



Welcome
2023

*Happy new year with
your loved ones full of
health peace and
happiness*



December 2022



Pt	Sa	Çar	Per	Cu	Ct	Pz
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



3 December- International Day of Persons with Disabilities

5 December- Women's Right Day

10 December- Human Rights Day

12-18 December- Domestic Good Weeks

21 December- The Longest Night

31 December- New Year



SIXTEENTH CONVENTION

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HOW WAS NOVEMBER IN IECO?



Erasmus Office, which previously worked in coordination with the International Relations Office for our university to achieve its internationalization goals, became the "gateway to abroad" of IGU with the name change made in line with the decision taken at the University Administrative Board Meeting dated 09.11.2022 and numbered 2022/19. In parallel with the new task of the International Exchange and Cooperation Office, it is aimed to produce strong and effective policies for the internationalization goals of the university by signing important collaborations with institutions and organizations from various parts of the world.



The International Exchange and Cooperation Office participated in the KA-131 Projects Information Meeting, which allows higher education institutions to carry out student and staff (academic and administrative) mobility by establishing partnerships with higher education institutions in the program countries. At the meeting hosted by Istanbul University between 31 October and 2 November, the procedures and principles in the 2022 Contract Term Operational Handbook were carefully discussed. The meeting, attended by representatives of Higher Education Institutions from all over Türkiye, will make significant contributions to the improvement of the current Erasmus Program implementation processes and effective program management.



Istanbul Gelisim University International Exchange and Cooperation Office participated in the International Credit Mobility (KA-171) Project Information Meeting held by the Turkish National Agency on 17-18 November 2022, hosted by Konya Selcuk University. Project Responsible Person Gülcan GÜVEN YEŞİLGÜL representing IECO, attended the meeting and ICM projects were introduced. ICM projects, which we brought to our university for exchange in two countries, Azerbaijan and Ukraine, for the first time with the 2020 project call, have come to include exchange with 6 universities from 5 countries in total, with the inclusion of USA, Indonesia and Jordan in 2 existing projects with the call for 2022. It is aimed to increase the number of ICM projects in the following call periods in light of the information meeting held.



Istanbul Gelisim University International Exchange and Cooperation Office and IPSA Institute of Polytechnic Science and Aeronautics, one of the respected universities in France, signed a bilateral agreement based on student and staff exchange in the fields of "Electrical and Electronic Engineering", "Aviation Management" and "Motor Vehicles". The agreement which was signed in light of the meeting held at the EAIE Exhibition in Barcelona, Spain, is one of the important contributions of IGU by participating in EAIE, Europe's largest higher education exhibition. This agreement with IPSA, the apple of the eye of France with its accredited programs, corporate image and strategic location, will be an important touchstone for our university to achieve its internationalization goals.

HOW WAS NOVEMBER IN IECO?



The first guest of the process from the Erasmus Office to the International Exchange and Cooperation Office was Universiti Teknologi Malaysia with its visit on 14 November 2022. UTM, one of Malaysia's leading universities in the field of engineering and technology, came together with IECO to discuss bilateral agreement processes and to collaborate on the International Credit Mobility (KA-171) project. At the meeting, where UTM members also made presentations on the university structure, administrative and academic units and Malaysian culture, the potential opportunities that the cooperation to be established will provide to the parties were evaluated. It is aimed that the cooperation to be established between the parties will contribute to the achievement of internationalization goals by strengthening the presence of our university in Asian geography.



The International Exchange and Cooperation Office took part in the program organized by the Public Relations and Promotion Department of our university for high school students studying at the course center on 14-15 November 2022 and made a presentation on the activities of the Office and the abroad opportunities with IGU. In the presentation made by Gülcan GÜVEN YESİLGÜL, the Project Responsible Person, on 14 November, Erasmus and other exchange programs were discussed in the context of study abroad and internship opportunities. Events and promotions, which constitute an important part of IECO's duties, are aimed at promoting our university effectively and increasing its preference.



