**Partner Country: Azerbaijan Republic** 

**OID Number:** E10044917

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.)

Baku Slavic University's internationalization strategy is a comprehensive document that outlines our institution's goals to enhance global partnerships, elevate our international prestige, and attract a diverse community of international students and staff. The strategy also describes our commitment to fostering academic collaborations, facilitating student and staff mobility, and encouraging cultural exchanges. In alignment with our internationalization strategy, we are eager to organize mobility programs for both students and staff, as they play a significant role in creating a dynamic, diverse and globally connected academic community. These programs offer invaluable opportunities for students and staff of involved partners to engage with different academic environments, learn from diverse activities, and contribute to the broader goals of academic collaboration and cultural exchange. The Erasmus+ mobility framework is particularly significant in realizing these objectives. It not only aligns with our university's strategy but also provides a platform for students to gain experience to diverse academic environments and for faculty to observe and participate in teaching practices at partner institutions, contributing to their professional development. Moreover, Baku Slavic University has a sound experience in teaching and researching Slavic and European languages, including Bulgarian, Czech, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Polish, English, German, Greek, and Turkish. Along with that, there are also educational programs in International Relations, Regional Studies, Journalism, and Education across Bachelor, Master, and PhD levels. This proposed project builds upon our previous experiences of cooperation with higher education institutions in other countries. We anticipate that this project will further deepen our collaboration with international partners in education and research, contributing to mutual growth and opening new opportunities for cooperation.

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.

In previous similar projects, Baku Slavic University has a history of successful collaboration within the Erasmus framework. Past projects have contributed positively to the university's growth, and we aim to build on these experiences for future cooperation. The division of competences with our partners is expected to be outlined in the Inter-institutional Agreement. Both sending and receiving institutions will collaborate on the selection and evaluation of outgoing students/staff, with evaluations completed jointly with the appropriate Department. Assistance with the needs of incoming students will also be a shared responsibility. The different phases of the mobility project, including participant selection, support before, during, and after the mobility period, full recognition measures, and debriefing procedures, will be systematically outlined.

Baku Slavic University is equipped with a range of facilities essential for the holistic development and comfort of mobility students and staff. These include a sufficient library, research laboratories, a gym, dormitory, and other resources. All these facilities are open to both local and international students, ensuring a feasible learning and living environment. Regarding the selection process for exchange programs, we are planning to announce the programs within the university at the designated date. The announcement will outline the necessary documents that participants need to submit. Our goal is to ensure a transparent and inclusive selection process, promoting equal opportunities for all interested individuals. The recognition procedure for participants' mobility is an integral part of our process. Baku Slavic University operates on a credit system where one term is equivalent to approximately 30 ECTS. The medium of instruction depends on the course, with options in Azerbaijani, Russian, or English. Baku Slavic University university actively organizes social and integration activities, particularly for international students. These activities include participation in Erasmus+ events, visits to historical places, museums, and local regions, fostering a vibrant and diverse social life. To encourage the participation of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special needs, we provide individual attention to ensure academic success and personal development. Outreach and selection strategies will include specific measures to ensure the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities, fostering an inclusive and accessible mobility program. Our International Cooperation Department provides comprehensive support, including assistance with visas, insurance, residence, accommodation, and other related issues for both incoming and outgoing students.

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 mobility project is expected to have a transformative impact on participants, beneficiaries, and stakeholders at various levels. For students, the program will provide opportunities to gain experience in diverse academic environments, fostering cross-cultural understanding and enriching their educational learning. Beyond subject-specific knowledge, students will gain essential skills in intercultural communication, contributing to their personal and academic growth. Similarly, staff mobility programs will play a crucial role in faculty development. Faculty members participating in teaching practices at partner institutions will acquire knowledge about various pedagogical approaches, bringing back new perspectives and innovative teaching methodologies to the University. This transfer of knowledge and teaching methodologies will contribute to enhancing the overall quality of education at the institution. By promoting knowledge exchange, collaboration, and cultural understanding, the project aligns with broader goals of internationalization and academic excellence. It serves as a catalyst for creating a learning environment that goes beyond geographical boundaries, fostering a sense of global citizenship among participants and beneficiaries.

The University is expected to gainl benefits, including bringing perspectives into the University's academic practices, enhancing institutional growth and innovation.

To disseminate the results of the mobility project, we will follow a multifaceted approach. Information about the performed activities will be readily available on the official website of the University, ensuring accessibility to faculty members, students, and the broader academic community. Additionally, updates, achievements, and insights will be actively shared on the University's Facebook and Instagram pages.