoption of innovative practices, as well as the enhancement of didactic and research within European educational environment.

4. NOHU has already an extensive cooperation with companies. The participation in the Programme would help define new areas of involvement of business partners, adjust courses to the needs of labour market and yield mutual transfer of knowledge to enhance the research potential and increase the level of innovation. These are especially crucial in the strategic areas for NOHU: sustainable development, energy (especially based on renewable resources), food and agriculture, nanotechnology.

5. Participation in the Programme provides an opportunity to establish measures that would improve the management of an institution and enhance its autonomy and accountability. By expanding the areas of activity and setting up new partnerships, the institution wishes to develop measures to obtain funding from various sources, as well as increase the potential of administrative units to manage these resources.

As a higher institution at the tertiary level, Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University (NOHU) has a mission of being internationally recognized institution by raising individuals as leaders and entrepreneurs who are intellectually rich and sensitive to both global and local issues. One of the main activities is to collaborate with universities and other research institutions all over the world. Exchange programs give an opportunity to close cooperation with European partners and other institutions from the World. Therefore; NOHU will continue to be active stakeholders of Erasmus+ programs and contribute to the modernization of education area in EU and Turkey as well as regional and international business and investment World by the help of projects to be carried out.