Istanbul Gelisim University International Exchange and Cooperation Office took part in the International Week of Nüertingen-Geislingen University (Germany), which is among our partner universities within the scope of the Erasmus+ Program. Many students participated in the meeting, which was moderated by Gisela Zimmermann (Academic Coordinator) and Jutta Schnell (Head of International Office), from the International Office of Nüertingen-Geislingen University, which has been among the universities we have been partners with since 2014. With this meeting, it is expected that there will be a significant increase in incoming student and staff mobility within the scope of the agreement in the upcoming terms.



The negotiations that continued after the meeting which was held on October 28 with the Azerbaijan State Economic University (UNEC), one of the largest educational institutions in the South Caucasus, created a route for increasing and diversifying the fields of cooperation. In addition to the current KA-171 Project partnership with UNEC, negotiations on the non-Erasmus bilateral agreement and dual degree program were continuing, while other negotiations were started on the e-commerce department master's program, which is a new program for UNEC. In the relevant meeting, which was held online on November 25, 2022, significant progress was made in terms of cooperation. The agreement to be established when the negotiations are concluded is an important step for our university in terms of increasing its preferability as well as being the key to a strong eastern partnership.



THE LAST STEP IN PRACTICE:

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED WITH ICMPD

As IGU IECO, the grant agreement of our project named “My Business Partner”, which we presented within the scope of the International Migration Policy Development Center (ICMPD)'s "Enhancing Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Harmony (Enhancer/FRIT)" Project Call and was deemed worthy of grant was signed on 26 December.

After the certificate presentation ceremony on October 26, 2022, the exciting wait for the signing of the grant agreement within the framework of the project finally came to an end. With the signing of the contract, which was first signed by the ICMPD representatives and then by IGU, the process was completed and the countdown for the implementation began. The project, which includes social, economic and cultural integration in order to provide sustainable employment and livelihoods to Syrians and local host communities, and which will last for 12 months, is a first for IGU in terms of both its content and financing source. The fact that the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Assistance and Solidarity Association's involvement in the project as a partner institution will contribute to the strengthening of university-civil society cooperation. Coordinator Alisa USUBOVA, Project Specialist Gülcan GÜVEN YEŞİLGÜL and as a project advisor Prof.Dr. William MOSIER from the Child Development department of Health Sciences Faculty, will take part in the project's implementation process. It is foreseen that this project will contribute to our university's diversification of financial resources and enhancement of its recognition.



Innovative Strategies in Internationalization

As Istanbul Gelisim University IECO, we participated in the Internationalization in Higher Education Consultation Meeting, hosted by Istanbul University on December 20, 2022. Representing our university, the Vice-Rector who is responsible for Research and Development, Prof. Dr. Necmettin MARAŞLI and IECO Coordinator Alisa USUBOVA attended the meeting.



At the meeting, which started with the opening speeches of Istanbul University Rector Prof. Dr. Mahmut AK and Deputy Chairman of The Council of Higher Education H. Haldun GÖKTAŞ, attention was drawn to the importance of internationalization in higher education. In the first session of the meeting, which consisted of 4 sessions, Mustafa Efe, Head of the International Relations Department of the Council of Higher Education, made a presentation on the Current Situation, Goals, and Future Projections in Internationalization. Mustafa Efe emphasized the importance of international cooperation protocols for internationalization in higher education, the number of international students, the number of international academics, and international rankings. In the ongoing session, the Head of the Education and Innovative Services Department, Fatih Aydın, made a presentation on the Support Provided to the Education Sector by the Ministry of Trade. In the 3rd session, a presentation was made by the Immigration Administration, the Turkish National Agency, Administration for Turks Living Abroad and Related Communities, and the Turkish Maarif Foundation.

Turkish National Agency Higher Education Coordinator Hür Güldü stated that the countries with the highest outgoing mobility in higher education are "Poland, Germany, Italy, Spain and Czechia", for incomings "Germany, France, Poland, Netherlands and Italy" among the program countries in Europe. He also mentioned that the most visited countries outside of Europe are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Jordan, while the most incoming visitor countries are Azerbaijan, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, and Russia. Emphasizing the importance of higher education institutions taking an active part in the Erasmus+ Program, Hür Güldü said that incentives should be given to increase the number of applications in the field of higher education, especially within the scope of Central Projects.

