

# 10<sup>th</sup> METU ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL STAFF TRAINING WEEK

*From Experience to Excellence: Signature Sessions from 10 Years  
of METU Staff Week in the Era of Digital Transformation (70<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Edition)*

***Blended Intensive Program (BIP)***

***June 8-12, 2026***

2026 marks a milestone year for Middle East Technical University: while we proudly celebrate our **70th anniversary**, we also host the **10th edition of the METU International Staff Training Week**, a flagship event that has grown into one of Türkiye's most established and innovative internationalization events.

This year's Staff Week is conceived as a special “10<sup>th</sup> Staff Week-METU 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition”, bringing together a carefully curated selection of the most insightful, impactful and memorable sessions delivered throughout the past decade. Rather than simply revisiting these sessions, we re-examine them through the lens of today's rapidly evolving digitalization era — exploring how internationalization practices, institutional models, and mobility processes have transformed under the influence of digital tools, EWP infrastructures, and AI-driven innovation. In this way, the program blends METU's ten years of accumulated experience with a renewed, forward-looking perspective shaped by our role as Türkiye's officially recognized EWP Champion.

In line with the **Blended Intensive Program (BIP)** format, the event will begin with an online session featuring the **European Commission and the Turkish National Agency**, followed by a rich and interactive on-site program in Ankara. As a tribute to the past decade, participants will experience curated “best-of” sessions.

Continuing a beloved tradition, the program will also feature the **Cappadocia cultural trip**, offering participants a unique opportunity to explore one of Türkiye's most iconic landscapes.

With its combination of deep experience, innovative content, digital leadership, and decade-long internationalization expertise, the 10th METU International Staff Training Week promises a memorable and future-shaping experience for all participants.

5  
JUNE  
FRIDAY

### Opening Remarks & Introduction of Participants *(Online Session)*

#### The Role and Introduction of Digital Tools in Erasmus+ Procedures *(Online Session)*

1. European Commission, Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Higher Education Unit (tbc)
2. Turkish National Agency (tbc)

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### 09.30-10.00 Registration / Welcome Coffee

#### 10.00-10.30. Opening Remarks: Introduction to METU and International Cooperation Office & 70 Years of Internationalization

*Dr. Burcu Akpınar, METU ICO Coordinator*

#### 10:30-11:00 Key Note Speech: From Past to Future and Beyond Digitalization: AI, Ethics and the Evolution of International Education

*Prof. Dr. Ömer Delialioğlu, Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator, Advisor to the President*

#### 11.00-11.30 Special Anniversary Session / Best of 10 Years: Highlights, Milestones and Lessons Learned (showcase from previous Staff Week sessions)

#### Visit to METU Research Centers

11.30 GUNAM (tbc)

12.00 BIOMATEN (tbc)

#### 12:30 Departure of Shuttle Buses from METU Research Park and Arrival at Çarşı (main food court)

#### 12.45-13.45 Free Time

#### 14.00-15.30 Campus Tour (with shuttle buses from METU Culture and Convention Centre)

#### 15:30-17:00 Banking Procedures (only) for Erasmus+ ICM (KA171) participants

#### 17:30 Departure of Shuttle Buses from METU Culture and Convention Centre to Dinner

#### 19:00 Welcome Dinner (hosted by METU ICO) at METU Eymir Lake Side

#### 21:30 Departure of Shuttle Buses from Dinner Venue to METU Campus

8  
JUNE  
MONDAY

Day 1  
Research Park

9  
June

TUESDAY

Day 2

Culture &  
Convention  
Center

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**09:30-10:15 Signature Session 1/ Multicultural Campuses: International and Local Student & Staff Integration in the era of Digitalization\***

*(one of the highest-rated sessions from previous editions)*

*\*This session will be followed by a group workshop where participants will further examine, in practical terms, how integration should function in the digital era and what the most effective models and practices look like across institutions.*

**10:15-10:45 Coffee Break**

**10:45-11:45 Group Workshop and Group Discussion on Best Integration Models and Practices**

**10:45-12:00 Sharing Group Workshop Results**

**12:00-13:30 Lunch Break (at participants own expense)**

**13:30-14:45 Signature Session 2 (one of the highest-rated sessions from previous editions) Panel: What is the Optimum Infrastructure for Effective Internationalization in the era of Digitalization? Comparing Institutional Structures and Strategies**

Presenter 1

Presenter 2

Presenter 3

**14:45-15:15 Coffee Break**

**15:30-17:00 Erasmus+ Partners Gathering / Global Day**

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10-11

JUNE

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Day 3-4

**CAPPADOCIA TRIP**

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**12  
JUNE**

FRIDAY

**Day 5**

Culture &  
Convention  
Center,

**09:30-11:00 Closing Remarks & Digital Feedback Session**

**11:00-11:15 Delivery of Participation Certificates**

**11:15 End of the Program for Erasmus+ KA131 and self-funded participants**

**11:15-12:30 Banking Procedures (only) for Erasmus+ ICM (KA171) participants**

**12:30 End of the Program for Erasmus+ ICM (KA171) participants**

**Important Notice:**

- In line with the requirements of the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), one session
- will be held online on 5 June 2026. Access links for the online sessions will be shared with
- participants via email in due course.
- The on-site programme will start on the first day-8 June, 2026
- No participation fee is required for the METU Staff Week 2026, but there will be a modest fee for the Cappadocia trip, which is part of the program. Details regarding the trip and participation are being shared with participants via email.
- Please be noted that this program is tentative and it is subject to change



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