



TOKAT GAZİOSMANPAŞA UNIVERSITY

2021-2027 ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University (TOGU) is a state university that is transparent, participatory, enterprising, producing information and technology, contributing to the economic, social, and cultural structure of the region. Our university, which is named after the hero of Pleven, Gazi Osman Pasa, was founded in 1992. The mission of TOGU is to educate entrepreneurial and innovative individuals who will have universal values, respect to people, society and nature, contribute to the socio-cultural and economic development of the country. These students are educated to make scientific studies to produce solutions to regional, national, and international problems by presenting the university's knowledge to the service of humanity. The vision of TOGU is to be a university that has national and international recognition and preference, which has a direct impact on the welfare and culture of all human beings, particularly the sustainable development of the region and our country, through its collaborative efforts and collaborations with its stakeholders. Our basic principles are as follows:

1. Open to innovation, participatory and easy to communicate management approach
2. Student and employee focused education, high satisfaction of graduates
3. Adherence to ethical values and academic principles
4. Academic freedom
5. Justice, merit, and transparency
6. National values
7. Scientific
8. Participant
9. An understanding of corporate culture
10. Responsive to global problems, willingness to contribute to the solution

Since 2007, TOGU has been a loyal stakeholder of the Erasmus Program. The last period of LLP and Erasmus+ was very fruitful for our university. Until now, TOGU has successfully performed around 800 student/staff mobility

In line with our strategic priorities, Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University educates internationally competent experts with relevant transferable skills. The Program consists of an excellent range of activities for learning mobility of individuals, which provides TOGU with



opportunities to internationalize its students and staff towards the above-mentioned objective. TOGU embraces new activities in the Program to raise the potential for growth in mobility. The objectives of our university are to develop a viable and sustainable internationalization strategy, to coordinate the mobility activities of students, faculty and administrative staff within the scope of Exchange Programs, to establish the infrastructure that will enable our University to benefit from international programs and projects to the maximum extent and to have International bilateral cooperation agreements, joint diploma programs, and exchange programs. We believe that the Erasmus program will be a great motivation for our institution to follow the works and procedures related to the coordination of international cooperation agreements and carry out activities that will ensure the promotion of our university internationally.

We believe that we will contribute to the development of common values via the projects that will be carried out with our Erasmus partners. In this way, the standardization of education and training will be provided.

We are sure that the quality and quantity of our international collaborations will increase thanks to Erasmus, the most important mobility project in the history of higher education in the world. We also want to contribute to the development of Turkey-European Union relations and the formation of European identity.

Also, TOGU aims to increase its visibility in the East and South Asia by establishing new partnerships with the well-known HEIs of these regions. In this context, India, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia are the subjects of the University's most immediate efforts, but the list is not exhaustive and is expected to include other countries of the region as well.

Within the scope of the Erasmus program including all Key Action activities, we will continue to contribute to mobility. Within the new Erasmus+ program, in addition to KA1 mobility projects (learning mobility with EU countries, International Credit Mobility with the participating countries, Internship Consortium, and youth mobility projects centered on career management & training issues), TOGU gives high importance to KA107 projects. For us, with the help of these projects, TOGU will contribute to the effort of representing the European values in Asia and Africa. Our focal points in KA107 are Asia and Africa. That is why, we have applied KA107 projects with Uzbekistan, Sudan, Pakistan, Uganda, India, and Bangladesh. Apart from these, we also applied to a project with a Kosovar partner.



TOGU also would like to take part in relevant KA2 and KA3 projects, either as a partner or coordinator. We will provide the needed information about the mobility with the advertisements we place on the web pages. In this way, in addition to the increase in the number of students participating in mobility, improving the work experience of students is among our priorities. Our university's distance education infrastructure and its staff are competent for extraordinary situations that may occur during mobility. In such cases, accommodation, food, and transportation supports will be provided free of charge to prevent incoming students from any possible problem.

Our efforts to increase the number of ERA coded courses in the university pool are ongoing. The evaluation of the foreign language level and proficiency of the academic staff who will teach these lessons is made in the light of objective criteria.