The meeting ended with opinions, questions, and suggestions about Collaborations between Universities, International Student Supply Acceptance Criteria and TR-YÖS (Turkey International Student Admission Exam), International Student Visa and Residence Procedures, TÖMERs, Education Fairs, International Rankings, and International Competition, International Academician Employment.

Today, the field of higher education shows an increasing tendency towards internationalization. With the increasing number of international students around the world, national and international strategies gain importance and internationalization in higher education becomes inevitable. As seen in the Internationalization Strategy Document in Higher Education, The Council of Higher Education attaches utmost importance to internationalization. Adopting the Internationalization strategy of the Council of Higher Education, Istanbul Gelisim University has adopted as its goal to increase its human, social, cultural, intellectual and organizational capital through internationalization. In this respect, the information obtained within the scope of the meeting is important in terms of guiding the IGU Internationalization strategy.



Quality Improvement in Practice:

IECO Faculty/ Department Coordinator's Orientation Program

Istanbul Gelisim University IECO organized an orientation meeting on 01.12.2022 for the International Exchange and Cooperation Department and Faculty Coordinators, who play an active role in the management of Study and Internship Mobility processes in exchanges carried out within the scope of Exchange Programs.

The program started with the speeches of IECO Coordinator Alisa USUBOVA, Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Necmettin MARAŞLI who is responsible for Research and Development and Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Nuri KURUOĞLU who is responsible for Education and Training. In the presentation made by IECO Specialist Sena DUMAN within the related program, the points to be considered for Erasmus+ mobility, the necessary documentation process and the steps to be followed were discussed. In addition, detailed information was provided by Sena DUMAN about course adjustment procedures, Board Decisions, and Online Learning Agreement (OLA) system so that students who will benefit from the Erasmus Program do not face any problems during the process including before and after the mobility.

In order to share their experiences in the process from the International Exchange and Cooperation Department Coordinators, Child Development (English) Department Coordinator Res. Assist. Hatice Zelal BİNGÖL and Political Science and International Relations Department Coordinator Res. Assist. Güçlü KÖSE provided information and suggestions to the department coordinators. After sharing their experiences, the certificates of appreciation were given to them by our vice-rectors, Prof. Dr. Necmettin MARAŞLI and Prof. Dr. Nuri KURUOĞLU.

In addition, gifts were presented as a thank you to the academic staff who have been working in coordination with IECO as the Faculty/Department Coordinator within the scope of the Program and contributed to the numerous student processes. It is aimed that the program will contribute to the improvement of quality in student mobility processes and thus to increase the level of student satisfaction both in our Office and our University.

New Steps in Internationalization: Central Projects Information Meeting

Istanbul Gelişim University International Exchange and Cooperation Office participated in the Central Projects Information Meeting held by the Turkish National Agency and hosted by Bursa Uludağ University on 7-8 December 2022. The meeting, which consisted of 4 sessions and attended by IECO Coordinator Alisa USUBOVA representing our university, lasted for 2 days.



The first session of the meeting was held with the presentation of Meliha Hilal ALTIOK, one of the representatives of the Turkish National Agency, on Jean Monnet Activities. Then the representatives of Medipol University and Yaşar University shared their experiences on the project. Kadir Has University and Eskişehir Osmangazi University representatives shared their project experiences with the participants within the scope of Erasmus Mundus as well.

On the second day of the meeting, the first session started with the informative presentation of the Jordan National Erasmus Agency and Jordan Sumaya University representatives about capacity building in Higher Education and RISE (Realizing Integration Through Social Enterprise) projects and continued with the sharing of experiences from Kütahya University. The last session of the Central Projects Information Meeting ended with the presentation of Ahmet ÇÖREKÇİOĞLU, one of the representatives of the Turkish National Agency, on European Universities. The most important issue that came to the fore at the meeting was that the Turkish National Agency paid a contribution of 20 million Euros every year to the institutions in Türkiye to be able to apply for Brussels-based projects, but despite this, not enough applications were made. It was emphasized that the advantageous position of higher education institutions is emphasized in the projects where applications can be made by NGOs together with higher education institutions, the advantageous position of higher education institutions is very low, and the importance and necessity of returning the paid participation share to our country with quality project proposals. Successful project proposals of Kadir Has University, Yaşar University, Medipol University and the most important parts they paid attention to while presenting project proposals were presented to the attention of the participants in the calls for Central Projects, which are also considered as KA-3 Projects, including project applications from Jean Monnet, Mundus and European Universities.

