

BULLETIN

DECEMBER-2024 NO:7



Hello from Our New Issue!

As ESOGÜ International Relations Office, we are delighted to share the 7th issue of our bulletin with you. In this edition, we present the international protocols, cooperation agreements, events, and experiences of our students and staff who participated in Erasmus+ mobility programs in 2023 and 2024.

"Welcome Breakfast" for Incoming Students



The International Relations Office organized a warm welcome event to meet our newly arrived students.



Blended Intensive Program at ESOGÜ

Preparations for the second Blended Intensive Program (BIP) are underway with Prof. Emiliano Lasagne from the University of Perugia. In collaboration with the ESOGÜ International Relations Office and the Faculty of Agriculture, the program will host students from the University of Perugia (Italy) and the University of Cordoba (Spain) in July 2024. Blended Intensive Programs (BIPs) represent a new format of Erasmus+ mobility. This innovative format, which combines online sessions with short-term face-to-face training, offers new international study opportunities for students and staff.



ESOGÜ's Participation in International Week with the Theme of Digitalization and EU Projects



The second International Week organized by Kütahya Dumlupınar University, themed around Digitalization and EU Projects, saw strong participation from both European and non-European (ICM) countries. One of the event's days was hosted by Eskişehir Osmangazi University at the ESOĞÜ Hotel Conference Hall.

During the event, our Institutional Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İŞLEK and Instructor Müge TANBERK shared information and statistics with the participants about the international KA131 and KA171 projects, as well as other EU projects in which our university and the International Relations Office are involved. Additionally, Instructor Emrah ORAKÇIOĞLU informed guests about the Pan-European Erasmus Mundus Master's Programs and the infrastructure projects necessary to meet the participation requirements for these programs.

After the presentations, the participants joined a city tour of Eskişehir, guided by the ESOĞÜ International Relations Office staff.



Participation in the International Erasmus+ Staff Week

Our Institutional Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İŞLEK and KA171 ICM Program Coordinator Instructor Emrah ORAKÇIOĞLU participated as guest speakers in the "5th International Erasmus+ Staff Week," organized by the Dicle University Office of International Relations. The event was attended by academic and administrative representatives from 21 universities across 13 countries.

During the event, where each participant introduced their institutions and ongoing projects, as well as discussed potential collaboration opportunities, Assoc. Prof. Dr.

Mahmut Sami İŞLEK and Instructor Emrah ORAKÇIOĞLU not only gave a comprehensive presentation on our university but also contributed to the promotion of the PANEREMA project, which is being implemented under the Erasmus Mundus Design Measures call.



NAFSA 2024 International Education Conference and Expo



To enhance collaboration with partner institutions under the Erasmus+ Program and contribute to our university's international visibility through discussions for new partnerships, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İŞLEK, the Institutional Coordinator of the International Relations Office, and Assistant Coordinator Instructor Müge TANBERK attended the NAFSA 2024 International Education Conference and Expo, organized by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) in New Orleans, USA, from May 28-31, 2024.

Erasmus Days 2024 Event



ErasmusDays was celebrated on October 17, 2024, at our office with various activities and competitions. The winners of the dart tournament and the short story competition about our students' Erasmus experiences received their prizes. International full-time and exchange students studying at our university also participated in the event. The celebrations concluded with serving of "çi börek," a taste of Eskişehir cuisine.



Fun Moments from Our ErasmusDays Event





ErasmusDays



Information Session of the Faculty of Art and Design



In the meeting titled "Erasmus+ Study Mobility, Bilateral Agreements, and European Volunteering Activities," organized by the Faculty of Art and Design at Eskişehir Osmangazi University. Instructor Müge TANBERK from our office met with the faculty students to provide information about Erasmus+ KA131 mobility activities.



Erasmus+ Promotion Event at Mahmudiye Horse Breeding Vocational School



On November 4, 2024, an Erasmus+ promotion event was held at Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Mahmudiye Horse Breeding Vocational School, with the participation of Azra Kübra KOCABAŞ and Instructor Tolga MURAT from our office.

