



Internationalization Strategy of Kütahya Dumlupınar University

Kütahya Dumlupınar University (DPU) is a young university which was founded in 1992. In addition to this, by developing quickly in a short time, today DPU takes place in the first ten percent of Academic Ranking of World Universities. It has a dynamic academic staff that was educated in the prestigious universities of our country and world. With its architecture and design, it has one of the richest and most beautiful campuses of Turkey.

Kütahya Dumlupınar University has a vision of highly qualitative education, scientific and technological productivity, social and cultural contribution, cooperation of university and industry and taking part in international academic world. It undertakes the mission of making its students skillful enough to build a career and work in each country of the world, being integrated with the world for scientific development and innovation, contributing to the social and economic fields within the scale of regional and global, and making up prescriptions.

The priority areas of DPU are boron and mining, biotechnology, ceramics, underground sources, which are key elements for initiative of bilateral cooperations with countries in the world. It is believed that exchange of ideas and joint projects regarding those subjects widens the perspective of both academic staff and students in the competitive areas, and also makes a great contribution to the academic development of the young generation.

With the advantage of partnership opportunities with non-EU countries such as Argentina, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Columbia, Morocco, Brazil, Canada, Georgia, Algeria, Tunisia, Australia, Russia, Kazakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, India, China, Japan and Malaysia, Kütahya Dumlupınar University has undertaken the mission to cooperate with higher education institutions with these countries and transfer the positive side of European Education system to these universities and also to expand the mobility areas for new horizons for new possible scientific dimensions. With such cooperations, it will be possible to remove the borders out of Europe, contributing to the educational developments not only in Europe but also all the world and also through such partnerships will help the nations to destroy prejudgments to each other and thus scientific relationships will be in a continuous progress via mobility opportunities ensured by Erasmus+ Exchange Program for student and staff. In this process DPU's good relationship with partners from non-EU countries within the scope of Mevlana Exchange Program which is conducted by Turkish

Council of Higher Education, will contribute to the development of Erasmus Partnership Opportunities with that institutions.

Among non-EU countries, the region of Latin America has been one of the target destinations where Kütahya Dumlupınar University has some agreements and cooperations with some higher education institutions. As a consequence of bilateral contacts, Kütahya Dumlupınar University has founded powerful relations with the higher education institutions from Argentina and Columbia. Being aware of the importance of internationalization not only from Europe or Asia but also transoceanic countries, Kütahya Dumlupınar University has a cooperation with National University of Quilmes in Argentina within the framework a project funded by Argentina Ministry of Education to extend the area of cooperation between Argentina and Turkey. In addition, DPU aims to have Erasmus+ agreements within the scope of Erasmus+ Partner Countries both for student and staff mobility within 2 years of time. With the University of Magdalena in Columbia, there exists a Mevlana Protocol, too.

DPU gives high importance to international agreements since it is considered as cooperation with EU and non-EU countries means to world-wide internalization. For that reason, DPU is open to new cooperations with different countries. As a result of some personal contacts, DPU has cooperated with Ukraine which is a partner country neighbouring to EU. To enhance knowledge in both national and local levels, Kütahya Dumlupınar University signed bilateral agreements with Zhytomyr State Technological University and National Technical University of Ukraine-“Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. With the purpose of building up relations to Erasmus+, KA107 agreement was signed between Zhytomyr State Technological University and Kütahya Dumlupınar University for the department of Mining Engineering within the scope of International Credit Mobility Programme. These relations are strengthened via academic visits of university representatives.

Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI) is the EU's major financial instrument for development cooperation in the 2014-2020 period. Given the importance of higher education for economic and social development, the Erasmus+ programme supports partner countries in meeting the challenges in their higher education systems. Bangladesh is in the group of Asia 6 under the DCI scholarships. Daffodil University is one of the best private universities in Bangladesh. The mission of the university is to pursue quality education and research of international distinction for the benefit of human society. With regard to the similarity between the strategies of Kütahya Dumlupınar University and Daffodil University,

cooperation between the institutions began in EAIE Fair/Scotland on 15-18 September, 2015, in which organization representative of DPU met Mr. Md. Sabur Khan, head of Board of Trustees of Daffodil University. Since October, 2015, cooperation between Higher Education Institutions has been proceeding regarding the engineering departments. Erasmus+ ICM will also make a great contribution for this cooperation.

Within the international dimension of the Erasmus+ Program, the European Union offers grants for both students and staff in Australia, Japan, India and the U.S.A., which are ahead of the other countries in the World in terms of technology. As DPU, it is aimed to foster institutional engagement with universities in order to seek partnerships and collaborations, and to enhance research, teaching and learning, and community engagement, through participation in workshops, symposia and conferences and trainings. DPU and Yamaguchi University (Japan) are partner institutions within the scope of Mevlana Exchange Programme based on Project. Also, archeological site excavations were organized with the cooperation of University at Buffalo (the U.S.A.). Besides, academic staff relations between universities in Australia has continued for a long time. Along with having a special place in the history of the relations between the two countries in the Battles of Çanakkale, encountering Turkish and ANZAC troops, these academic sort of relations between countries will come much closer to each other.

Turkey has a deep root with Maghreb Countries such as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya during the history. Based on that relation, DPU has begun initiative for those countries since its foundation. Many academicians and experts participated in the conference and symposium organized by DPU in summer, 2016. Apart from those relations, bilateral agreements within Mevlana Exchange Programme and MoUs have also been signed in order to provide mobilities of students and staff. DPU intends to enlarge the cooperation with Maghreb Countries via Erasmus+ ICM in order to contribute to the personal development and employability of students. Besides, it prompts universities to develop better services to send and receive foreign students, compare and upgrade curricula, improve teaching and strengthen their institutional leadership and management to gain international visibility. DPU is in a close contact with universities in Maghreb countries within Mevlana Exchange Programme, too. It is aimed to provide Bologna Process and ECTS adaptation, increase the quality of education system for those universities.

DPU has also taken part in two consortiums both of which consist of region's universities. Thanks to these consortiums, universities will send students to abroad for internship which will improve the university's relationship and connection with industrial companies and business world. This opportunity will also prepare the students to real life and their future career by opening up their horizons. Also, DPU's partnership with local industries of which announcements are made by our university, attract students from abroad to do their internships in Turkey.