It is aimed that IGU, which currently does not have a KA-3 Project, will focus on Brussels-based projects strongly encouraged by the Turkish National Agency, and also reach the capacity that can receive a quota from the KA-3 projects, thereby contributing to the diversification of financing resources and strengthening its prestige.

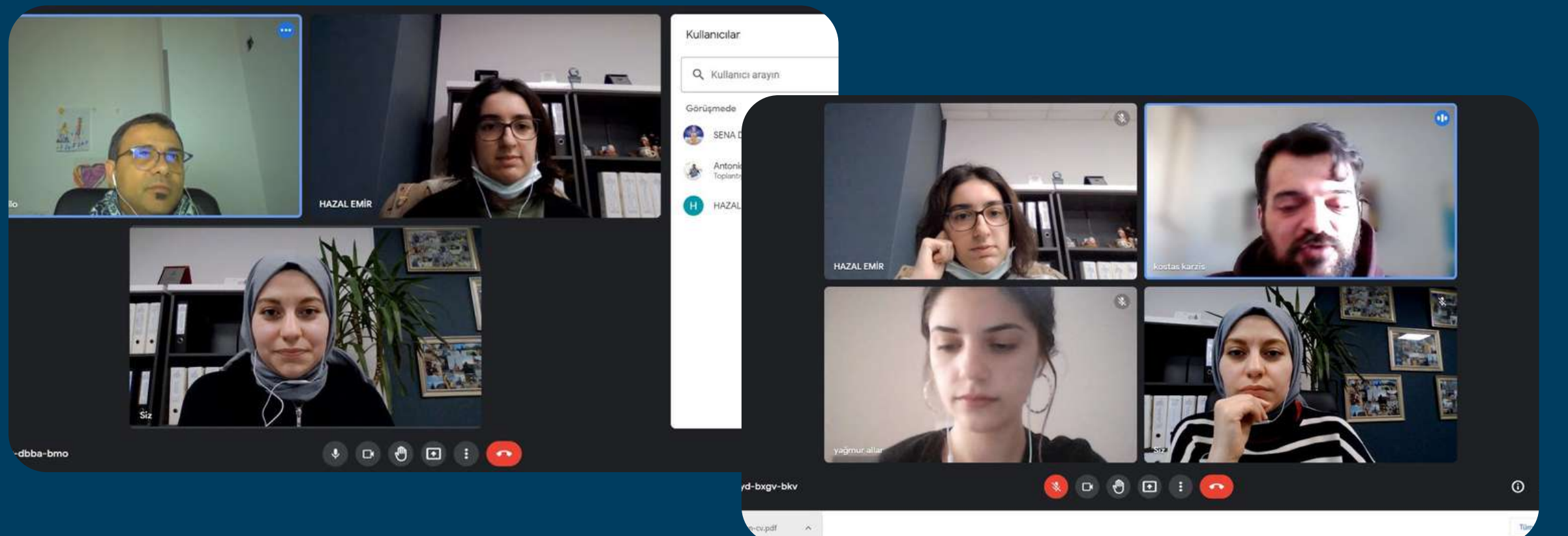
Big Breakthrough in Erasmus Internship Mobility: New Agreements on the Way

