Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) acknowledges the importance of education, research (including knowledge transfer) and innovation in the face of increasing global competition. The mission of DEU is to contribute to economic, cultural and social well-being of society through fostering quality, innovation and Internet internationalisation of education and research by enhanced translational Corporation between education and research institutions, business and other stakeholders. The strategic plan of our university (2021-2025) adopts objectives dedicated to quality, innovation and internationalisation expects to increase the volume and quality of researchers and projects, to improve continuously the curriculum of degree programs by taking the requirements of globalisation and modernisation into consideration, to create learning environment favouring academic, social and cultural improvements of students, to develop and sustain an effective lifelong learning system, to improve the prestige an image of the EU at both national and international levels. In Strategic Plan, it has also adopted the goal of improving the effectiveness of social sustainability activities and community centered services within the scope of strengthening institutional capacity, improving interaction with stakeholders and improving social service quality. With the Social Innovation Center, which is planned to be established within this scope, it will be based on improving the sustainability of social, economic and environmental resources by improving the capabilities of the society while responding to social needs better than existing solutions.

DEU aims to achieve its objectives by participating three key actions determined by the EU. DEU supports students and staff mobility and encourages joint degree programs. The EU establishes international strategic partnerships, knowledge alliances and participates into networks and take policy support measures.

DEU considers internationalisation not an end in itself but a driver for improvement and aims to infuse internationalisation into institutional culture. Internationalisation strategy of the EU involves attracting researchers to DEU and preventing brain drain, increasing translational mobility of both outgoing and incoming students and through EU and non-EU collaboration agreements, internationalisation of the curriculum through adaptations in line with the Bologna process, diversifying, teaching and research stuff through EU and non-EU collaboration agreements, strengthening research and knowledge production through strategic partnerships at both national and international level, establishing strong research groups by participating in international scientific networks and being part of the global academic community within which to benchmark and share good practices. DEU has been selected one of the 20 pilot universities by Turkish Higher Education Council (YÖK) for the internationalisation strategy of the YÖK. The main aims of the international strategy of DEU is to increase the number of international students in DEU. Therefore, having ECHE will provide a big contribution to the international strategy of DEU.

While choosing partners, DEU seeks to ensure active, long-term and sustainable networks and partnerships which are in balance between academic interests and other factors such as geographical distribution or subject area and which produce results for mutual benefit. DEU chooses its partners according to the compatibility of curriculum, courses, credit system, collaboration opportunities for students and staff and demand from students, academic and administrative staff, linguistic criteria for nominated students, prospective partner institutions repetition and added values which would be brought to the EU academic units.

The EU benefits largely from its geographical position as being at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, Africa and Middle East and has a geographical dispersed internationalisation strategy (covering both EU and non-EU countries). Erasmus program which facilitates links with either education institutions in Europe, is a crucial aspect of international activity of the EU with around 400 inter institutional agreements in 30 countries. Besides, Mevlana exchange program and Turkish scholarship program expand the geographical coverage of DEU’s internationalisation to a great extent. Mevlana exchange program aims to enhance exchange of students and academic staff between the Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions all around the world. DEU is also aimed to expand the number and diversity of its academic collaborations protocols from 74 to 100 in the upcoming 5 years within this framework. DEU also accepts more than 200 full-time foreign students within the framework of Turkish scholarships program.

DEU gives priority to academic networking as part of its internationalisation strategy. DEU is a member of various Academy networks. Study in İzmir is a platform which unites nine universities established in İzmir to collaborate towards the aim of making İzmir an attractive hub for international students and researchers. Examples of other networks the EU takes part are European University Association (EUA), Consortium of Institute of higher education in health and rehabilitation in Europe (COHERE), International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), European network for accreditation of engineering education (ENAEE), International engineering alliance, BUSINET, and NICE Network . We have close cooperation with these distiguished groups and through these networks, schools have the chance of sharing best practices , identifying problems & seeking solutions to common problems.

The most important target groups of DEU’s mobility activities are researchers living abroad, incoming/outgoing students (short cycle, first cycle, second cycle and third cycle), teaching and research staff. DEU aims to become an attraction point for international researchers and reverse the flow of brain drain and to enhance its international profile by developing joint degree and dual degree programs. In this regard, DEU has six undergraduate joint degree programs and one joint PhD program.

It also embodies Dokuz Eylul Technology Development Zone (DEPARK). By 2014 Dokuz Eylül Technology Transfer Office (DETTO) was established. DETTO is in the intersection of Dokuz Eylül University, DEPARK and Industry/Society. DETTO is working as an interface umbrella organization in Dokuz Eylul University while keeping touch with all departments. Its functions are creation of awareness, supporting, and coordination. Main tasks are supporting research activities and projects done in university or/and with industry collaboration, managing university-industry relations, managing intellectual property rights process and creating and keeping alive an entrepreneurship eco-system. Besides, DETTO Project Management Unit is highly motivated to establish partnerships and organize international mobility projects through EU grants, especially through H2020 and Erasmus+.