
European
Commission
Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds
ERASMUS+
IN MALAYSIA


NAVIGATING
ERASMUS+
IN MALAYSIA
THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
UTM
NAVIGATING
ERASMUS+
IN MALAYSIA
Pathways to Opportunity
and Stories of Impact



Academic

UMPSA sets Advanced TVET as the way forward in Erasmus+ collaboration

26 November 2026

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 November 2026 – Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA) is set to strengthen its European partnerships through Erasmus+, with Advanced Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Advanced TVET) as a key focus for future international collaborations.

This direction comes in conjunction with Regional Erasmus+ Week 2026 for Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific, held on 23–24 November 2026, which also marked the launch of Malaysia’s first

dedicated Erasmus+ guidebook, Navigating Erasmus+ in Malaysia: Pathways to Opportunity and Stories of Impact.

Centred on the theme Developing Skills for the Future, the programme brought together representatives from the European Commission, higher education institutions and international education stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

The event was officiated by Ambassador of the European Union to Malaysia, His Excellency Rafael Daerr and attended by Deputy Director-General of Higher Education, Professor Dr. Zainal Amin Ayub representing the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE).

UMPSA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ts. Dr. Yatimah Alias, attended the launching ceremony.

Also representing UMPSA were Director of UMPSA Global, Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Herma Dina Setiabudi, Associate Professor Ir. Dr. Asnul Hadi Ahmad from the Faculty of Mechanical and Automotive Engineering Technology; and Nur Ezzati Mohd Nasir from the Centre for Mobility and Student Exchange (CMEx).

All three representatives were selected by the European Commission to participate in the two-day in situ workshop held on 23–24 November 2026.

The guidebook, a collaborative effort led by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), together with International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and UMPSA, marks an important milestone in Malaysia’s internationalisation journey.

The publication brings together an editorial team led by Erasmus+ National Focal Point for Malaysia and Director of UTM International, Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Ariffin Abu Hassan, alongside Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Suhana Mohamed Sultan and Nur Masitoh Islamiah Mustaffa Kamal from UTM, Professor Datin Dr. Roslina Othman from IIUM, and Nur Ezzati Mohd Nasir from UMPSA.

Beyond providing practical guidance on Erasmus+ opportunities, the publication highlights several success stories from UMPSA.

Among them is GetInnovative4Impact, an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project supported by a total consortium grant of EUR 718,455.

The project brings together universities from Malaysia, Pakistan, Ireland and Italy to strengthen engineering education and develop skills in digital transformation and smart manufacturing.

The publication also features the teaching mobility experience of Director of CMEx, Associate Professor Dr. Nik Aloesnita Nik Mohd Alwi at Bolu Abant Izzet Baysal University, Türkiye.

Her experience demonstrates how knowledge and perspectives gained abroad can benefit the wider university community.

Another success story featured in the publication is that of Mohamad Nur Sa’ad Osman from the Faculty of Civil Engineering Technology, who participated in a five-month Erasmus+ KA107 student mobility programme at Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Türkiye.

Building on these collaborations, UMPSA has secured another Erasmus+ KA171 funding opportunity

with Bolu Abant Izzet Baysal University and continues to send students to Istanbul Technical University, further strengthening its academic and mobility partnerships with Türkiye.

Under the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) initiative, three UMPSA alumni, Alvin Kean Wen Foong, Hassan Al-Faiz Mohamed Ahmed Hafez Ahmed and Safwan Seruji, received Erasmus Mundus scholarships to pursue the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Mechatronic Engineering (EU4M).

Their academic journeys across Germany, Sweden and Spain demonstrate how international partnerships can create opportunities for UMPSA graduates to pursue advanced studies and gain exposure to emerging technologies.

Adding to these achievements, another UMPSA student, Neil Norbert Paul, successfully secured an EMJM scholarship in 2026, further demonstrating the ability of UMPSA talent to compete for prestigious international opportunities.

Looking ahead to the 2028–2034 Erasmus+ funding cycle, Professor Ts. Dr. Yatimah Alias emphasised that Advanced TVET should be at the heart of the university's future Erasmus+ engagement, particularly through CBHE projects.

"Advanced TVET is the way forward for UMPSA. Our future Erasmus+ CBHE projects must reflect our strengths in technical education, applied learning and industry engagement.

"We must work with our European and regional partners to develop projects that address industry needs, strengthen academic programmes and equip graduates with the skills required for the future.

"Our focus is not only on securing international funding but also on creating meaningful and lasting impact," she said.

This direction is also reflected in the publication's concluding chapter, The Way Forward: Leveraging Erasmus+ for Malaysia, which highlights Advanced TVET as one of the areas where Malaysian universities can contribute their expertise to international collaborations.

Building on its established European partnerships, UMPSA has the opportunity to take on greater leadership roles in CBHE projects, develop joint academic programmes, strengthen research collaborations and expand two-way student and staff mobility.

These efforts are in line with UMPSA30 and the university's aspiration to become a leading Advanced TVET hub in the Asia Pacific.

With Advanced TVET as its strategic focus, UMPSA is ready to move beyond participation in Erasmus+ towards contributing its expertise, leading collaborative projects and shaping the future of technical education across Europe and Southeast Asia.

By: NUR EZZATI MOHD NASIR, CENTRE FOR MOBILITY AND STUDENT EXCHANGE (CMEx)

- 35 views

View PDF