

January 21, 2015

Dear Colleague,

We hope that this message finds you well.

As you may already know, the European Commission is extending the Erasmus+ program to beneficiaries worldwide (to 81 countries in 5 continents). This new initiative envisages cooperation between “program countries”¹ and “partner countries”² (as referred by the Commission).

The extended Erasmus+ program will allow academic staff and student mobility between our institutions with generous grants (monthly grant for students, per diem for academic staff and travel support for both) provided by the EU Commission. The mobility supports especially the flow from partner to program countries, which means that majority of the grants will be allocated to your staff and students coming to METU.

We would like to inform you about this new initiative and propose a partnership format within Erasmus+ program in order to realize collaboration activities in various areas.

The initial step to start the mobility program is for METU to apply to the Turkish National Agency (the granting body responsible for EU education funds in Turkey) to receive a project budget.

We are in the process of submitting our proposal and, within this context, would like to ask you to answer our short survey which will enable us to submit a realistic proposal. For that purpose, we have attached a short survey which will not take much of your time to fill in. Could we kindly ask you to take a few minutes to fill in the survey attached and return it to us until **February 3, 2015**?

Once METU is granted the project budget, we will contact you again to finalize the inter-institutional agreements and receive nominations for the mobility of participants.

We believe that this new initiative will give way to enhanced collaboration between our institutions.

Thank you very much for your interest and support.

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Aysegul Daloglu
Assistant to President for International Cooperations
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¹ 28 member states of EU, the EFTA/EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) EU candidate countries (Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

² Erasmus+ Programme Guide, 2015, pp. 24-25: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/erasmus-plus-programme-guide_en.pdf