During the event, presentations were made to the students of Mahmudiye Horse Breeding Vocational School about study and internship activities carried out under the Erasmus+ Program, as well as language exams organized for participation in the program. Additionally, students who had previously participated in the program shared their experiences, and the students' questions were answered.

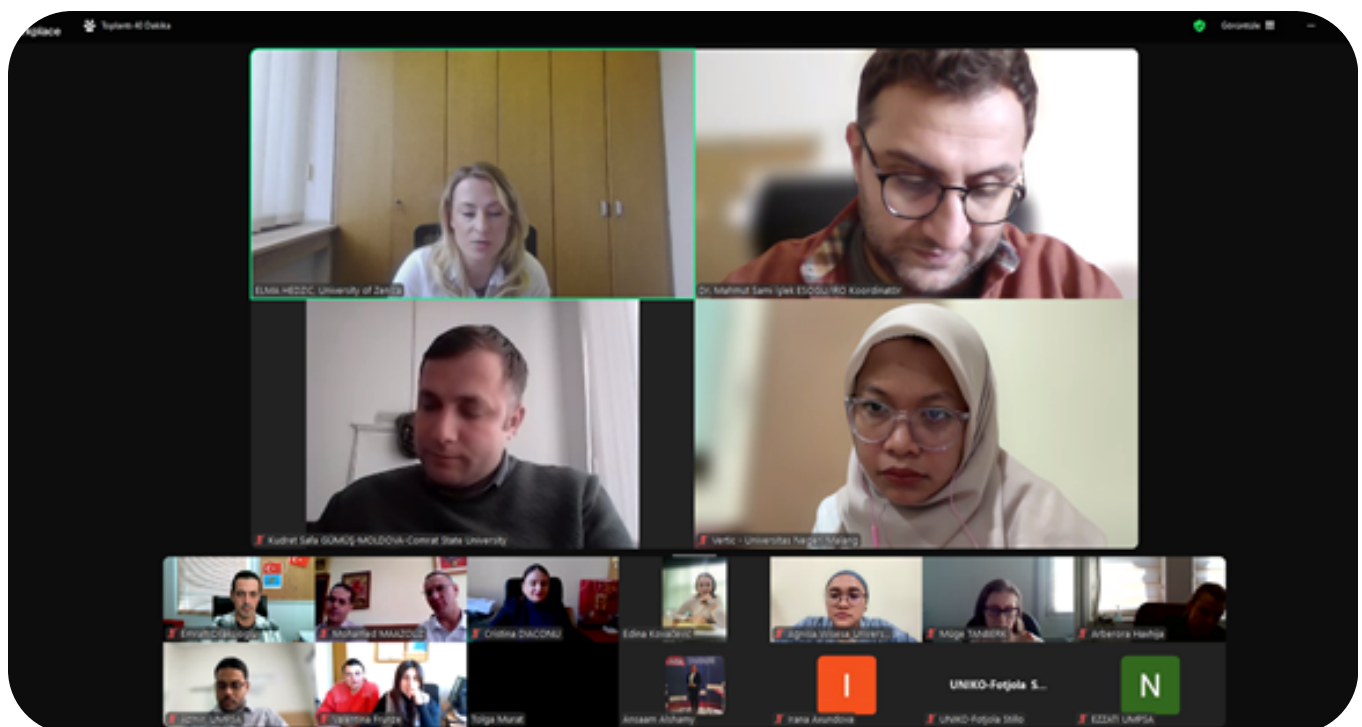
Erasmus+ ICM Project Information Meeting

An online information meeting was held for our Erasmus+ KA171 ICM Project of the 2024 and 2025 periods by the International Relations Office of Eskişehir Osmangazi University.

The meeting was attended by the Institutional Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İŞLEK, Assistant Coordinator Instructor Müge TANBERK, and ICM Project coordinators Instructor Emrah ORAKÇIOĞLU and Instructor Tolga Murat. Representatives from our partner universities also participated:

- Fan S Noli University
- Haxhi Zeka University
- Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University
- Moldova Technical University
- University of Medea
- Universitas Islam Indonesia
- Universitas Negeri Malang
- University of Sarajevo
- University of Zenica
- Comrat State University

During the meeting, Instructor Emrah ORAKÇIOĞLU provided information on the project's implementation process, budget details, and the announcement and selection procedures. The discussion also included brainstorming for future ICM and Capacity Building projects to be submitted.



