

Partner Country : Kazakhstan

OID Number: E10379195

Relevance of the strategy (Present your planned project with this region and explain how it is related to the internationalisation strategy of all the higher education institutions involved. You may refer to the specific type(s) of mobility that you plan to organise, the subject areas, as well as any other specific element about the expected cooperation arrangements with international partners in this region that you could not describe appropriately in the “Project management” section.

Detail your previous experience of cooperation with higher education institutions in these Third countries not associated to the Programme, if any. Explain how you expect that this project will contribute to new cooperation in education and/or research in the region.)

In recent decades, the world has seen the rise of globalization, internationalization, and integration in education. Today, internationalization has become a key component of educational policies in many countries.

The internationalization of higher education is a relatively new phenomenon that can be approached from various perspectives. In recent years, programs like Erasmus have played a significant role in promoting a strategic and comprehensive approach to internationalizing European higher education. These initiatives have been made possible by socio-economic globalization and the growing importance of knowledge in society.

It is widely acknowledged that the internationalization of education brings positive outcomes for all parties involved in the educational process. For students, this includes the opportunity to study abroad, access to higher-quality and more accessible educational services, and the chance to broaden their horizons.

On the institutional level, internationalization assists in enhancing the reputation and quality of academic programs. At the national level, it aids in addressing the shortage of skilled professionals and generally improving the standard of higher education.

The higher education system in Kazakhstan is successfully adapting to the rapidly changing globalization and internationalization processes. This is accomplished through modernizing the education process, introducing a competency-based approach to educational programs, promoting student mobility, enhancing the use of information technology, promoting multilingualism, and improving the overall system.

Among the priorities facing universities, there are improving the quality of education, preparing students for life in a globalized world, increasing the number of international students, enhancing international prestige, and enhancing research activities.

Currently, Shymkent University is actively seeking to develop international cooperation between students and teachers. We are particularly interested in organizing internship and exchange programs, as well as promoting the mobility of educational programs across countries.

In order to achieve this, we plan to introduce joint educational and dual-degree programs that will enable students to pursue their studies in different countries. Additionally, we aim to conduct joint research and develop curricula in various fields, including pedagogy, natural sciences such as biology, chemistry, and geography, as well as humanities such as philology, history, social sciences, and law.

If we are awarded the grant, we intend to work with the following Erasmus components:

International Credit Mobility;

Capacity building in higher education;

Jean Monet's projects.

The University is successfully implementing a program of international cooperation and academic mobility. On the basis of signed memoranda and agreements, the University actively cooperates with leading foreign universities in Turkey, Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, etc.

By 2025, the University has already organized joint international conferences in Turkey three times.

At least three students each year go abroad to study as part of the academic mobility program. Additionally, six teachers each year upgrade their skills by participating in internships abroad.

The reorganization of Shymkent university into an independent educational organization aims to achieve and maintain high qualifications among teaching, administrative, and support staff. The introduction of advanced knowledge and technologies will expand scientific research in priority areas for Kazakhstan. Modernization of the educational process will be

achieved through the implementation of unique curricula based on independent scientific findings, developed with the participation of leading local and international professors and scientists. This will also involve employers in the process.

The formation of an English-language environment and the development of multilingual education will ensure that graduates are trained according to global standards and gain the necessary skills. International cooperation with leading research universities and centers around the world will be expanded through academic mobility, research, and innovation projects.

The modernization and expansion of the educational, scientific research, production, experimental and social infrastructure in order to improve the educational process and living conditions of students and teachers.

The constant updating of civil-educational and cultural activities aimed at the formation of a well-rounded, creative individual.

Creating a positive image of education in society and promoting its authority.

1. In the field of internationalization of education:

- Systematic implementation of European higher education standards in the university's educational process.
- Development of educational programs in accordance with international standards for integration into the European education system.
- Taking into account the needs of the real economy when designing educational programs.

2. In the field of internationalization of scientific research:

- Involvement of teachers, doctoral students, undergraduates, and students in scientific research to ensure their widespread participation in domestic and international competitions for scientific projects funded by various organizations.
- Increasing the scientific impact of our academic activities by publishing more papers in high-impact journals.

