

# EURAS SEMIANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE 2020



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Istanbul, Turkey, 2020

# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Dear Esteemed Members, Partners, Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to meet you once again, this time through our semiannual activity report.

To ensure that we stay in touch with our esteemed members and partners, we started launching EURAS Annual and Semiannual Reports, which summarize the union's achievements in the past months, starting with the success of EURIE 2020 Summit and the series of EURAS E-Talks and EURAS webinars delivered by valuable professors from different parts of the world. Despite the sudden change in our daily life and the challenges we now face, we remain resolutely focused on our core goals; to promote sustainable peace and advanced technology worldwide through the development of culture and new educational systems; to open the borders of education to the public and to favor the exchange of knowledge and best practices among higher education institutions from the entire Eurasian region.

I extend my gratitude for your effective and active participation on our previous EURAS Activities, and I hope you enjoyed and benefited from them as much as we did. I also encourage those who did not have the chance to join the previous online activities to register and participate on the upcoming ones.

As always, we aim to provide services and support for all our members and will continue to do so in the following years as well with all your contributions.

**Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN**  
**President**

*January-May 2020 overview*

# INTRODUCTION

Dear Members, Partners and Colleagues,

We are glad to share our Semi-Annual Report regarding our activities developments that took place between January and June 2020.

This report covers activities and major developments in the first half of the year. The highlight for this period was EURIE 2020 – Eurasia Higher Education Summit that took place in Istanbul on 19-21 February 2020. This period was also marked by intense activity to develop cooperation within EURAS Members Institutions. A successful EURAS Executive Board Members Meeting was held in Istanbul on 19 February, and effective EURAS Forum was held on 20 February 2020.

As with many other sectors, higher education sector has been deeply affected by the global pandemic. We aim to increase our online activities, our members' contributions in order to increase the synergy and thus achieving significant results for all the engaged members even during challenging times.

The accomplishments and events we held in the first half of the year can be credited to the dedication and enthusiasm of EURAS Team, EURAS members and partners and Board. We would like to thank our Guest Speakers for their incredible contributions during EURAS Webinars and EURAS E-Talks projects.

As EURAS, we will be delighted to support your activities and promote your institution and we are ready to collaborate and welcome any other proposal.

We would like to invite you to our online events such as EURAS Webinars, EURAS Online Conferences, and of course to our annual conference - EURIE 2021 Summit on 3-5 March, 2021.

On behalf of EURAS Team

**Pinar ELBASAN, Ph.D.c.**

**General Coordinator, EURAS & EURIE**

## Overview

# EVENTS

In this comprehensive monthly report for January-June, 2020, we provide information on our association's achievements during the last 6 month.

## EURIE 2020 - Eurasia Higher Education Summit



EURIE 2020 Summit was successfully organized and hosted more than 2.700 participants from 65 countries. EURIE Summit is the annual Conference and Expo of EURAS, which is the signature event of Eurasia and Turkey. Vice-Chancellors, Chancellors, University Representatives, Government Representatives, industry representatives, members of the innovation community, international education professionals and media attended in EURIE Summit. EURIE 2020 Summit conference theme was "Uniting for International Education". All participants had the chance to generate new partnerships with each other and to discuss current challenges of higher Education sector.

Special Thanks to EURAS members & partners and all of our participants from various higher education institutions. We succeeded to have a very successful EURIE Summit in Istanbul on 19-21 February, 2020.

Once again we appreciate our network for their support and valued participation and invite the entire EURAS network to EURIE 2021 – Eurasia Higher Education Summit to be held in Istanbul on 03 – 05 March next year.

## EURAS Executive Board Members Meeting

We organized our Executive Board Members meeting on 19th of February, 2020. During the meeting, EURAS President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN gave the opening speech. EURAS & EURIE General Coordinator, Pinar Elbasan gave detailed information about the activities of the year of 2019, new members-partners as well as the future events. After the presentation of our General Coordinator, Board Members evaluated our works, determined future strategies and made decisions that will create a difference, such as stronger communication, cooperation, quality and EURAS Academy events that will be hosted by our Member Universities. Thereof the possibility came out to review and discuss about past, current and future issues related to EURAS within all the aspects.

Due to an evaluation of the year of 2019 and opening speech made by our President, it was started to be discussed what and how to collaborate in the future via the members and partners of EURAS. The latest services and projects were also properly reviewed by Board Members.

