

PARTNER ORGANISATION DETAILS	
OID	E10180898
Legal name	ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMICIANS UNION
Legal name (national language)	Akademisyenler Birlięi Derneęi
Address	Mebusevleri Mah. Ayten Sk. Murat Apt. D.4
Country	Turkey
City	Ankara
P.O. Box	N/A
Post code	06570
Telephone	+90 532 367 79 94
Fax	-
CEDEX	
Website	www.akademisyenler.org.tr
E-mail	akademisyenler.birligi@gmail.com
Has the organization received any type of accreditation before submitting this application?	-

PROFILE	
Type of Organisation	NGO/Assocation
Is the partner organisation a public body?	No
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes

ASSOCIATED PERSONS

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Title	Prof. Dr.
Gender	Male
First Name	İsmail
Family Name	Sahin
Department	Board
Position	President
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If the address is different from the one of the organization	-
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Postal Code	06570
CEDEX	-

CONTACT PERSON

Title	Mr.
Gender	Male
First Name	Tayfun
Family Name	Fındık
Department	Board
Position	General director of EU projects
E-mail	akademisyenler.birligi@gmail.com

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If the address is different from the one of the organization	Same address

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Please briefly present your organisation. Please briefly present the partner organisation (e.g. its type, size, scope of work, areas of specific expertise, specific social context and, if relevant, the quality system used).

Akademisyenler Birliği Derneği (Association of Academicians Union/AAU) established in 2001 and it has more than 400 active members and its main activity takes place in national and international wide. The members from every part of Turkey, the association organizes courses to increase the professional competence of the academicians and interviews regarding scientific journal publication and current issues.

It still has an active EU Erasmus+, IPA and R&D projects with universities. The association has organized interviews in regard to the changes in the higher education system, prepared reports. It is in the position of NGO to represent the academics to be the final beneficiary of the project best.

The main mission of our organization is to help young scientists in their socialization and to provide more space and opportunity for their globalization. AAU also would like to help young peoples career orientation and employability. Participation in our activities can help them to improve their soft and hard skills so they will have better chances to integrate into the job market in academic life.

AAU works for civil society to participate and contribute to higher education. The IPA-CSSP-III/112 project was accepted by the EU and implemented by the AAU. This project involved activities aimed at strengthening NGOs to ensure active participation of civil society in the modernization of higher education.

Furthermore, the AAU conducted studies to improve business conditions in working life. The IPA-IOHS/180 project, which was adopted, focused on enhancing occupational health and safety in the mining industry. This was achieved by raising the awareness of both workers and employers.

In addition, AAU is working on improving the quality of education and training at the primary school level. An IPA-IQSES/154 project on this issue has already been accepted by the EU and is being carried out by our association. The project includes improving the quality of education and training for children with learning disabilities at the primary school level,

raising the awareness of Teachers, families and school administrators about SLD and the preparation of educational materials for teachers aimed at students with learning disabilities.

Association of Academicians Union supports the following activities:

- *organizing training courses/language courses*
- *providing studying, internship, and research mobility*
- *short term and long term volunteering projects*
- *youth exchange and training course activities, workshops*
- *alternative education environments*
- *seminars on social, educational and scientific problems*
- *studies on problems related to working life*

Our working methods are based on active participation and involvement, formal and informal education and cross-sectoral multidisciplinary approach pedagogically. We have good cooperation with public and private universities in Turkey. We have been participating in international research and education projects as a partner or beneficiaries via our members.

AAU carries out curriculum development activities based on the identification of education and training needs of individuals and groups. In recent years, AAU has been involved in projects focussing on Industry 4.0 technologies. For example, AAU was a partner in a recently completed Erasmus+ Ka2 HE strategic partnership project. The project focussed on curriculum development on rapid prototyping (3D Printing).

It is currently continuing its curriculum development work as a partner in an Erasmus+ Ka220 Youth and a Ka220 HE project. The Youth project focuses on Virtual Reality (VR) and Rapid Prototyping integrated training to reduce youth unemployment. In the Ka220 HE project accepted in 2024, it aims to develop a curriculum aiming to provide dental surgery training in a virtual reality environment.

