

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZIET U SARAJEVU
ULUSLARARASI SARAYBOSNA ÜNİVERSİTESİ



IRO Mobility Report

2024-2025

AT THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

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International Relations Office

Mobility Report – 2024/2025 Ay
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The purpose of the International Relations Office (IRO) at the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) is to facilitate and manage the university's internationalization strategy. This involves establishing and maintaining international partnerships, coordinating exchange and mobility programs, and fostering global engagement among students as well as academic and administrative staff.

This report summarizes the monitoring data for the period of Academic 2024/2025 year, as of June 2025, improvement actions and plans for the future; while the responsibilities of the IRO are covering broader objectives and these are to:

- Coordinate Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) under the KA171 project, supporting both incoming and outgoing students and staff;
- Oversee international student admissions, including marketing, promotion, and the admissions process;
- Provide support services related to the regulation and issuance of student visas and residence permits;
- Promote intercultural awareness and global competencies within the IUS community;
- Support the development and implementation of international cooperation projects and initiatives.

Each of these are aligned with the IUS Strategic plan (Chapter III- Prioritized goals, article 3, point I and II – Global citizenship; with The principles of IUS Strategic plan 2022-2026, pint 7 Internationalization) and put into the force through the new Internationalization strategy adopted in February 2024.

MOBILITY (ICM Erasmus+) – Ongoing Strategy for International Expansion and Integration

In line with the university's commitment to internationalization, the International Relations Office (IRO) continues to prioritize the expansion and deepening of international partnerships across various modalities of cooperation - particularly mobility, joint degrees, and collaborative academic events.

Key Developments and Ongoing Actions (2024/2025):

a) Continued engagement in staff training weeks and international networking events organized by existing partners, with the goal of identifying and establishing new bilateral cooperation opportunities.

- b) Ongoing development of partnerships - beginning with Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on the University level, followed by Erasmus+ inter-institutional agreements, and further extending into capacity-building projects (in collaboration with the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation and Research and Office for Sponsored Projects), and co-hosted academic events.
- c) Strengthened internal collaboration by encouraging and training both academic and administrative staff to proactively identify and pursue new partnership opportunities during mobility stays, particularly during staff weeks and project visits.
- d) The office continues to recognize and promote the proactive contributions of staff and students who facilitate new partnerships or expand on existing ones.
- e) Regular reviews of internal procedures have been conducted to identify and address any operational or policy-level barriers to successful international collaboration.
- f) Detailed records have been maintained on both implemented and proposed actions aimed at enhancing IUS's international footprint. These include reports on new inter-institutional agreements, new fields of cooperation, and partnership mapping aligned with strategic priorities (e.g., the upcoming Erasmus+ KA171 call in February 2026).
- g) Realized first BIP (Blended Intensive Program) in cooperation with the IGENSIA group-Campus Lyon, France, for the VACD Students
- h) Proposal for adoption of the new Diversity & Inclusion Strategy has been submitted to the SMB which is aligned with the Erasmus+ and European Commission guidelines.

Based on the above mentioned, in the addition to the activities started in 2023/2024, for the academic 2024/2025 we can conclude that there has been a significant improve in the context of realized activities towards the achievement of the goals set by the Internationalization strategy and the IUS strategic plan:

- 38 Signed Inter Institutional Agreements (Table 1)
- 32 Initiated partnerships (Table 2)
- 14 Signed MoU's (interinstitutional cooperation and international admission) (Table 3)
- 65 Welcomed Erasmus staff members
- 54 Students sent on exchange
- 53 IUS Staff members sent on exchange
- 36 Welcomed Erasmus students

TABLE 1. Signed Inter-Institutional Agreements

No.	Signed IIA
1	Politechnica University Romania
2	West University of Timisoara, Romania
3	Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania
4	Krakow University of Economics, Poland
5	Istanbul Gelisim University, Turkiye
6	Bialystok University of Technology, Poland
7	University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
8	Istanbul Gedik University, Turkiye
9	Technological University Dublin
10	Babes Bolyai University, Romania
11	Universidad del Atlantico Medio, Gran Canaria
12	Necmettin Erbakan University, Turkiye
13	Wroclaw University, Poland
14	University of Cadiz, Spain
15	Marmara University, Turkiye
16	Hakkari University, Turkiye
17	Catholic University of Lublin, Poland
18	CIFP Cruz de Piedra, Gran Canaria
19	Las Palmas, Gran Canaria
20	University of Rey Juan Carlos Madrid, Spain
21	Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Turkiye
22	Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad, Romania
23	Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, Turkiye
24	Lodz University of Technology (TUL), Poland
25	İstanbul Nişantaşı Üniversitesi, Turkiye
26	Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Turkiye
27	Sakarya University, Turkiye
28	Sakarya University of Applied Sciences, Turkiye
29	Universitatea "Constantin Brâncuși" din Târgu-Jiu, Romania
30	Tarsus University, Turkiye
31	WSEI University Lublin, Poland
32	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, Slovakia
33	GBSB Global Business School, Malta
34	Universidad UNIE Madrid, Spain
35	University of Copenhagen, Denmark
36	University of Foggia, Italy
37	Karadeniz Technical University, Turkiye
38	B2 Ljubljana School of Business, Slovenia