Following the successful completion of EURAS Executive Board Members Meeting, it was the time for EURIE Gala Dinner. The venue of the dinner was specially selected with an amazing historical Basilica Cistern for the valued representatives of EURAS network.





## Turkish-Malaysian Universities Networking Meeting



Networking Meeting was organized for future collaboration between Turkish and Malaysian Universities, on 21st of February, 2020 within EURIE 2020 Eurasia Higher Education Summit.

Closing speech was given by Prof. Dr. Zeliha Tufan Koçak regarding the importance of academic cooperation for the future.

## EURAS Annual Forum

EURAS Annual Forum was held successfully on 20th of February, 2020 within EURIE 2020 Summit. EURAS Member and Partner Universities' representatives attended in EURAS Forum. EURAS & EURIE General Coordinator, Pinar ELBASAN gave a presentation about EURAS regarding latest news and developments of our Union. During EURAS Forum, we hosted two special guest speakers from our partner organizations. Prof. Hmaid Ben Aziza, General Secretary of UNIMED talked about "Universities Facing the Challenge of Digital Revolution" and Prof. Rossana Silva, President of Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities, made a presentation about their network and Brazilian Universities.



Our President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Aydın gave the closing remarks and shared our future goals and strategies and stressed the importance of cooperation and synergy in higher education and in the global academy community, underlining that EURAS members should cooperate in more fields and increase their synergies with other universities, as well as they need to intensify their common academic studies. He has also expressed that EURAS Members should develop cooperation and carry out joint projects with non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. At the end of the meeting, Our President and Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities President Rossana Silva signed a cooperation agreement which implies that the two associations will cooperate in the field of student and academic exchange and develop joint projects & events.

Ultimately we would like to note that we have been highly honored to host a lot of attendees from several members and partners who powerfully contribute to EURAS through their own fields of activities, networking capability, regional advantages and all that.

## **Imagine Tomorrow 2020 - International Innovation and Entrepreneurship Event**

Imagine Tomorrow 2020 - International Innovation and Entrepreneurship Event, a sub-event of EURIE - Eurasia Higher Education Summit, was held on 19-20 February 2020 in Istanbul, Turkey, hosted incubator firms in science parks and individual entrepreneurs working in alliance with higher education institutions.

Over 350 applications have been received for this event from around the world. These high quality applications were evaluated by at least 2 different external evaluators. The 50 most innovative initiatives are identified and invited to Imagine Tomorrow event. For the Young Entrepreneurship category, 20 most innovative entrepreneurs, projects, business ideas have been identified among the valuable applications. The event hosted 70 entrepreneurs from 8 different countries, 18 panelists, 30 jury members and over 600 participants. The Jury made it possible to find the owners of over 30 awards at the end of 2 days of intense labor. During the event, entrepreneurs had the chance to showcase their startups at the Poster Area and network with the other players in the ecosystem, EURIE 2020 Summit University Partners and some institution's Technology Transfer Offices also exhibited with their stands at Imagine Tomorrow area.



## EURAS Executive Board Member Online Meeting

We organized our Executive Board Members online meeting on 05.06.2020 on Zoom. During the meeting, EURAS President, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa AYDIN gave the opening speech. EURAS & EURIE General Coordinator, Pinar Elbasan gave information about the current and future activities of the year of 2020. After the presentation of our General Coordinator, Board Members evaluated our works, determined future strategies and made decisions on EURAS Academic Journals, EURAS Members Web Forum, EURAS Online Summer School. Also it was discussed and agreed on giving more support in increasing the number of EURAS Board Members and announcing EURAS activities through their networks.

## EURAS Webinar Series

### EURAS Webinar – I

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we were pleased to launch EURAS Webinar Series. Our first free webinar was organized on **"COVID 19: Economic Continuity and Dynamics for Change"** on 28 April 2020 on Zoom.

During the webinar, Our Guest Speaker, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sedat Aybar gave his insights on bio-economic crisis, we face nowadays, that will lead to fundamental changes in our life by having profound impact on globalization, poverty and environmental arrangements. We refer to global power game, role of international institutions and dynamics of technological revolution. During our first webinar we tried to answer the question, “whether the world governance structures will continue business as usual”.