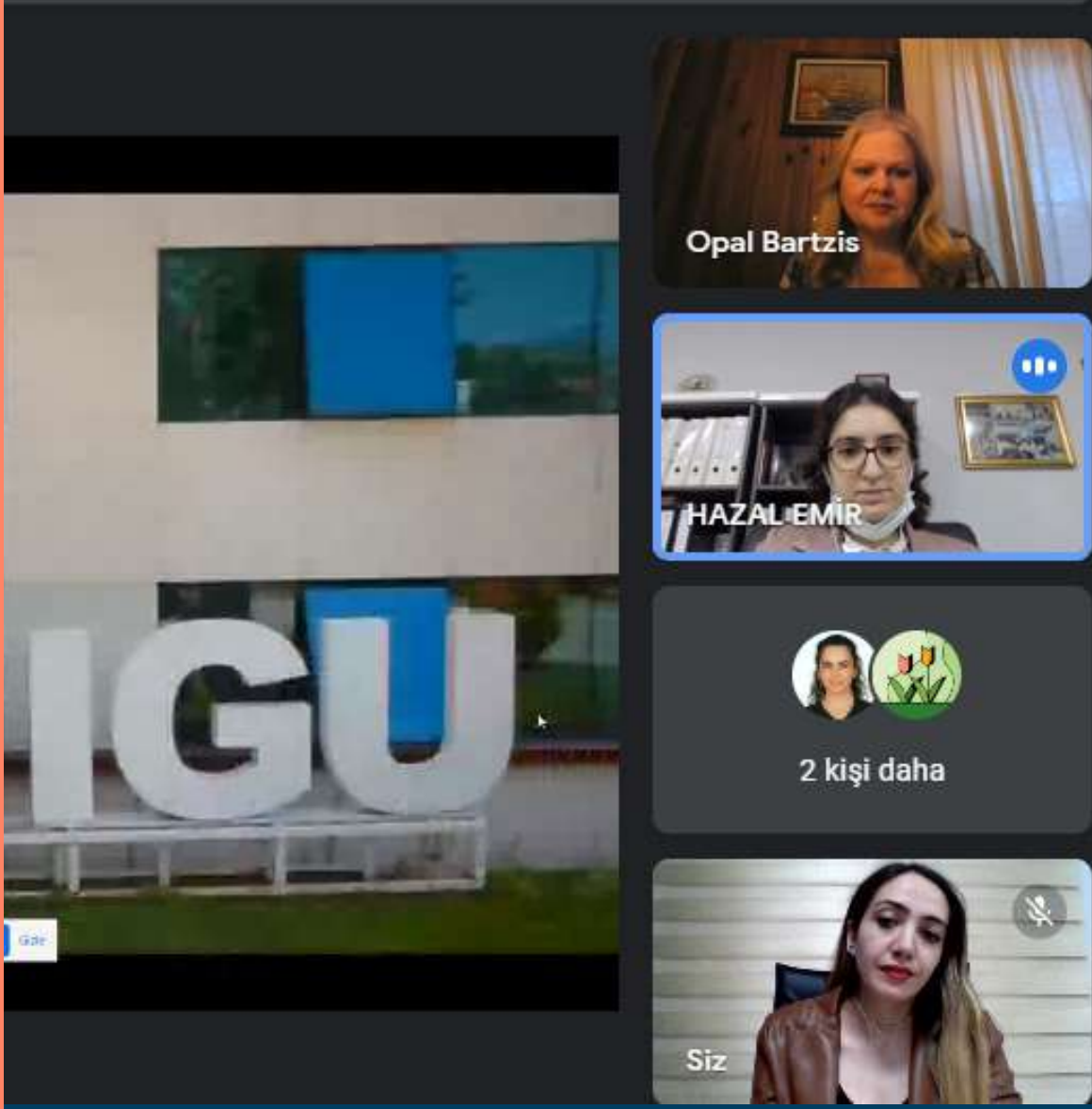
The International Exchange and Cooperation Office continues to expand its cooperation within the scope of Study and Internship Mobility. After nearly 150 agreements were made within the scope of Study Mobility, the office took action to support students in finding an institution within the scope of internship mobility as well.

The process, which started with the submission of proposals to establish cooperation with nearly 100 international private companies as the first step, continued with online meetings and correspondence with company executives to reach an agreement. As a result of the negotiations with numerous institutions from many countries such as Italy, Spain, Greece and Lithuania, the process of signing agreements with the institutions started. Among the contracted institutions there are architectural companies, restaurants, and entrepreneurship companies.

