

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO  
INTERNACIONALNI UNIVERZIET U SARAJEVU  
ULUSLARARASI SARAYBOSNA ÜNİVERSİTESİ



# **Report**

**for the Implementation of the Monitoring of the Action Plan for the  
Internationalization Strategy  
AT THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO**

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## Reporting period: Oct 2024 - June 2025

Reviewed by SMB: December 2025

Report date: 11 December 2025

This report summarizes the monitoring data submitted by responsible units during the period Oct 2024 – June 2025.

### Summary

The Internationalisation Strategy action plan shows strong overall progress. Out of 7 tracked goals in the Internationalization Strategy Action Plan (Strengthening international partnerships, Increasing international student recruitment, Faculty development and mobility, Research collaboration, Curriculum internationalization, Alumni involvement), 2 goals were fully achieved and 5 were partially achieved. Partially achieved goals show an average completion level of about 81% with clearly stated Corrective Improvement Actions and a set due date.

### Key Achievements

#### 1.1 Identify and engage new partner institutions globally:

New 37 Inter-Institutional Agreements Signed, 14 new MoU's signed, 32 new cooperations initiated

#### 1.2 Initiate new and strengthen existing partnerships through projects and Erasmus+ exchange programmes:

Participation was expanded in national, and international funding projects and submitted numerous applications (40) across diverse funding schemes including but not limited to: MNVOM, FMON, UNDP, TIKa, Erasmus+ CBHE, VET, IPA, Horizon Europe, Jean Monnet, EIT HEI, and the Western Balkan Fund. Details.

In line with the university's commitment to internationalization, IUS continues to prioritize the expansion and deepening of international partnerships across various modalities of cooperation, particularly mobility, joint degrees, and collaborative academic events.

In 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
- 32 Initiated partnerships
- 14 Signed MoU's (interinstitutional cooperation and international admission)
- 65 Welcomed Erasmus staff members
- 54 Students sent on exchange

- 53 IUS Staff members sent on exchange
- 36 Welcomed Erasmus students

Furthermore, cooperation was expanded with a wide network of international partners across Europe and the Western Balkans, involving institutions from Turkey, Sweden, Portugal, Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, and North Macedonia. IRO further strengthened international links through new initiatives, including partnerships with IGENSIA Group–Campus Lyon and Raciborz University, and implemented Blended Intensive Programs for VACD and ARCH students.

### **1.3 Strengthen or establish dual diploma programs with international institutions:**

Dual diploma collaborations were established with several leading universities, including Marmara University, Istanbul University (IU), and Istanbul Technical University (ITU). These agreements cover following faculties: Faculty of Business Administration (with Marmara University), the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences (with IU and ITU), the Faculty of Social Sciences (with IU and Marmara University), and the Faculty of Law (with IU and Marmara University).

## **Challenges**

- International student recruitment below target, influenced by tuition costs, visa processes, and limited support services.
- Visa and residence permit timelines depend on state-level procedures, limiting institutional control.
- 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

## **Key recommendations for improvement**

### **International Student Recruitment**

- International student satisfaction measurement and dedicated support processes require strengthening.
- Increase recruitment by working with more agencies in strategic regions and participate in more international education fairs

### **Visa & Residence Permit Facilitation**

- Maintain regular communication with the Service for Foreigners Affairs Office and Field Office Sarajevo
- Publish a clear process instructions for visas and residence permit on the IRO website

### **Mobility Programs**

- Strengthen current partnerships and create new ones in the Eastern European EU+ Program associated countries (e.g. Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece, Hungary, N.Macedonia, Serbia)
- 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.

### **Research Strategy**

- Finalize and adopt the Research Strategy Policy by end of 2025

### **Curriculum Internationalization**

- Perform Cultural Studies curriculum reviewed integrate advisory board feedback into annual updates

### **International Student Support & Satisfaction**

- Launch a dedicated international student satisfaction survey each semester.
- Expand orientation programming and peer-mentoring; enhance IRO website content for incoming/outgoing mobility.

### **Alumni Engagement**

- Complete database validation and adopt the Alumni Engagement Plan via Senate.
- Increase activation in the Loyalty (Legacy) Program through physical membership cards and partner benefit campaigns.
- Develop international alumni chapters and ambassador roles to support recruitment, internships, and mentorship.

**R E C T O R**

**Prof. Dr. Ali Osman Kuşakcı**







