

Dear Colleagues,

As you all might know, on the evening of the 15th of July, a faction the Turkish Armed Forces attempted to stage a coup in various cities of Turkey, particularly in Ankara and İstanbul. It was understood in a short time that this was a terrorist campaign. From the very beginning, the command chain and vast majority of the Turkish Armed Forces stood up against the coup attempt. Both the police and public prosecutors immediately took necessary measures to foil the attempt. Above all, it was the Turkish nation who thwarted the plot. They displayed a historic solidarity as they took to the streets and remained defiant.

Like other democratic and legitimate states, that might be faced with similar incidents and threats to their constitutional order, Turkish Government announced “State of Emergency” on the 20th of July for 90 days -like in France- according to the Turkish Constitution. As a member of Council of Europe and signatory State of European Convention on Human Rights, Turkey has informed Council of Europe of the situation according to Article 15 of the said Convention. All administrative precautions taken within the framework of “State of Emergency” by government and security forces are aimed at securing the constitutional order and lives of Turkish citizens and others as well as at eliminating the existing threat.

- As for the implication for the Erasmus+ Programme, the NA is regularly undertaking the Programme implementation and work of the NA has been continuing as scheduled.
- As far as mobilities under the selected projects are concerned, due to the state of emergency in Turkey, project participants who are civil servants need to obtain a special authorisation from the institution for which they work to go abroad. Participants get easily this authorisation from their institutions when they apply with relevant project documents. This procedure applies only for civil servants but not for other participants like students, young people, NGO representatives etc.
- We don't expect any significant delay in the implementation of the projects. However, civil servant participants like public school teachers may reschedule their activities abroad.
- There is no difficulty at all for participants from other countries to participate in mobilities and project activities in Turkey. There are also no particular conditions/restrictions or risks from security point of view in carrying out Erasmus+ activities in Turkey and these activities are being carried out as scheduled.
- The Turkish NA is ready to use the "*force majeure*" provisions in order to allow beneficiaries to manage the situation in the most flexible way, still within the respect of the general framework of rules underlying the implementation of the Programme.

This special measure could perhaps be lifted soon (as soon as the state of emergency ends). We will inform the Commission and all the NAs when this temporary measure is lifted.

Please don't hesitate to contact us through e-mail address bilgi@ua.gov.tr for further questions and issues to be clarified.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best regards.

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Director