At the same time, in order to offer our students more institution alternatives, collaboration requests for internship mobility were sent to nearly 150 universities with which we have agreements within the scope of study and staff mobility. Positive feedback was also received from our partners and agreements were expanded to include internship mobility. These expanded agreements are expected to increase the preferability of internship mobility by our students.

IECO carries out intensive studies in order to make maximum use of the power of changes in terms of promoting IGU in the international arena. This will contribute to the achievement of IGU's Internationalization goals.





ICM Network is Getting Stronger: A Meeting was held with USA

International Exchange and Cooperation Office held an online meeting with Michigan State University in the USA at the point of partnership establishment within the scope of International Credit Mobility (KA-171) Projects.

After the project briefing and networking meeting held in October, our university's academic staff started to correspond with universities for partnership within the relevant department they were assigned to, within the scope of the assignment provided by the faculties, in order for IGU to strengthen and maintain its presence in the KA-171 Projects, where, as it were, "the best compete". Within the scope of correspondence, Res. Assist. Ümran ALTUNDAL received a positive response from the USA as a result of the negotiations. In return, Opal Leeman BARTZIS, who is working as the Director of Foreign Education at Michigan State University, IECO Coordinator Alisa USUBOVA, Res.Assist. Ümran ALTUNDAL, EICO Specialist Gülcan Güven YEŞİLGÜL participated in the meeting, IECO Assistant Specialist Hazal EMİR made a presentation. The meeting, which started with a general introduction of IGU and its achievements, ended with the definition of Türkiye and Istanbul. Following the presentation of Hazal EMİR, Res. Assist. Ümran ALTUNDAL made a presentation introducing the Department of Social Work as well. After the end of the meeting, the necessary information and documents for cooperation were shared with BARTZIS. Correspondence for the establishment of a partnership within the scope of the project is still ongoing.

All collaborations with the United States of America within the scope of the relevant project will contribute greatly to both our university and the prestige of our project.



New Agreement New Adventure: IGU- University of Deusto Partnership

The International Exchange and Cooperation Office signed an agreement with the University of Deusto, one of the leading universities in Spain, in the "Tourism" department in order to offer more alternatives to its stakeholders and to strengthen the presence of IGU in Spain.

IECO Assistant Specialist Hazal EMİR made a presentation about our university and the equipment and competence of our university's gastronomy department to Haizea Aranzabal Ibarrola, who works at Basque Culinary Center, one of the branches of the University of Deusto, in March. Representing our university at the presentation, General Secretary Assist. Prof. Serdar ÇÖP, Gastronomy Department Lecturer Ramazan İNAN, Res.Assist. Gizem HÜLAĞA KADEROĞLU and IECO Coordinator Alisa USUBOVA participated in the meeting. Before the agreement process, General Secretary Assist. Prof. Serdar ÇÖP and Lecturer Ramazan İNAN participated in the Erasmus+ Mobility at the Basque Culinary Center, the branch of the University of Deusto, within the scope of Erasmus+ Staff Training Mobility. As a result of the satisfaction and proximity of mobility, an agreement was signed between the University of Deusto and IGU on December 2, with the initiatives of IECO.

The University of Deusto, which is among the best universities in Spain, dates back to 1886, and the University has three campuses in the capital Madrid, Bilbao and San Sebastian, in which the Basque Culinary Center is located. The historical and cultural beauties of Spain significantly increase the value of this institution before our stakeholders. Strengthening our presence in Spain with its museums, historical and cultural structure and cuisine will be a source of prestige for IGU.

As a matter of fact, IECO carries out important works for IGU to reach its internationalization goals with the projects it realizes and the bilateral agreements it has increased day by day, both within and outside of Erasmus. As with every agreement, the agreement signed with the University of Deusto will be a valuable step in increasing the recognition of IGU globally as well.



Increased Local Impact: A Visit From Gedik University to IGU

Istanbul Gelisim University International Exchange and Cooperation Office hosted Istanbul Gedik University Erasmus Coordinator Lecturer Yücel KAMAR on 16 December.