It is also a participant in 2 IPA projects aiming to increase the employability of unemployed young people through the training of VR, AR and 3D Printing technologies. Along with all these, AAU is working on the concept of sustainability within the framework of Eco-design strategy. Currently, it is a partner in one Erasmus+ KA2 VET project.

It has been organizing special training courses for nearly 20 years to increase the academic knowledge and skills of its members and young people. It organizes courses to increase the foreign language skills of young academicians and its members.

AAU has been one of the partners in the Turkey's largest Erasmus+ Higher Education consortium for many years. He has organized regular weekly conferences for AAU members and external participants for 19 years. These conferences include science, education, social inclusion, employment, regional developments, health, economics, social media awareness etc. contains topics. A large number of seminars and conferences were held at AAU on social

media awareness and safe use. In pandemic conditions, continues these conferences as on-line conferences with its experience in distance education.

Members of our organizations were involved in many Erasmus+ projects such that; youth exchanges, youth workers training and seminars on social inclusion and youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our young members also participated Erasmus+ Youth EVS projects. Our office so close to the universities area and the office is working as a youth center. In our office, we have language clubs on academic writing, speaking and reading for the young scientist. We give some courses with language to increase their mobility, improve their initiatives, foreign language for better job opportunities. We also use this office to prepare meetings, for example, large-scale conference and symposiums.

What are the activities and experience of the partner organisation in the areas relevant for this project? What are the skills and/or expertise of key persons involved in this project? How will your organisation contribute to the project?

Association of Academicians Union (AAU) has enormous experience in EU R&D and education programs.

AAU carries out various activities to improve working conditions in working life with its highly qualified academic staff, to enable civil society to participate and contribute to higher education, and to improve the quality of education and training at primary school level. Three IPA projects have already been accepted and are being carried out.

The first of these, the IPA-CSSP-III/112 project, includes activities aimed at strengthening NGOs to ensure the active participation of civil society in the modernization of higher education.

The second of these, the IPA-IOHS/180 project, includes activities aimed at increasing occupational health and safety in the mining sector by increasing employee and employer awareness.

The third of these, the IPA-IQSES/154 project, includes activities to improve the education and training quality of children with learning difficulties at primary school level.

As AAU is an academic non-governmental organization, it uses its great academic experience to realize these and similar projects. AAU will reflect the experience it has gained from the projects that it has coordinated and partnered to the project works.

AAU will work in close cooperation with critical stakeholders (universities, CSOs, etc.). The project team will consist of high qualified academicians. This team is responsible with the planning, execution and coordination of the activities. Besides the project team, there will be

a council that will work on the project developments. There will be members from stakeholders of AAU in the council that consists of 10 people with at least one representation from each of the public, private, and non-profit stakeholders. People in these group will be experts and/or highly experienced on the EU and R&D projects.

All activities will be coordinated through the project team with the involvement of council members when necessary. Both the project team and council will use feedback, suggestions, and comments of broader target groups and final beneficiaries. Work principles of the both the project team and the council will be based on organizational democracy and equal power of each member. Decisions will be based on valid information. The project team and the council will conduct monthly joint meetings for coordinating their efforts.

It is extremely successful in adding AAU member profile to project works. It has the ability to activate the rich member profile in all projects that it has partner or coordinator. These members work in the fields related to the project subject according to their professional experience. For example, software and computer engineers are working on the detection of harmful information spread from social media (Facebook, twitter etc.). We have members who make artificial intelligence applications and theses and articles to determine this. Besides, our education experts actively observe the impact of social media on educational processes. Taking into account the active use of social media, especially in pandemic conditions. At the same time, the psychological and pedagogical effects of social media on young people are in the working areas of our psychologists and educational scientists.

Our members have been involved in many studies on the safe use of social media. He conducts scientific studies on the safe use and bad effects of social media; It provides consultancy services to public and private institutions.

