

1. ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT (EPS)

Turkish National Police Academy (TNPA) is the institution in Turkey responsible for training police chiefs and police constables. Founded in 1937 under the name of Police Institute, it has undergone a number of structural changes. Finally, in 2015, the Faculty of Security Sciences, which offered a four-year bachelor's programme, was converted into Police Chiefs Training Centre, which provides one year of training for students holding a bachelor's degree.

In addition to training police chiefs and constables, TNPA offers postgraduate education for both members and non-members of the Turkish Police Organization. At the Institute of Security Sciences, the Institute of Forensic Sciences, and Traffic Institute, there are currently 14 master programmes and two doctorate programmes. Two of the master programmes, namely M.A. in International Security and M.A. in Intelligence Research are taught fully in English. Through bilateral agreements, exchange programmes, and scholarships, international students are able to apply and study in all graduate programmes offered by TNPA. As of May 2020, a total of 57 international students has graduated from these programmes.

Another key mission of TNPA is conducting scientific research regarding security, forensics, traffic, and transportation. In addition to the abovementioned Institutes, TNPA has dedicated research centers on Security Management and Education, Forensic Research and Criminology, International Terrorism and Security, Transportation Security, History and Culture of the Police, and Migration and Border Security. These units of TNPA continually carry out scientific research, organize academic events, and publish academic books, journals, and reports.

In its mission statement TNPA has declared that one of its key missions is to contribute to universal development by cooperating with domestic and foreign institutions. TNPA has the objective to become, both at the national and international level, a leading higher education institution providing postgraduate education in the field of security sciences. TNPA regards international cooperation as a key element in achieving this objective. Considering the importance of cooperation in security matters and in fight against crime, TNPA has been strengthening its international relations through bilateral agreements, memberships to international agencies, international seminars and symposiums, and providing international training courses for the police organizations of foreign countries.

Relations with Europe has a special position in TNPA's international relations. TNPA is currently carrying out the vice presidency of the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC), which includes 55 institutions from 43 countries. In cooperation with European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), TNPA has organized a number of workshops, meetings, and exchange programmes.

TNPA regards Erasmus+ Programme as a highly important venue for international cooperation. Since 2004, TNPA has been a part of this Programme and has carried out incoming and outgoing student and staff mobilities with partner institutions. As of 2020, TNPA has inter-institutional agreements with 17 higher education institutions in programme countries. This number may not seem too high compared to universities, but due to the relatively more closed nature of domestic security institutions and the scarcity of HEIs with compatible curriculum, international cooperation is more difficult in the field of security than general university

education. Despite this difficulty, TNPA is keen to establish further partnerships with institutions having similar missions, interests, and curricula, while continuing to deepen its relations with its partner institutions.

The internationalization strategy of TNPA acknowledges the key contribution of student and staff exchanges and participation in European and international cooperation projects. Conducting student and staff mobilities is a practical and useful way to develop connections and share knowledge with other institutions in Europe and elsewhere. Mobilities under Erasmus+ Programme will enhance the depth and scope of TNPA's postgraduate education and training programmes, and advance the knowledge, skills, and experience of its students and staff. Incoming students and staff will improve the international outlook of TNPA, which already hosts international students and staff through other mechanisms.

One of the aims of TNPA in its internationalization strategy is to actively engage in the sharing of academic and expert knowledge in fields related to security. This is because, cooperation in police training and scientific research, and integration of best practices will not only improve mutual understanding among different police institutions, but also strengthen their knowledge and capacity in tackling security problems at the national and international level. TNPA is one of the leading institutions in the world in providing international police training. Within the scope of international training activities, 2.368 training activities for 84 foreign police organizations have been conducted in coordination with TNPA so far and around 39.000 personnel have been trained at TNPA. Through exchanges under Erasmus+ Programme, academic and administrative staff of TNPA will be able to share their knowledge and experience with their European counterparts. Thus, TNPA will offer its contribution to the improvement, modernization and internationalization of other higher educational institutions in Europe. The increase of dialogue and cooperation with European partners is expected to develop, in the long term, into larger-scale and multi-party projects under KA2 and KA3.