The dialogue which started during the conversation about "International Credit Mobility Projects including the applications of "Bests" at the Central Projects Information Meeting hosted by Bursa Uludağ University on 7-8 December 2022, ended with a visit. The coordinator of Gedik University, Yücel KAMAR, who does not have ICM (KA-171) Project experience due to the lack of technical knowledge required in terms of content and a strong basis for internationalization strategies, was provided information on KA-171 projects. The KA-171 exchanges, which were brought to IGU for the first time by IECO for Azerbaijan and Ukraine in the 2020 KA-171 call, marked an important step towards the ideal of "Being a World University" with the addition of the USA, Indonesia and Jordan to the partnership in the 2022 call. IECO, acting on the principle of "Knowledge increases as it is shared", is the point of sharing the key to the success of receiving grants in KA-171 calls, which have a very high number of applications but whose budget is relatively less than other projects.

Within the scope of the visit, information was given about the working style of our office on issues such as selection, follow-up and coordination, especially the documentation and archive processes of IECO, as well as the project processes.

It is aimed that the visit will make significant contributions to increasing the local recognition of our university.

What's Up with Erasmus+?



A BRIEF LOOK INTO IECO

- Within the scope of International Credit Mobility Projects, Eastern Partnership and Russia Projects were completed. The process of expanding the partner network with other regions continues.
- On 16 December 2022, Gedik University Erasmus Office visited our Office to see our working style.
- For students who face difficulties in finding an institution within the scope of Erasmus internship mobility, we contacted the institutions with which we have bilateral agreements and previously carried out internship mobility.
- Board decisions were taken based on the Learning Agreements of the students who will participate in the mobility for the spring semester of the 2022-2023 Academic Year.
- Within the scope of Erasmus+ Study Mobility, Sponsorship Documents were prepared for the students who will participate in the mobility in the spring semester.
- Students who will study at our university as part of the exchange program in the Spring semester have completed the course registration form.



MEETINGS

- A meeting was held on 13-15 December 2022, where the representatives of the Turkish National Agency provided information about the new functions and processes in the Erasmus Application Portal.
- On 28 December 2022, an online meeting was held with Extramus in Italy for cooperation on helping students within the scope of Erasmus+ internship mobility.
- On December 30, 2022, an online meeting was held with Start up Greece for cooperation on helping students within the scope of Erasmus+ internship mobility.
- Participation in the application system information meeting held by the Turkish National Agency on 30 December 2022.





What's Up with Erasmus+?



BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

- A new bilateral agreement was signed with **University of Deusto** (E BILBAO02) in Spain until 2029.
- A new bilateral agreement was signed with **Lithuanian Maritime Academy** (LT KLAIPED06) in Lithuania until 2029.
- A new bilateral agreement was signed with **Vilniaus Kolegija** (LT VILNIUS10) in Lithuania until 2029.
- Our partnership with **University of Evora** (P EVORA01) Portugal, was extended until 2029.
- Our partnership with **University of Business Academy in Novi Sad** (RS NOVISAD07) Serbia, was extended until 2029.
- Our bilateral agreement with **Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen** (BG SHOUMEN01) and **New Bulgarian University** (BG SOFIA02) Bulgaria, was signed until 2028.



MOBILITIES

- A student from Engineering and Architecture, **Marjan PAIGHAM** has started her Internship Mobility in Italy
- A student from Institute of Graduate Studies **Joseph Babila SCOTT** has started his Internship Mobility in Italy.
- A student from Institute of Graduate Studies **Ubaid MEHMOOD** has started his Internship Mobility in Germany.





OVERVIEW'22



Outgoing Student and Staff:

As IECO, we have coordinated the mobility of 200 outgoing students, including study and internship mobility and 49 outgoing staff mobility, including teaching and training in 2022. The most preferred countries are **Germany, Italy, Poland** within the scope of outgoing student mobility. Also, **Macedonia** is the most preferred country within the scope of staff mobility.