Table 2. Initiated partnerships

No.	Initiated partnership
1	Sabancı University, Turkiye
2	Sakarya University of Applied Sciences, Turkiye
3	Ege University, Turkiye
4	Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Hungary
5	Santiago de Compostela University, Spain
6	Cartes Arts Consortium (Programe-Not university), Spain
7	Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts, Poland
8	University of Lisbon, Portugal
9	EASD Castello, Spain
10	Mälardalen University, Sweden
11	ID Arte -Public School of Art and Design of Basque Country, Spain
12	University of Leon, Spain
13	University of Vigo, Spain
14	University of Valladolid, Spain
15	Philips University of Marburg, Germany
16	Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
17	Vilnius College of Technology and Design, Lithuania
18	Technical University of Riga, Latvia
19	University of Kalisz, Poland
20	Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, Portugal
21	South-West University Neofit Rilski Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
22	TH Koln University, Germany
23	University of Bologna, Italy
24	Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
25	University of 'Gd'Annunzio' - Chieti-Pescara, Italy
26	University of Maribor, Slovenia
27	Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania
28	University of Primorska, Slovenia
29	University of Granada, Spain
30	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
31	International University of Struga, N.Macedonia
32	University of Padova, Italy

Table 3. Signed MoU's (Only those related to the establishment of the Erasmus+ partnerships)

No.	Signed MoU's
1	International Information Technology University JSC, Kazakhstan
2	Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University, TARIMFEST, Turkiye
3	Umeå University, Sweden
4	Horizons Academy-Al Nayzak
5	Rondine Cittadella della Pace, Italy
6	The Palestine Students Association, Turkiye
7	Mardin Artuklu University, Turkiye
8	Sevilla University, Spain
9	Dokuz Eylul University, Turkiye
10	Pamukkale University, Turkiye
11	National Transport University, Ukraine
12	University of Zawia, Libya - on hold
13	INTI International University, Malaysia
14	Kocaeli University, Turkiye

Obstacles and challenges:

- Lack of interest for the establishment of the cooperation by the institutions in some countries like Austria, Sweden, Norway, Greece
- Insufficient funding for student mobilities in certain countries like France, Ireland, Germany & Spain (living expenses are constantly increasing while the Erasmus scholarships remained same)
- Inability to participate in CEEPUS program due to the lack of funding
- Insufficient staffing, which affects the timely implementation of mobility activities, follow-up on partnership opportunities, and the ability to expand outreach efforts

Plans for future: To seek for the European Universities Initiative (The European Universities alliances are a flagship initiative of the European strategy for universities. They encompass 64 European Universities alliances with more than 560 higher education institutions of all types, from all across Europe.) Besides this, establishing of the new partnerships with the institutions from the Eastern European EU countries + Programme associated countries like in Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Greece, N. Macedonia, Serbia will increase the number of possibilities and attract more applicants due to the geographical position, lower standard of living, easier alignment of curriculum.

Evaluation of Improvements in Mobility Activities (2023/2024–2024/2025)

A comparison of the mobility reports for the academic years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 shows clear progress in meeting the goals of the IUS Internationalization Strategy and the IRO Action Plan. Many of the improvements initiated in the previous cycle are expanded, such as:

- strengthened monitoring systems
- increased partnership development
- regular reporting
- enhanced internal coordination

In 2024/2025 we are registering significant growth in the number of signed inter-institutional agreements, initiated partnerships, MoUs, and realized mobilities, as well as the successful implementation of new initiatives such as the first Blended Intensive Program and the proposal of a Diversity & Inclusion Strategy.

Several challenges identified in the earlier report for the 2023/2024 AY remain relevant, including limited participation in certain international programs (e.g., CEEPUS), insufficient funding for mobilities in high-cost countries, and the need to enhance digitalization; while in 2024/2025 AY, the IRO has shifted from identifying these issues to actively mitigating them through targeted partnership expansion and strategic planning. To address these challenges, IRO will continue to strengthen targeted partnerships and programme-specific engagement to increase participation in underutilized schemes, improve planning and prioritization of mobilities in line with available resources, and further advance the digitalization of internationalization processes to ensure more efficient management, communication, and monitoring.

Overall, the 2024/2025 findings confirm that the majority of previous recommendations have been addressed and that the office continues to advance its international presence and operational capacity.

R E C T O R

Prof. Dr. Ali Osman Kuşakcı