Among the key outcomes expected from Erasmus+ Programme are:

- greater understanding and responsiveness to social, ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity,
- improvement of the competences, skills, and academic knowledge of students and staff,
- better understanding and recognition of skills and qualifications in Europe, Turkey, and beyond,
- increased motivation and satisfaction of students and staff,
- better understanding of practices, policies and systems in education, research, and police training across countries,
- better understanding of interconnections between HEIs and research institutions concentrating on security,
- more positive attitude in Turkey towards the European project and the EU values, and more positive attitude and understanding in the EU towards Turkey.

Overall, its participation in Erasmus+ Programme will yield mutual benefits to TNPA and its partner institutions, and will make a positive impact on the professional, educational, and academic cooperation between Turkey and Europe in law enforcement and other security-related fields. By signing the ECHE, TNPA affirms its commitment to the principles of

European Education Area and its strong intention to contribute to its fulfilment and further development.

With a law entered into force in 2015, the structure of TNPA was undergone a major change, and this had its impacts on TNPA's Erasmus+ projects. After these changes the number of mobilities dropped and some partnerships ceased to function due to incompatibilities in curricula and institutional priorities. In recent years TNPA has taken positive steps to revitalize some of its partnerships and sign new inter-institutional agreements. In the forthcoming term, TNPA will work for deepening its current partnerships and establishing new ones. In terms of implementing key actions, KA1 will be the first priority in the short term. With the development of networks with European partner institutions, collaborative projects under KA2 and KA3 will be taken into agenda.

As Turkey is a country with strong economic, political, and social links with the entire Europe, TNPA is ready to cooperate with higher education institutions in all Erasmus+ programme countries. Its search of partnerships will be mainly guided by two factors: (1) the content and compatibility of postgraduate curricula and (2) the availability of learning opportunities for its staff, who can in turn contribute to the development of students and trainers of the Turkish Police Organization. That being said, TNPA is willing to treasure any partnership opportunities with educational and research institutions concentrating on security issues.

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Since no bachelor's level education is offered at TNPA, Erasmus+ student exchanges will be carried out only at the postgraduate level (2nd and 3rd cycles). Within TNPA, all the postgraduate courses have already been integrated to ETCS according to the Bologna Process principles. Credits taken abroad by outgoing students are fully recognized. Although there is no requirement of internship in the postgraduate curriculum, students will be encouraged to do Erasmus+ traineeship at an institution relevant to their fields of study. Incoming students will be able to select among any English-language M.A. courses offered by TNPA. In order to encourage incoming student mobilities, dormitory accommodation and meals will, as have been done before, be provided to all Erasmus+ students at no charge.

As mentioned above, TNPA considers staff mobility as another important aspect of Erasmus+ Programme. Through teaching mobility, academic staff of TNPA will gain experience in teaching in a different environment and enhance their contacts and dialogue with their European colleagues. Training mobility will improve the technical and professional knowledge of administrative staff. Incoming academic staff will impart their experience and knowledge on students and staff at TNPA. As happened before, all these interactions with partner institutions can lead to new ideas and opportunities for further inter-institutional cooperation. With these considerations, TNPA will continue to encourage its academic and administrative staff to participate in Erasmus+ mobilities, and welcome staff from partner institutions for teaching and training mobility. It will also aim to increase the number and scope of staff mobilities through Erasmus+ Programme.

With all these mobilities, TNPA will aim to increase and deepen its connections with HEIs focusing on security-related issues and contribute to the mutual improvement of the quality of education, research, and police training. In the long term, TNPA hopes to establish a network with other higher education institutions to be able to apply for joint educational and research

projects under Erasmus+ Programme. The scope of envisaged projects for the long term are exemplified below:

-KA2-

With further development of bilateral relations with HEIs having similar scope, curriculum, and missions, TNPA will look into establishing strategic partnerships to develop and reinforce networks, and share ideas, methods, and best practices.