3. In the area of international cooperation:

- Enhancing the competitiveness of our graduates in the global job market.
- Promoting the reputation of our university on the international stage.
- Development of the level of internationalization of the university in the fields of education and research (admission of foreign students, organization of exchange programs, and the organization of student mobility);
- Exchange of teachers, development of joint educational and research programs, organization of intensive language courses, and summer schools;
- Increasing the volume of educational services and scientific products, including teaching foreign languages, using new technologies such as distance learning, and increasing the number of courses taught in English.
- Improvement of the management system for the University's international activities, including recognition and assessment of the quality of the educational process and certification issues, such as recognition of educational documents and implementation of international standards in education.

Quality of project design and cooperation arrangements (We would like you to present the cooperation arrangements that will be put in place for all the activities of the project:

Describe how the responsibilities, roles and tasks will be divided between you and your partners as receiving/sending institutions throughout the project and how it will be defined in the Inter-institutional Agreements.

Refer to the arrangements and measures that you foresee for the different phases of the mobility project, including:

selection of participants,

the support provided to participants before, during and after the mobility period,

measures to ensure full recognition for all participants (students and staff), by your institution and your partners,

and procedures for debriefing participants after mobility.

When you refer to outreach and selection strategies, please highlight specific measures to ensure participation of those with fewer opportunities (in accordance with the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy).

Describe how the proposal respects and promotes shared EU values.

Responsibilities, roles, and tasks are clearly defined in interagency agreements between us and our partners.

The two universities will endeavor to cooperate in education and research in areas of mutual interest. To the extent feasible, both universities will encourage contact and cooperation between academic staff, departments, research institutions and students.

Responsibilities

1. To determine the academic staff, teaching time, and exchange of faculty members between branches.

2. To identify undergraduate and postgraduate students who will be sent for education at both universities, as well as the duration of their studies.

3. To notify the number of students who will be sent at least one month before the beginning of the new academic year.

4. To prepare a program for joint scientific activities (research, conferences, seminars, etc.) that will be organized by both parties. The program should include information about the scope, time, and duration of these events, and it should be submitted to the Rectors of both universities for approval at least two months before the start of each academic year.

Areas of Cooperation

The two universities may collaborate in a variety of areas, including but not limited to:

1. Exchange of academic staff

2. Exchange of undergraduate and graduate students

3. Joint research activities and lectures via e-learning

4. Participation in seminars and academic events

5. Co-organization of short-term training programs

6. Exchange of published academic materials and information

7. Special short-term academic programs

Academic mobility of student

The exchange program is implemented within the framework of inter-university agreements on cooperation and academic mobility.

2-3 bachelor's degree courses and first-year undergraduates can be selected to study under the academic mobility program.

The criteria for selecting students to study abroad under the external academic mobility program are:

- High academic performance, the average academic score is 3.0 or higher;

- Proficiency in a foreign language (English language level, TOMER B2 or higher);
- Active participation in the scientific and social life of the university;
- Lack of financial and academic debts to the university.

A student can apply for academic mobility two times a year. The Department of International Cooperation organizes a competition and publishes an announcement about it on the university's official website.

Next, the student applies through the university's online portal to participate in the program. After the applications are reviewed, a selection process begins, during which a committee of 15 members makes a decision. In addition to the academic criteria mentioned above, points can be awarded if the student is from a large family or is an orphan.

When selecting students, the advantage is given to those who show good academic results and have a high level of language proficiency.

Academic mobility of teachers and staff

One of the key areas of international and academic activity at Shymkent University is the mobility of our teaching and administrative staff. The purpose of which is:

- Improving the quality of higher education, including through the effective implementation of scientific research.
- Increasing the competitiveness of our teaching staff in both the domestic and international markets for educational services and employment.
- Enhancing professional competencies through the study and assimilation of the experiences of leading domestic and foreign universities.
- Achieving international comparability in educational standards.
- Attracting foreign intellectual talent through bilateral agreements with partner universities.
- Establishing external and internal integration networks.

Forms of academic mobility for faculty and staff include:

- Conducting seminars, workshops, and lectures online and offline.
- Participating in joint research and educational projects.
- Engaging in educational activities hosted by the host institution online or offline.
- Completing internships, training, and professional development at educational institutions in the host country.
- We provide consulting and expert services in the field of education.