EURAS Webinar I recording is shared on EURAS youtube account, find out more about COVID 19: Economic Continuity and Dynamics for Change by copying this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLKk0A13SLE&t=14s>

## EURAS Webinar – II

Our 2nd webinar was organized on “**Snapshot Surveys: International Office Best practices during COVID-19**” by Dr. Ivor Emmanuel on 12 May 2020 on Zoom.

Dr. Emmanuel has served as the Director of the Berkeley International Office since 2003. Our Guest Speaker gave his insights and made a presentation covered a snapshot survey of international students at the University of California, Berkeley and what measures are being put in place to support that community.

EURAS Webinar II recording is shared on EURAS youtube account, find out more about Snapshot Surveys: International Office Best practices during COVID-19 by copying this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJYFnFRt0d0&t=23s>

## EURAS Webinar – III

Our 3rd webinar was organized on “**Higher Education Post-COVID-19**” by Dr. Osman Ozturgut on 21 May 2020 on Zoom.

Dr. Osman Özturgut is the Dean of Extended University and Associate Vice President for International Programs at California State University-Channel Islands (CSUCI). Our Guest Speaker gave his insights and during the webinar, participants were able to explore the new trends in higher education and the impact of COVID19 on higher education institutions' strategic planning.

EURAS Webinar III recording is shared on EURAS youtube account, find out more about Higher Education Post-COVID19 by copying this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp4JdCp62pU&t=3s>

## EURAS Members Web Forum

We were pleased to organize EURAS Members Web Forum on **“The effects of the Pandemic in the Eurasia: Future of Higher Education”** on 11 June 2020 on Zoom.

EURAS continues to closely monitor an outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on higher education system all over the world. Therefore, EURAS has decided to organize a Members Web Forum in order to create a pathway for the new era of Higher Education (HE) for EURAS Members. Forum will mainly focus on the future of HE at the post pandemic transition within discussions on exchange of experiences, innovative ideas and best practices among participating members

## EURAS E-Talks

As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we are pleased to launch EURAS E-Talks series for International Office Teams and Students.

Our Guest Speaker, Edward Peters is a qualified Performance Coach and Practitioner of NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programing). University International Office staff find themselves in a situation where their core activity, student recruitment, can't happen. Performance Coach Edward Peters, from GE Coaching, considers what can be done to support current and potential students, using his model of recognising, reassuring, reframing, reminding and re-engaging. A university that steps up to the challenge now will enhance its future reputation for student well-being significantly.

He talked about two major issues within higher education during COVID-19 pandemic. These topics are: how to stay focused and in control, even when we can't predict the future of student mobility for International Office Teams and how to take back control, even in uncertain times for students.

EURAS E-Talks recordings are shared on EURAS youtube account:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv0DkXzy538&t=4s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM8zn8IDxtk&t=82s>

For more information on EURAS E-Talks Series can be found on EURAS website: <https://euras-edu.org/euras-e-talks/>

## EURAS COVID-19 Survey

While all levels of education are facing serious challenges in times of COVID-19 pandemic, it was noticed that the impact of COVID-19 on higher education should be discussed more.

Thus, Eurasian Universities Union - EURAS has launched a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education. The questions are related to student and staff mobility; overseas marketing strategies, international student admissions, access to campus, academic calendar and online teaching / learning activities. The objective of EURAS survey is to gather data, monitor how higher education worldwide is impacted, to learn about responses to combat COVID-19 and its domino effects.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1uJ8HTvAoOOd4KHsW9COh-fiAP5oHXpyzOLwqk3wbv05a2Q/viewform>

# EURAS Supported Events

## Delightful Istanbul Online Summer School



EURAS was proud to collaborate with Istanbul Aydin University on Delightful Istanbul Online Summer program for International Students this year. The two-week program took place in July 2020. 54 students from 16 countries participated. 27 students from EURAS member universities joined Delightful Istanbul. Students took one online course with ECTS credits and also completed an Intercultural Learning Certificate program.

## International Social Business Virtual Program

**Daffodil University**

**ISBSP**

Supported by **Yunus Centre**

**Virtual International Social Business Summer Program**

July 20-25, 2020  
"New Minds for New World"

International Social Business Summer Program (ISBSP) 2020 is the world's first virtual summer school on Social Business. It's an action learning platform to create solutions of the social problems with entrepreneurial spirit. After successful completion of the program, participants will be awarded with certificate along with three (3) academic credits.