Incoming Student and Staff:



As IECO, we hosted 40 incoming students, including study and internship mobility and 26 incoming staff, including teaching and training at our institution in 2022. Within the scope of study mobility, **Romania and Azerbaijan** are the countries that preferred our university most. In addition, within the scope of staff mobility, our university was mostly preferred by **Bulgaria**.



Bilateral Agreements

As IECO, we have achieved 32 agreements in total, including 21 Erasmus agreements and 11 Non-Erasmus agreements in 2022. The countries which we have the most agreement with are **France and Lithuania**, and the department in which we have the most agreement on is **Civil Engineering**.





Projects

As IECO, we have brought 1 ICDMP ENHANCER Project and 1 ICM Project (KA-171) to our university in 2022. Within the scope of ICM, our university's staff and students will be able to benefit from the exchange program in the USA, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Ukraine and Jordan.

Meetings



As IECO, we participated in a total of 122 meetings 95 online and 27 face-to-face in 2022. The meetings included bilateral agreements, system-information meetings, project introduction and information meetings, and in-house training meetings.



Events

As IECO, we carried out 43 events, particularly the Erasmus project workshop, ErasmusFest, Erasmus Days, program introductions, and exhibitions within the university in 2022.



Experience from Erasmus+:

Try Erasmus+!



Erasmus was a program I dreamed of since I was a little girl. And the happiness of having this dream come true is undefinable. Getting to know a different culture in another country really broadens one's horizons and vision. It contributes a lot to an individual not only academically but also in terms of life experience.

Erasmus taught me a lot as someone who has never lived away from her family. It taught me to take care of myself, and my limits, and never give up no matter what difficulties arise.

My advice to dear students who are reading this article is that they should always dream and do their best to make their dreams come true. Erasmus is a great opportunity to visit Europe. Walk every street in the country you visit, take lots of pictures, and don't be afraid to eat foods you've never tried before. Every experience, either positive or negative, is an investment in our tomorrow.

Kübra KAYABAŞI

School of Physical Education and Sports –

Coach Training

Klaipeda University / Lithuania



DISCOVER THE WORLD

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

La Sagrada Família (full name *Basílica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família*) is the most famous basilica in the world, located in Barcelona, Spain, where Antoni Gaudí, one of the pioneers of modern architecture, took over the construction in 1883 but is still unfinished today. It is also known as the never-ending church among the people. The construction is also the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world.

Antoni Gaudí, the architect of the church, took over the project from another architect, Francisco de Paula del Villar. The construction of the church started and continued with the help of the people. Gaudí devoted 43 years of his life to the design of La Sagrada Família. Unfortunately, while the construction of the church was going on, the architect Antoni Gaudí died as a result of being hit by a tram. After the death of Antoni Gaudí, the construction of the church was delayed due to the help of the public and the complexity of the famous architect's style. Although 165 years have passed since the construction of the church, even half of the church is not completed. The completion of the building was delayed due to the death of Gaudí as well as the Second World War, plus during the Spanish Civil War, anarchists destroyed Gaudí's remaining plans and sketches.

If we talk about the external structure of the church, La Sagrada Família represents the concept of the "Holy Family" consisting of Jesus, Joseph and Mary. It consists of three facades, the Nativity (Birth) which represents the birth of Jesus, the Passion, which symbolizes the crucifixion of Jesus, and the Glory, which is under construction in the south, which represents the way to God. La Sagrada Família has a total of 18 bell towers. 12 of them symbolize the 12 apostles of Jesus. The 4 bell towers symbolize the 4 Gospel writers around Jesus, and the largest remaining tower symbolizes Jesus. The second largest tower, slightly smaller than the largest tower, symbolizes the Virgin Mary. There are many shapes and symbols on the towers. These figures and pictures describe the birth, life and ordeal of Jesus. Gaudí stated that these giant towers would be an excellent welcome for tourists coming to Barcelona. He also stated that the magnificent decorations on the top towers' top seem to link heaven and earth. It is among the structures declared as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1984 with the name "Works of Antoni Gaudí".

An average of 4.5 million people visit the Sagrada Família annually. It is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Barcelona.

Our Team



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