We have a peer-reviewed journal named "Journal of Turkey Social Research". Numerous articles on social media use and security are published in this journal. In addition, we organize scientific symposiums with universities and NGOs.

Due to its institutional structure, the AAU has a large number academicians of AAU are scientists who conduct scientific studies on the subject of the project. Some of our members provide consultancy services to the public and private institutions on the subject of the project. These members have been doing academic studies on curriculum and training module development for many years.

AAU carries out curriculum development activities based on the identification of education and training needs of individuals and groups. In recent years, AAU has been involved in projects focussing on Industry 4.0 technologies. For example, AAU was a partner in a recently completed Erasmus+ Ka2 HE strategic partnership project. The project focussed on curriculum development on rapid prototyping (3D Printing).

It is currently continuing its curriculum development work as a partner in an Erasmus+ Ka220 Youth and a Ka220 HE project. The Youth project focuses on Virtual Reality (VR) and Rapid Prototyping integrated training to reduce youth unemployment. In the Ka220 HE project accepted in 2024, it aims to develop a curriculum aiming to provide dental surgery training in a virtual reality environment.

AAU is also involved in two IPA II projects that teach young people how to use virtual reality, augmented reality, and 3D printing to get better jobs. In addition to all of this, AAU is also implementing an Eco-design approach that centers on the idea of sustainability. One Erasmus+ KA2 VET project currently counts it as a partner.

In the Ka220 HE project accepted in 2024, it aims to develop a curriculum aiming to provide dental surgery training in a virtual reality environment. The association is also a partner in the KA220 VET project, which focuses on the training of wire additive manufacturing technology using virtual reality (VR).

In addition, AAU has been one of the partners in the Turkey's largest Erasmus + Higher Education consortium for many years. AAU also has a rich experience in Erasmus + Youth projects. He took part in TC projects as coordinator and partner. We also created a TC project for Erasmus+ Youth KA1 project. The AAU actively sent more than 150 students to abroad under Erasmus+ Higher Education Programme.

AAU is engaged in the development of curricula based on the identification of educational and training needs of individuals and groups. AAU has recently successfully completed a KA2 curriculum development project with a team of qualified academicians and engineers. Within the scope of this project, a rapid prototyping training curriculum has been established between the engineering faculties where rapid prototyping training is provided. With the developments in design and production processes, the integration of the rapid prototyping approach, which is an integral part of engineering applications, into engineering education has been accelerated.

AAU, which is also a member of the Erasmus+ Higher Education Consortium, sends many students to companies in Europe for internships. AAU members have been involved in 27 projects over the past 10 years

Recent Projects:

- Mining-OHS (TREESP1.1OHSMS/P-03/180) (Lead Applicant)

Improving Occupational Health and Safety Grant Scheme (IOHS)

AAU has also been interested in engineering and common disciplines since its inception. With the contribution of the occupational safety specialist academicians within the AAU, it is carrying out the project of improving occupational health and safety in the mining sector. The mining sector is one of the most risky sectors in terms of occupational health and safety. For this reason, seminars are given to 20 managers and 50 workers working in the mines. In

addition to these trainings, an awareness raising campaign is being conducted. After training and Awareness-raising campaigns, mining sites are visited and practical training is provided as well as theoretical training.

- CSSP-III (TR2016/DG/03/A3-01/112) (Lead Applicant)

Active Involvement of Civil Society to Higher Education System

AAU works for the active participation and contribution of civil society to higher education. The IPA-CSSPIII/112 project has already been adopted and is being implemented. The project includes an action on strengthening NGOs to ensure the active participation of civil society in the modernization of higher education. During the project activities, 4 specialized teams were created and 3 academicians specializing in their field were assigned to the teams. In addition, workshops, trainings and press conferences are held in 6 different provinces.

