

METU Concept Note for European Universities 2021

Strengths:

- METU is an *English medium comprehensive* university with 5 faculties (Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Economic and Administrative Sciences, Education, Engineering) and 5 graduate schools (Social Sciences, Natural and Applied Sciences, Applied Mathematics, Informatics, Marine Sciences).
- METU is extremely strong in engineering, energy, environment, biodiversity, and marine studies as well as Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) including Ethics, Regional studies, Science and Technology Policy Studies, etc. with its ~750 faculty members, ~22,000 undergraduate and ~7,700 graduate students.
- METU has a lively and vibrant campus that provides the richest social life among other Turkish universities according to independent public surveys. Diversity of students coming from different cities and regions reflect positively on METU campus life, which enhance the dimensions of education, research and community service on all campus activities.
- In terms of *accreditations*, all of METU's undergraduate engineering programs are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. Moreover, the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences was awarded with the "EFQM Certificate of Determination". While the Department of Political Science and Public Administration has been accredited by the "European Association for Public Administration"; the Business Administration Department is continuing its AACSB accreditation process.
- METU is an *international* university with 950+ partnership agreements in 86 countries worldwide, generating a mobility flow of 1000 students and 250+ faculty annually in both directions.
- METU is a promising *interdisciplinary* university equipped with 29 research centers, focused on areas ranging from renewable energy and marine ecosystem and climate research to robotic technologies, STEM education, regional studies and applied ethics.
- METU is a leading *research* university in Turkey in terms of depth and breadth of internationally funded R&D projects and funds generated from such competitive research activities.

✓ METU ranks in first position amongst Turkish universities regarding European Framework Programme projects:

- It has had 200 completed and/or on-going projects since FP5, corresponding to a research revenue share of nearly 47M€. 89 and 51 of these projects with nearly 17.8M€ and 17.2M€ METU shares correspond to the FP7 and H2020 programmes, respectively

✓ METU is the only state-funded university in Turkey to host ERC projects (~16% of Turkey's total)

✓ METU is the first Turkish university to be awarded a H2020 WIDESPREAD Twinning project, which was also the second of its kind in Turkey

✓ METU is the coordinator of 6 H2020 project consortia

- METU is the first one among the two universities in Turkey to be qualified to obtain the *Human Resources Excellence in Research Award*.
- METU is perfect grounds for *intersectorality* with its TEKNOKENT, serving as a university industry collaboration model for other technoparks in Turkey with its
 - ✓ More than 440 tenant companies, 70% of which were initiated in its premises
 - ✓ More than 10,000 personnel
 - ✓ 170,000 m² of closed area reserved for R&D operations
- METU Technology Transfer Office implements its entrepreneurship programs for start-ups on digital technologies, energy, and health with a high potential of applicants nationwide.

* Consequently, METU is committed to further add value to Europe's excellence and attractiveness and thus considers the **European Universities Initiative** as a next step forward to increase its contribution to the European Education Area.

Added Value:

- METU aims at **fostering the reciprocal relationship between the Turkish and European Education Areas** by enabling all young people to benefit from the best education and training, to find employment across Europe and to ultimately contribute at the system level to Europe's competitiveness and growth.
- METU is interested in joining forces with other European Universities to provide to our youth excellent **training in science, technology, engineering and social sciences, complemented with career guidance and training in transferrable skills**. METU's strong disciplines include:
 1. Renewable Energy
 2. Blue Growth
 3. Society and Science
 4. Omics Data Analysis and Applications
 5. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
 6. Robotics and Artificial Intelligence
- METU is willing to bridge the gap and advance the Eurasian and Middle Eastern Education Areas to be a competitive player in the field and position itself as a role model to other universities in the region.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Gaye Teksöz
Advisor to the President responsible for International Cooperation
gtuncer@metu.edu.tr