**Key Features:**

- e-Webinar by Social Business Experts
- e-Master Class by Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus
- Virtual Field Visits
- Social Business Design Lab
- Cross-cultural online activities

**Registration Fees:**

Regular fee: USD 100  
Special fee for partner university students: USD 75  
Local Participants: BDT 3000  
Registration Deadline: July 12, 2020  
For more & registration: <http://isbsp.daffodilvarsity.edu.bd>

**Contact:**  
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**Partners:**

AUAP EURAS YOUTHINK YSBC

EURAS is honored to support International Social Business Virtual Program organized by Daffodil International University, which will be held on 20-25 July with the theme of 'New Minds for New World'. Besides learning about Social Business for Sustainable Development and entrepreneurship, students will also explore new networking opportunities among participants and resource persons. Participants will have an exclusive e-Master Class with Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, Father of Social Business & Micro-credit.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## EURAS Webinar Series

EURAS, in collaboration with several partners and Members, is pleased to offer a series of free webinars on the Future of Higher Education and International Education. As EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union, we are pleased to launch EURAS Regional Webinars.

Take a look at the online calendar on EURAS Website:

<https://euras-edu.org/webinars/webinar-calendar/>

## EURAS WEBINAR SERIES CALENDAR

FOR FALL TERM OF 2020-2021

ACADEMIC YEAR

EURAS Webinars on the Future of Higher Education and International Education. A unique opportunity to engage with higher education leaders and experts from around the world!

**ACCESS THE CALENDAR and SECURE YOUR PLACE NOW! >>**

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## EURAS Annual Conference:

## EURIE 2021 - Eurasia Higher Education Summit



**Main Supporter  
of EURIE**

We would like to kindly present our invitation for EURIE 2021 - Eurasia Higher Education Summit to be held in Istanbul on 3-5 March, 2021. It will be our highest honor to host you at this summit.

EURIE, the largest higher education expo and summit in Eurasia is endorsed by Eurasian Universities Union - EURAS.

You are invited to submit panel and presentation proposals to share best practices and innovative approaches on the following subthemes:

- Access and Inclusion in International Education
- Trends in International Student Mobility
- Globally/Regionally Engaged Universities
- Sustainability in International Education
- Educational Technologies and Online Learning

Furthermore, this year for the third time, the International Entrepreneurship and Innovation Event Imagine Tomorrow supported by EURAS will take place as a sub-event of EURIE Summit.

# EURAS LATEST PUBLICATIONS

## EURAS Catalog



We published the new edition of EURAS Catalogue, which plays an important role in giving detailed information about our Union, last year's activities, list of the members and partners, publications, information regarding upcoming events and future goals and projects.

<https://euras-edu.org/dosyalar/EURAS%20Catalog-March%202020.pdf>

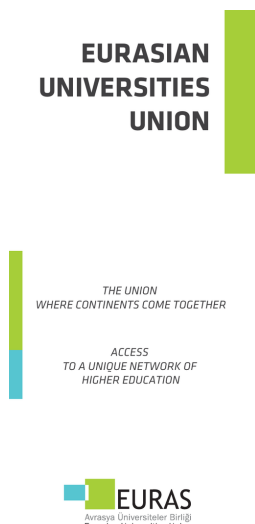
## EURAS 2019 Annual Report



We were glad to share our Annual Report regarding our activities and several positive developments that took place throughout the last year, which can be found on our website [www.euras-edu.org](http://www.euras-edu.org)

<https://euras-edu.org/dosyalar/2019-EURAS-ANNUAL-REPORT.pdf>

## EURAS Brochure



As we are always keen on updating information regarding EURAS, we published our new brochure with a quick glance about our union, updated list of members and partners and EURAS future goals and projects. In our brochure. you can also follow the timeline of EURAS meetings, conferences, trainings and academies.

<https://eurasedu.org/dosyalar/EURAS%20Brochure%20March%202020.pdf>

## About EURAS

Launched in 2008, EURAS-Eurasian Universities Union is a non-profit international education association, promoting cooperation among over 120 member universities and partner institutions from all around the world and working for the global advancement of educational standards in the Eurasian region.

EURAS, the main supporter and endorser of EURIE Summit, is the largest and strongest higher education association of the region, focuses on improving the international collaborations and cooperative activities via unique networking and sharing the latest trends on innovation, globalization and quality assurance.

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