In this new period, we will try our best to achieve goals such as the European Education Area, Erasmus Student Card, Erasmus Without Paper, and Common Values. We pay so much attention to these and they have already become our priorities. Hopefully, we aim to attain these goals earlier than the expected dates.

TOGU strongly encourages the faculties and departments to organize and participate in EU projects to improve the quality of education level given to the students at our university. The main institutional goal in our participation in the Erasmus program is to maintain the high quality of education, to support creative, up-to-date curricula, and to integrate an international dimension to education. To accomplish this, in the context of the program, TOGU is committed to increasing the number and quality of international agreements. TOGU aims to improve the quality, competitiveness, and European dimension of its educational range on offer, to develop its lifelong learning strategies, and to integrate TOGU in its educational, training, and research system. To achieve this TOGU declares institutional support and willingness to participate in EU projects (already carried Horizon 2020 FORGENIUS project) at all levels of study, supporting e.g. innovative teaching methods, developing double or joint degree programs and European modules, as well as new forms of continuing educational projects aimed at cooperation with enterprises. TOGU will initiate and support projects related to education, research, and innovation, with a strong focus on quality assurance and promotion synergies between teaching and research. TOGU intends to participate in other activities of the Erasmus program i.e. the Key Action 2 and Key Action 3, Jean Monnet Programs and Sports Programs,



priorities of which are compatible with the TOGU mission statement. The information on Erasmus activities is published in the TOGU news bulletins and on its website. Student and staff information meetings are held regularly.

Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University believes that in the 21st century the world is more connected than ever. It intends to maximize global opportunities in the field of learning, research, and co-curricular activities. In the global world of growing interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, and populations no institution, organization, or individual can afford to remain aloof from the global developments. Higher education is no exception, it needs to mold itself to meet new challenges of the day and the future. It is a fact that higher education institutions are key to the internationalization of the economy and society. The academic partnership is a win-win negotiation for everyone. It is under this effort that Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University aims to earn a name for itself in the fraternity of international academia. The internationalization strategy of the university is not confined only to mobility but of initiating joint researches, encouraging exchanges of ideas, learning global best practices, global integration, strengthening a harmonious multi-cultural society, and promoting global responsibilities. We believe that the Erasmus program will provide us the energy needed to achieve all these goals and objectives.

The City of Tokat has some disadvantages compared to other cities in Turkey. Although Tokat is situated on the road of historical Silk Road, because of high-quality alternative roads it has a small number of visitors in terms of commerce and industrial transfers. Moreover, Tokat has no industrial factories which are supposed to help the city in terms of socio-economic improvement. The neighboring cities of Tokat are Amasya, Sivas, Samsun, and Ordu. All these cities have touristic attractions which become a kind of source of getting internationalization. Having a lack of these opportunities, Tokat is not a stop in the plans of foreigners. Unfortunately, tourism in Tokat has no big portion of the income of the city. That situation forces the city and the university to stay local. The new Rectorate of TOGU aims to increase the number of foreign students by promoting the city and the university in international fairs and try to improve the quality of university concerning both education and facilities of the campus. That is why, this project is an opportunity for TOGU and the city of Tokat in terms of internationalization, rationalization, and modernization.



During the project period, the total number of beneficiaries is targeted to be around 1000 people. 600 of these are planned as outgoing students, 100 of these are incoming students, 200 of these are outgoing staff, and 100 of these are the incoming staff.

- 2021- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff
- 2022- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff
- 2023- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff
- 2024- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff
- 2025- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff
- 2026- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff
- 2027- 85 outgoing students -15 incoming students / 30 outgoing staff 15 incoming staff

To achieve our institutional targets, regular attendance at international student conferences, fairs, and global education conferences is also critical. Regular visits by international collaborators (for seminars, short courses, workshops, joint research) are accommodated. Memberships in international associations and consortiums are also formed. In the light of these outputs, education at our university will remarkably have better quality in the framework of the Bologna Process.