Partnerships/alliances can be established in the areas of:

- police training,
- postgraduate education in security-related areas,
- scientific research in security-related areas.

These areas may include transnational crime and terrorism, transnational migration, forensics, and transportation.

Through long-term and structured cooperation, these partnerships are expected to contribute to further internationalisation of educational and research activities, support the improvement of curricula that better meet the learning needs of students, and lead to the development and implementation of innovative methods in police training, postgraduate education, and scientific research in security-related areas.

-KA3-

TNPA is experienced in offering its contribution to policy-making in Turkey through conducting scientific research and publishing reports on pressing security issues. Since 2018, TNPA has been cooperating with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) within the framework of the EU-Turkey Counter-terrorism Training Partnership 2 Project. After a series of workshops and symposia this project has produced a number of reports offering policy recommendations in countering terrorism.

With its experience and strong international connections, TNPA can particularly contribute to European policy experimentations by promoting transnational cooperation and mutual learning between Europe, Turkey, and other parts of the world. This can foster systemic improvement and innovation in the specific areas mentioned under KA2 above.

To facilitate the implementation, transferability, and scalability of innovative measures, TNPA's academic and expert staff can take part in joint research projects to collect and analyse substantive evidence.

The utmost benefit of participating in Erasmus+ Programme will be the provision of better education opportunities to students. TNPA deems students' spending of at least one semester abroad for taking courses as one of the most important aspects of Erasmus+ Programme. As Security Sciences is a large and interdisciplinary area, students of TNPA will benefit to a great deal from their study mobilities by learning new perspectives and methodologies, as well as taking alternative elective courses. Their study abroad will also contribute to their foreign language skills, which is essential for both their personal development and the EU's objectives in building a European Education Area. Student mobility for traineeship is also highly valued by TNPA. Although internship is not obligatory in TNPA's curriculum, students can gain

significant technical skills and expertise through traineeships abroad. Those skills and expertise can be very important for professionals working in security-related sectors. In addition, its participation in Erasmus+ Programme will increase the motivation of current students and the attractiveness of TNPA for prospective applicants.

As regards staff mobility, teaching and receiving training at partner institutions is expected to enhance the experience and technical knowledge of academic and administrative staff, respectively. Through mobility, academic and administrative staff can also develop new contacts with academicians and professionals abroad, which will in turn increase the network of TNPA as well.

TNPA will encourage all students and staff to participate in Erasmus+ Programme. As the number of participations depend on their education/work schedule, as well as the budget allocated to TNPA by the National Agency, it is difficult to set precise quantitative objectives for the number of mobilities. TNPA's overall objective will be the maximization of the number of students and staff participating in Erasmus+ program. Meanwhile, via its website and direct consultation Erasmus+ Office will guide students and staff to make the most of their mobility.

TNPA also regards incoming student and staff mobilities highly valuable in terms of its internationalization strategy. The more international students studying at TNPA will mean a stronger international outlook. At the postgraduate level, where students actively participate in class discussions, the presence of an international environment will positively affect the quality of education. Moreover, increased dialogue and friendship among Turkish and international students will make its contribution to a better understanding across cultures. As regards incoming staff, teaching mobilities will not only enhance the knowledge and visions of the students at TNPA, but also provide the opportunity for the academic staff at TNPA to meet new colleagues and discuss ideas for collaboration. Incoming training mobilities will also reinforce TNPA's international network and relations.

In order to maximize these impacts, TNPA will do its best to accommodate all incoming requests for mobility. To facilitate their mobility, Erasmus+ Office and other relevant units of TNPA will offer utmost support and guidance to incoming students and staff. To maximize their interaction with resident students, incoming students will be given the opportunity to take the same courses as TNPA students. As long as the budget and academic calendar allow, educational activities related to Turkish culture and language will be organized for incoming students.

Seminars and social events will be organized for incoming staff to bring them together with TNPA staff. In teaching mobility, necessary arrangements will be made to form classes of appropriate level and to make the students interact with the teacher.

All these measures will aim to maximize not only the quantity but also the quality of Erasmus+ mobilities.