

EN

E-001911/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.12.2024)

The Erasmus+ study period abroad must be relevant for the student's degree-related learning and personal development needs and be part of the study programme followed by the student at its home university¹. Details of learning contents during time abroad are defined by the universities involved in the mobility activity. The Gaziantep Islamic University² offers courses ranging from natural science, engineering, medicine to economics, administration or social science and was awarded an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education³.

The Commission is politically committed and legally bound to ensure that no one receives EU funding if they are involved in criminal or unethical practices, terrorism-related offences, or in other activities incompatible with EU values. The recent Financial Regulation recast⁴ introduced an explicit ground under the early detection and exclusion system for excluding entities from receiving EU funds if they have engaged in activities contrary to the values on which the EU is founded⁵, such as incitement to discrimination, hatred, or violence⁶.

Mechanisms framed by the EU Financial Regulation have been put in place to protect the EU values, including by adding new provisions in the Erasmus+ documents and grant agreements.

The Commission will continue rigorous monitoring procedures through checks and follow-ups on compliance with EU values. This includes regular audits, feedback from exchange students, and close collaboration with national agencies responsible for the implementation of actions under the Erasmus+ programme.

The Commission will immediately act on any evidence in this respect, by implementing appropriate measures against unreliable entities, e.g. suspension of contract or payments, contract termination, recovery, even exclusion from EU financing.

¹ Erasmus+ programme guide: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-11/erasmus-programme-guide-2025_en.pdf

² <https://www.gantep.edu.tr/en/>

³ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/higher-education-institutions-holding-an-eche-2021-2027?>

⁴ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/990fe2a6-8f52-11ef-a130-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

⁵ These values are enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

⁶ Article 138(1)(c)(vi) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 23.9.2024.