

## Erasmus+ Key Action 171 (KA171): Mobility with Partner Countries

**Erasmus+ Key Action 171 (KA171)** is a component of the broader Erasmus+ programme, specifically designed to support international academic mobility **between EU Programme Countries and non-EU Partner Countries**. Unlike KA131, which facilitates mobility within the EU and associated countries, KA171 extends the scope of Erasmus+ by fostering global cooperation in higher education.

### Objectives:

- To enhance the **international dimension** of higher education institutions (HEIs)
- To **promote mutual understanding** between Europe and other regions of the world
- To **improve the quality** and relevance of education and training in partner institutions
- To support the **capacity building** of HEIs through staff and student exchanges

### Eligible Activities:

- **Student Mobility:**
  - *Incoming and outgoing* exchange for Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD students
  - Duration: Typically **3 to 12 months** for study and **2 to 12 months** for traineeships
- **Staff Mobility:**
  - Academic staff can participate in **teaching assignments**
  - Administrative and academic staff can engage in **training or job shadowing**
  - Duration: **5 days to 2 months**

## Travel Grant and Financial Support

In Erasmus+ KA171 projects, participants are eligible for **financial support** to cover both individual living costs and travel expenses:

- **Travel Grant:**

Travel costs are calculated based on the **official Erasmus+ Distance Calculator**, which measures the distance in kilometers between the sending and receiving institutions.

Grants are awarded according to predefined distance bands, ensuring transparent and consistent support across all partnerships.
- **Individual Support:**
  - **Students** receive monthly subsistence grants depending on the host country's cost of living.
  - **Staff** receive daily allowances based on the duration and destination of the mobility.

Additional funding may be available for participants with fewer opportunities (e.g., disadvantaged backgrounds or special needs).

### **Institutional Responsibilities:**

- All participating institutions must hold a valid **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)** (for programme countries) or have signed an **inter-institutional agreement** (for partner countries)
- Institutions must ensure **transparency, recognition of credits (ECTS)**, and quality implementation of mobility

### **Regional Priorities:**

Projects are often prioritized based on EU external action goals and regional strategies. Priority may be given to partnerships in:

- Western Balkans
- Eastern Partnership countries
- South-Mediterranean countries
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Asia, Latin America, and others

### **Relevance for Gaziantep University (GAUN):**

As a Programme Country institution, **Gaziantep University (GAUN)** actively engages in **Erasmus+ KA171 mobility projects**, building strong academic partnerships with more than **15 universities across Africa, the Balkans, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Russia**. These collaborations:

- **Broaden GAUN's international engagement** by fostering academic networks beyond Europe
- **Enhance the university's academic and cultural diversity**, welcoming students and staff from diverse regions
- **Support strategic cooperation** in areas such as education, research, innovation, disaster management, public health, and sustainable development

GAUN's growing KA171 portfolio contributes to its mission of becoming a **globally connected and regionally impactful** higher education institution.