- EuropeAid/162216/ID/ACT/TR/154 (Lead Applicant)

Every Student Counts! Improving Inclusive Education Services for Students with Learning Disabilities

The aim of the project is to increase the quality of education and training for children with learning difficulties at primary school level, to raise awareness of teachers, families and school administrators about SLD, and to prepare educational materials for teachers for students with learning disabilities. During the project, 10 different trainings will be held with students, managers, teachers and families. AAU will prepare a manual for their families, peers, teachers, and school management covering the necessary attitudes and behaviors that students need to improve their social and academic success.

- 2021-1-KA220-VET-CAF3E123 (Co-applicant)

RAW: Raising Awareness on effective Waste management

The aim of the project is to raise awareness on effective waste management among employees of chambers of commerce, regional development agencies, local authorities and centres for entrepreneurship development, but also VET teachers, trainers and mentors. RAW will foster symbiosis and cooperation between municipalities and entrepreneurs disrupting stereotypical behaviours on handling waste.

- 2022-1-TR01-KA220-YOU-0000892 (Co-applicant)

VRP4Youth: Innovative Integration between Virtual Reality and Rapid Prototyping for Youth

The project objective to increase youth employment in Europe in long term. The short-term objectives of the project are as follows:

- To understand the needs of unemployed youth and related industries in context of Virtual Reality (VR) and Rapid Prototyping (RP)
- To promote/teach innovative applications to youth on an international scale for increasing their employability,

-To promote the integration of outputs of Industry 4.0 into the skills and competencies of young people

- ICMPD/2022/ENHANCER-353-1222337 (Associate)

SuTP Inclusive Entrepreneurship, Product Design, and Development Services

Overall objective of the project: Contributing to the improvement of ecosystem for (Syrian under the Temporary Protection) SuTP and (Local Host Communities) LHC entrepreneurs in machinery, equipment, metal manufacturing (MAM) sector.

Specific objective of the project: Developing a common use centre for entrepreneurship, industrial design, and 3D modelling (3D-CEN)

Outputs:

- Increased product design, modelling, and entrepreneurship development services in MAM sector
- Increased exporting capacity and networking services in MAM sector
- Strong visibility, stakeholder outreach, and promotion of the project results achieved

- TREESP1.2.NEETPRO/P-03/136 (Associate)

Let's Find Virtual Reality Jobs in Manufacturing Sector

Overall objective of the project is increasing employment of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). To do so, the project will achieve a specific objective which is developing career management services for NEETs regarding VR within a 12-month period. To achieve this specific objective, first, the project will recruit NEETs and register them with İŞKUR; second, based on assessments by Gazi University, the action will group NEETs and develop their skills so that they will be ready as VR technicians. Finally, the project will facilitate active job search through career management activities and tools. Thus, during and following the action, NEETs will find employment in manufacturing sector in Ankara and Turkey.

- TREESP1.3FoW/P-03/85

Employment at Virtual and Augmented Reality Jobs

The project aims to increase employability and employment of graduates of technical vocational schools of higher education in context of DFW. To achieve this overall objective, the action will organize interactive trainings followed by “hands on” workshops to enhance practical skills of the target group. Additionally, the project will develop an open access

database to match job seekers with employers who are looking for employees with knowledge and practice in Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR). The project activities and outputs will overcome skill mismatch of the target group, while addressing qualified worker needs of the industry. The consortium will find employment for at least 50 of trained people following the action.

- 2024-1-TR01-KA220-VET-000254791(Co-Applicant)

DigiWAAM: WAAM in Digital Transformation – Innovative Manufacturing Training for Youth

DigiWAAM is an **Erasmus+ KA220-VET project** aimed at enhancing vocational education in **Wire Arc Additive Manufacturing (WAAM)**. The project equips young individuals with skills in **WAAM technology, digital design, and Industry 4.0**, improving their employability and industry readiness. Implemented by an **international consortium** from **Turkey, Poland, Greece, and Italy**, DigiWAAM bridges the gap between education and industry, supporting **digital transformation** and preparing the workforce for future challenges.