An Orientation was Organized for Outgoing Erasmus Students



We organized an information meeting for students who will study abroad under the Erasmus+ Program in the 2024-2025 spring semester.

The meeting, held in our university's Conference Hall, covered the necessary steps students need to follow during the process. At the end of the meeting, students who had previously studied in the same countries shared their experiences at country-specific tables, accompanied by hamburgers and drinks.

We wish all our students a successful Erasmus experience!



Visit of Representatives from Harare Institute of Technology to ESOGÜ



Representatives from Harare Institute of Technology, including University Secretary Herbert Njonga, Director of the Department of Communication and International Relations Tinashe Mutema, and Office Staff Melody M. Maraire, visited our university. After a campus tour, the guests visited our office and met our coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İŞLEK. During the meeting, both parties agreed to renew the long-standing cooperation and Memorandum of Understanding between the institutions and to establish a partnership under the Erasmus+ KA171 ICM Projects for the upcoming periods.



Recent Overseas Visits



As the International Relations Office, we carried out several visits to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo, which are part of the Western Balkans group of the Erasmus+ Program, in order to expand our partner university portfolio and further strengthen ongoing collaborations with our current partners. During the institutional visit to Sarajevo University, led by our Institutional Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İşlek, both universities discussed the continuation of the collaborations and reviewed existing proposals.

Erasmus+ ICM Program Coordinator Instructor Emrah Orakcioğlu made various contacts in Kosovo and Albania. In Kosovo, discussions were held with the University of Prishtina, and in Albania, with the University of New York Tirana, about continuing the existing partnerships. Additionally, a meeting was held with the International Relations Officer, the Dean, and Vice Deans of the Faculty of Law at Haxhi Zeka University in Peja, Kosovo. Two universities agreed to sign a cooperation protocol.

ESOGU Rector Prof. Dr. Kamil olak Held Meetings in Kosovo



Our Rector, Prof. Dr. Kamil olak, and the Coordinator of the International Relations Office, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İřlek, conducted various meetings in Kosovo with the aim of advancing existing partnerships and establishing new collaborations with universities.

During their visit, the university delegation first paid a courtesy visit to the Ambassador of the Republic of Trkiye in Pristina, Sabri Tun Angılı. Following this, they visited the Head of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Pristina Program Coordination Office, Fulya Aslan, to exchange ideas about TIKA's activities in Kosovo.

Prof. Dr. Kamil olak also attended a meeting at the University of Pristina, where our university has successfully run an Erasmus+ ICM partnership for five years. Rector Prof. Dr. Qerim Qerimi, vice rectors responsible for international relations, and the Erasmus office attended the meeting. The discussions focused on ways to further enhance collaboration between the two universities.

Following this meeting, a cooperation protocol was signed with Haxhi Zeka University in the city of Peja, Kosovo. It was agreed to write a joint Erasmus+ ICM project for the 2024 project period. The Rector of Haxhi Zeka University, Prof. Dr. Armand Krasniqi, emphasized that this agreement marked their first partnership with a Turkish university and expressed his pleasure in taking the first step towards a long-term collaboration. Prof. Dr. Kamil olak expressed his hopes that the mobility activities carried out under the Erasmus+ framework would eventually lead to joint research and scientific projects in the future.