The selection of teaching staff and staff takes place on the basis of invitations.

After the university selects students and faculty to participate in international programs, it will cover all travel expenses: tickets, accommodation, travel expenses and other minor expenses. The Department of International Cooperation is preparing all the necessary documents for transfer to partners.

During the entire period of study at the University, the Department of International Cooperation provides online support and, if necessary, student support abroad.

The university offers special orientation weeks for newly arrived students. During these weeks, each student will be assigned a mentor who will guide them through the entire learning experience.

After completing the educational process, the university takes care of all the paperwork, obtaining transcripts and certificates, and also provides meetings and support for students and teachers.

At the beginning of each semester, international students and faculty members take a survey which is sent to them via email. It is essential for the university to gather information about

how satisfied students and faculty are with the quality of education in order to make improvements.

The most important values of the European Union are respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. These principles unite the member States, and no country that does not share these values can become a member of the union. When implementing the Erasmus+ programme, we must adhere to EU values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minorities. This must be done in full accordance with the values and rights outlined in the EU treaties and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Impact and dissemination (Explain the desired impact of the mobility project on participants, beneficiaries, international partners and at local, regional and national levels. Describe the measures which will be taken in your cooperation with this region to disseminate the results of the mobility project at faculty and institution levels, and beyond where applicable. Pay special attention to the Third countries not associated to the Programme.)

The KA171 project serves as a catalyst for strengthening cooperation and enhancing ties between countries, having a positive impact on all stakeholders. Participants in the mobility program are expected to benefit both professionally and personally. The project promotes creativity and innovation at all levels of education and training, helping to improve internal services, procedures, and strategic focus on internationalization. It is an effective capacity-building mechanism that helps organizations become more innovative and efficient.

Mobile specialists become the initiators of change in their home countries and host organizations. Through their exposure to innovative ideas from the mobility program participants, host organizations open up new opportunities for their educational institutions. Upon returning to their home organizations, program participants apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in their daily work, enriching and improving the working environment for the benefit of everyone.

Partner organizations actively seek new opportunities for collaboration. For instance, they can develop joint study programs, create unique curriculums, and apply for new projects through Erasmus+.

The goal of this project is to increase awareness of the advantages of mobility, broaden its scope, and make it more inclusive. It aims to make internationalization at universities strategically-oriented and initiate future connections and cooperation with regional and national companies.

The project's impact will be felt at the local, national, and regional levels. New projects implemented under this initiative will align with local, national, and regional priorities. Universities play a significant role in social and economic development at all levels.

Researchers, teachers, and other staff members should strive to be more competitive in the global job market. Their work has a significant impact on the economic development of the city, region, and country.

The dissemination of information is a crucial aspect that contributes to strengthening our future cooperation and achieving a synergetic effect. Therefore, we aim to make the project as open and accessible to all stakeholders as possible.

To this end, we plan to organize at least three information sharing events, including information days, meetings, and roundtables. The first event will be held at the beginning of the project and will typically take place on campus. We will send invitations to all faculty members, academic and administrative staff, students, and student organizations.

The second event will occur in the middle of the project, perhaps at the faculty where the project is based or at one of the student organizations we collaborate with closely. The third event will take place towards the end of the project, and we will have the option to choose from several locations.

Each event must attract at least 30 participants. Our target audience includes students, academic and extracurricular staff.

We use several communication channels to reach our target audience, including email, social media, university websites, radio station, and channels. We also post posters and other materials in public places.

To measure the success of our information dissemination, we track the number of attendees at classes and events, the response from decision makers, and the number of related events.

All events involve beneficiaries from local and international institutions to interact with the audience and present the project's results. We invite local media to cover at least one event.

These information campaigns will lead to procedures that we can use to effectively manage individual and institutional mobility. Information about the project will be available on our website. The results should be incorporated into university events to raise awareness among the wider academic community about the opportunities offered by these projects. We will spread awareness at the local, national and regional levels by participating in events such as educational fairs, peer meetings and sharing best practices through the role of Erasmus+ ambassadors. We will hold regular events to inform and inspire people, using a variety of visual tools such as flyers, manuals and promotional materials. In addition, we plan to organize similar events at our partner institutions, which will help us implement our agreement more effectively and maximize the dissemination of our project results.