KEY STAFF

Our key team for the proposal:

Ismail SAHIN (PhD, Professor), is responsible for coordination of the Erasmus+ Youth, Higher Education and ESC projects. He is working at the Gazi University Technology Faculty as an academician. He is the chairman of the board of directors of the Association of Academicians Union. He has been coordinating and evaluating R&D, Erasmus+ Higher Education KA2 projects which are supported by universities, the EU, and TUBITAK. He is an academician and journalist. He is also editor in some scientific journals.

He involved in some EU programs since 2005 (Erasmus teaching, Leonardo Transfer of Innovation, etc.) as participants, researcher, coordinator and beneficiaries. He can speak English very well. He participated in PCM (Project Cycle and Management Course) which was organized by Gazi University SEM. He has a very huge and colorful network with schools, universities, and associations.

Tayfun Findik (PhD, Assistant Professor) is currently an academician at Gazi University, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. He works as an Erasmus Coordinator. He has been coordinating and implementing R&D, Erasmus+ Higher Education KA2, IPA projects which are supported by universities, the EU, and TUBITAK. He has also been involved as a researcher and participant in various Erasmus+ and IPA projects. He is also the chairman of the board of an NGO representation. He has good communication and management skills. He also implements seminars and trainings for adults. His work focuses on active youth participation, non-formal education and social innovation.

Murat Dorterler (PhD) is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Computer Engineering. He is working the Erasmus + Higher Education project as a researcher. He has been working on R&D projects which is related to RP, Artificial Intelligence, social media security, curriculum development and supported by governmental fund. Therefore, he is gaining experiences from previous and actual projects on academic studies that they are located core of the project topic. He has high experience in networking, preparing and presenting in EU funded projects. He participated in several Erasmus+ projects as researcher and participant. He has easily contact skill and high-level communication ability. He is actively taking academic working discipline.

Alper Altuncekcic (PhD) is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology. He has worked extensively on the establishment and development of training modules using e-learning environment. For many years, he conducted the management and development of learning management systems at Gazi University Distance Education Center. He is currently a partner of an Erasmus + Higher Education project related to curriculum development. He participated in several Erasmus + projects as researcher. His rich knowledge of e-learning platforms will make a significant contribution to project work.

A. Alperen EROL (MsC, Eng) is currently a master student in Karabük University. He has successfully completed many R & D projects in his academic life. He has significant experience in project processes and project management. It is responsible for the technical affairs of our projects. He works at M-OHS and speaks English fluently. He is also the coordinator of the IPA-IQSES/154 project being carried out.

Has the partner organization participated in a European Union granted project in the 3 years preceding this application?

If yes, please complete:

EU Programme	Year	Project Identification or Contract Number	Applicant/Beneficiary Name
EuropeAid/167108/ID/ACT/TR	2023	TREESP1.3FoW/P-03/85	Gazi University
Neet Pro	2023	TREESP1.2.NEETPRO/P-03/136	Gazi University
Erasmus+ Youth	2022	2022-1-TR01-KA220-YOU-0000892	Gazi University
ENHANCER	2022	ICMPD/2022/ENHANCER-353-1222337	Gazi University
Erasmus+ Vocational Education	2021	2021-1-KA220-VET-CAF3E123	Danmar Computers
IPA-IQSES/154	2021	TREESP2.3.IQSES/154	Association of Academicians Union
IPA-CSSPIII/112	2021	TR2016/DG/03/A3-01/112	Association of Academicians Union
IPA-IOHS	2020	EuropeAid/162207/ID/ACT/TR/180	Association of Academicians Union
Erasmus+ Higher Education	2019	2019-1-TR01-KA103-063456	Gazi University
Erasmus + Youth	2019	2019-3-DE04-KA105-018869	ZSD e.V.
CDRP Project - KA2	2018	2018-1-TR01-KA203-059739	Association of Academicians Union
Erasmus+ Youth	2018	2018-1-TR01-KA105-057576	Association of Academicians Union
Erasmus+ Higher Education	2018	2018-1-TR01-KA203-059739	Gazi University
Erasmus+ Higher Education	2018	2018-1-TR01-KA103-052631	Gazi University



PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)