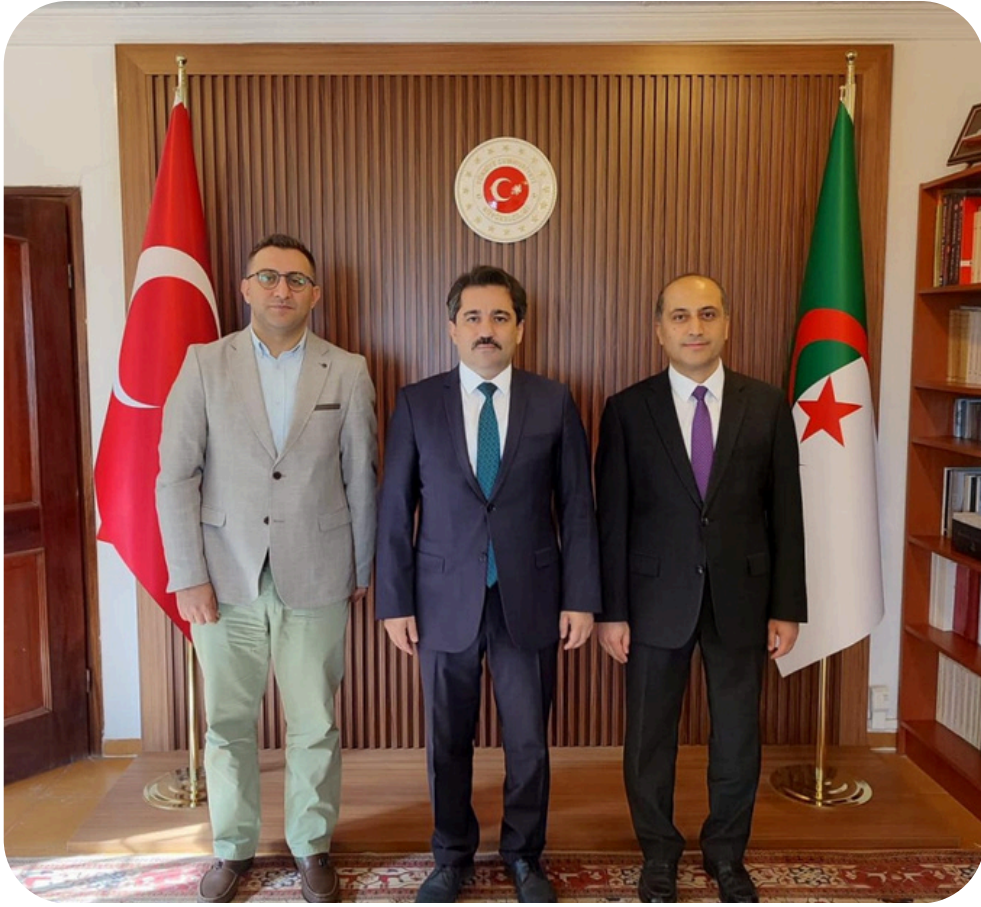
University Delegation's Visit to Algeria



Our Vice Rector, Prof. Dr. Ramazan Erdağ, and the Institutional Coordinator of the International Relations Office, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahmut Sami İşlek, visited Algeria as part of our university's internationalization strategy to expand our partner portfolio in line with the Erasmus+ KA171 ICM program in the Southern Mediterranean region.

During their visit, the university delegation first paid a courtesy visit to the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in Algeria, Muhammet Mücahit Küçükyılmaz, and exchanged ideas about ongoing activities in Algeria. At Médéa Yahia Fares University, possible cooperation opportunities were discussed in a meeting with Dr. Mohamed Maazouz, Vice Rector responsible for international relations, and various experts. The universities agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding as a first step.

The delegation then met Prof. Dr. Somia Nasri, President of the Quality Board of Barika Central University - Batna, and relevant officials, where they discussed signing a cooperation protocol to initiate a partnership between the two institutions and negotiated the next steps. Finally, at Barika University, a meeting was held to discuss shared goals in line with the universities' internationalization objectives. They also exchanged ideas on activities to be carried out as part of the future cooperation protocol.



BURSA TRIP WITH INCOMING STUDENTS



STUDENT STORIES

Moldir Zhandos (Incoming Student)



This is my first time in Eskişehir, and I am now living in an apartment with my close friend in Büyükdere. It is said that "silence is golden," and here, the peaceful environment helps me concentrate on my studies and work. I have truly come to appreciate the educational system at Osmangazi University, and I am grateful for the guidance of professors like Madina Hoca, Emine Hoca, Muhammed Hoca, and Nadire Hoca. As the proverb goes, "learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere," and I am gaining a lot of knowledge—from self-management to approaches in teaching English. Being an Erasmus student has been a wonderful experience, and I am enjoying the opportunity to meet international friends. Together, we learned to play the traditional Turkish game "Okey," which was a lot of fun. I've also had the chance to explore nearby cities like Yazılıkaya, Ankara, and Sakarya, broadening my horizons and making the most of my time here. However, as the saying goes, "every rose has its thorn." One challenge I've encountered is that everyone seems to be smoking everywhere, which can be a bit overwhelming. Another issue has been withdrawing money, as my Visa card was taken by Ziraat Bank. Despite these challenges, I feel safe here, and I am truly thankful for everything. As the saying goes, "safety is better than cure," and I am grateful to be in a place where I feel secure. The kindness of the people here, towards both each other and animals, makes my experience even more special.

STUDENT STORIES

EDA BÜYÜKYILDIRIM (OUTGOING STUDENT)

Going to Bucharest was a turning point for me. As someone who couldn't even go to a café alone, I learned who I was and what I could achieve by stepping out of my shell. Despite the complex smells in the dorm kitchen, it seemed difficult to even say "Good morning," until I learned how to say it in five different languages!

A Turkish, a Dutch, a French, and a Greek met in Budapest; this was one of the most precious memories of my Erasmus adventure—no, it's not a joke! The warm atmosphere of P12 dormitory and UPB hosted some of the most meaningful moments of my life. In our final days, we shed tears, knowing we might never meet again, surrounded by the friends with whom we had spent almost every moment. However, I returned to Türkiye, knowing I would be greeted with a warm smile all over Europe.

Erasmus taught me that discovering new colors is only possible by stepping out of your comfort zone; thanks to the nights that turned into mornings and the friends who became family, I'm so glad I did Erasmus!

STUDENT STORIES

ZÜBEYDE GÜLHATUN ŞIŞMAN (OUTGOING STUDENT)

MY ERASMUS ADVENTURE: A JOURNEY TO FIND MYSELF

Since my childhood, I've always wanted to go abroad, and Paris was particularly special to me. Years later, I decided to make this dream come true through Erasmus, but the process was not as easy as I had imagined. I even struggled during the application phase, but somehow managed to go. However, I soon realized that the Erasmus experience wasn't exactly what I had envisioned. I was in a country whose language and culture I didn't know, and I struggled at first. But when I arrived in Paris and saw the "you did it" expression on my family's face during a video call, it was worth everything.

Looking back on my Erasmus journey, all I can say is "I'm so glad I did it." Before Erasmus, I was a girl full of questions, almost losing hope about the future. But after Erasmus, I see a girl full of life, who believes in herself, can overcome difficulties on her own, is open to developing herself in different areas, and most importantly, looks to the future with hope. She is adding new dreams to the ones she has already fulfilled. That's exactly why this experience was not just about studying abroad or traveling through Europe; it was a journey to find myself.



STAFF MOBILITY EXPERIENCE

ASSOC. PROF. DR. NURCAN DENİZ (STAFF TEACHING MOBILITY)

I went to Laurea University in Finland within ERASMUS KA131 Teaching Mobility in September. The university was very close by train from Helsinki. I met all the department professors and made thema presentation about my university, my academic studies and the courses I would teach on the first day. They also gave me information about their education systems. The courses I gave were about "Responsible Artificial Intelligence from Sustainability Perspective" and "Artificial Intelligence in Marketing". The interest for my courses both from students and academicians made me happy. The days I spent in Finland were very useful for me. Although I could not see the northern lights, I collected good memories both personally and professionally. While I had the chance to learn about applied education systems focused on solving the problems of the sector, I also saw that the same course could be given by three different professors. Another good memory was seeing academicians waiting in line with students at lunch and eating at the same tables with them. I also want to mention the Oodi Library, which I tried to visit every day, at different times of the day, while I was in Finland. The baby stroller parking area, the sewing machine area for those who want to sew, different seating areas, studios and many other innovations are worth seeing...

