ERASMUS+ 2027 · THEMATIC PROFILE 05 OF 35

Smart Cities and Sustainable Urban Development

Partner Identification Form · Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU), Türkiye

Why include AYBU in your consortium? Smart city research, citizen acceptance studies and skills for the urban technical workforce. AYBU is a public university in Ankara with an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and 28 Erasmus+ cooperation projects in the Commission's project database since 2014, 17 as coordinator. One contact for every thematic profile: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Musab Talha Akpınar, mtakpinar@aybu.edu.tr.

1. Five reasons specific to this theme

1. A book and a doctoral thesis on smart city applications and their acceptance by citizens
2. A published multi-criteria framework for prioritising smart city investments (2025)
3. A data protection compliance framework designed for smart city dimensions
4. A complete consortium and work plan from the 2026 AI4CITY Centre of Vocational Excellence application
5. Documented cooperation with Konya Metropolitan Municipality and Altındağ Municipality in earlier Erasmus+ projects

2. Thematic institutional profile

Smart cities are the most consistent research line of AYBU's Management Information Systems staff. A doctoral thesis proposed a technology acceptance model for smart city mobile applications, followed by the book Smart Cities: Cases and Implications, a multi-criteria framework for smart city investment decisions and work on data protection compliance in smart city services. In 2026 AYBU prepared, as coordinator, a Centre of Vocational Excellence application on AI skills for the urban workforce. Located in the capital, the university works alongside ministries and metropolitan and district municipalities.

Relevant faculties, departments and centres

- Business School – Department of Management Information Systems
- Vocational School of Technical Sciences
- Ankara Studies Research Centre
- Faculty of Architecture and Fine Arts
- Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

Research and training infrastructure

- MIS electives on smart cities and systems, Internet of Things and e-government
- National research projects on smart grids and on communication infrastructure for smart cities (as recorded in AYBU's 2026 PIF)
- Ankara Studies Research Centre

3. Relevant previous projects

Project number	Title	Action	Call	AYBU role	EU grant (project)	Status
101244836	BIAD - AI-Enabled Skill-Building for Tourism and Hospitality: Bridging the Industry-Academia Divide	Alliances for Education and Enterprises	2025	Partner	EUR 1 489 605	Ongoing

Source: European Commission, Erasmus+ project lists, export of 19.11.2026. Grant = total EU grant of the project as awarded.

4. Key academic experts

Expert	Unit	Relevance to this theme	Profile
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Musab Talha Akpınar	Business School – Management Information Systems	Doctorate and book on smart cities; investment decision framework; bibliometric analysis of smart city research	AVESIS
Asst. Prof. Dr. Mazlum Özçağdavul	Business School – Management Information Systems	GDPR-compliant acceptance model and compliance framework for smart city applications	AVESIS
Prof. Dr. Cem Korkut	Business School – Finance and Banking	Co-author of the multi-criteria framework for smart city investment decisions	AVESIS
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vildan Ateş	Business School – Management Information Systems	Chapter on secure smart grid management; trust in e-government services	AVESIS
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullah Orman	AYBU	Vocational School of Technical Sciences; AI and transport technologies for technician training (AYBU PIF 2026)	AYBU record

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Musab Talha Akpınar. Vice Dean of the AYBU Business School and Associate Professor of Management Information Systems. His research addresses smart cities, technology acceptance, AI adoption and data-driven digital governance. He leads AYBU's work in the Erasmus+ Alliance for Innovation BIAD on AI-enabled skills analysis and micro-credentials, has taken part in Erasmus+ partnerships since 2016 and is the author of Smart Cities: Cases and Implications (2023). Teaching covers management information systems courses in the English-taught MIS programme (smart cities, business intelligence and AI-related subjects in the departmental curriculum).

Asst. Prof. Dr. Mazlum Özçağdavul. Assistant Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Management Information Systems at the AYBU Business School, with a Nottingham master's degree and a doctorate in digital forensics. He works on GDPR-compliant smart city applications, privacy in wearable health devices, AI in digital forensics and cloud computing, and took part in the Erasmus+ project Refugee Class Assistance for Teachers. Teaching covers management information systems courses. Research record on AVESIS: 11 publications, 2 projects.

Prof. Dr. Cem Korkut. Professor of Finance and Banking and Vice Dean of the AYBU Business School. His research spans financial econometrics, climate finance, Islamic and participation finance and the history of financial institutions, with recent articles on carbon emissions and market volatility. He co-authored the Turkish Academy of Sciences' synthesis report on COP31 targets, has worked on EU-supported transport and refugee-employment projects and advises the Academy's President. Teaching covers finance, banking and financial econometrics. Research record on AVESIS: 125 publications, Google Scholar h-index 13 (653 citations), 11 projects.

5. Keywords

smart cities · urban digital services · smart city mobile applications · technology acceptance · smart city investment appraisal · digital governance · urban data · Internet of Things · citizen trust · privacy in smart cities · smart grids · municipal services · urban workforce skills · sustainable urban development · e-government · urban resilience

6. Alignment with Erasmus+ 2027

Digital and green transitions at local level; skills for urban technicians and municipal staff; participation of citizens in digital public services.

Relevant 2027 action	Deadline (Brussels time)	Grant per project	Role AYBU can take
Centres of Vocational Excellence	16 September 2027, 17:00 Brussels time	Topic 1: up to EUR 4 000 000 per project; Topic 2 (European Community of Practice for CoVEs, one project): up to EUR 1 500 000 (Guide p. 288)	Coordinator (building on the 2026 application) or partner
Cooperation Partnerships in vocational education and training	9 March 2027, 12:00 Brussels time	Lump sum EUR 120 000, 250 000 or 400 000	Coordinator and partner
Cooperation Partnerships in higher education	9 March 2027, 12:00 Brussels time	Lump sum EUR 120 000, 250 000 or 400 000	Coordinator and partner
Alliances for Innovation	14 September 2027, 17:00 Brussels time	EUR 1 000 000 for a 2-year project, EUR 1 500 000 for a 3-year project (Lot 1); EUR 4 000 000 for a 4-year project (Lot 2) (Guide p. 322)	Partner or work-package leader; coordinator for a focused Lot 1
Cooperation Partnerships in adult education	9 March 2027, 12:00 Brussels time	Lump sum EUR 120 000, 250 000 or 400 000	Coordinator and partner

7. What AYBU can contribute

Contributions described here are potential contributions based on verified institutional capacity; they become commitments only in a signed proposal. Named experts are proposed on the basis of their published work and their participation in a given proposal is subject to their confirmation.

Potential project objectives

- Train the technicians and municipal staff who operate smart urban systems
- Help cities choose and evaluate digital investments
- Raise citizens' trust in and use of smart services

Potential activities

- Skills needs analysis with municipalities and technology suppliers
- Curricula and micro-credentials for smart-city technician profiles
- Citizen acceptance surveys for municipal applications

- Decision-support workshops for city managers

Work packages AYBU could lead or co-lead

- Skills intelligence and occupational profiles
- Curricula and micro-credentials
- Living-lab pilots with municipalities
- Policy integration and sustainability

Training modules AYBU could deliver

- Smart city services and data for municipal staff
- Evaluating smart city investments
- Privacy and data protection in urban services

Potential deliverables

- Smart-city skills needs report
- Technician curricula and micro-credentials
- Citizen acceptance study
- Decision-support guide for city managers

Potential pilot activities

- Training pilot with municipal technical staff
- Acceptance survey of a municipal mobile application

Target groups AYBU can reach

- Municipal staff and managers
- VET learners at EQF 4–5
- Technology SMEs
- Citizens using digital services

Expected institutional contribution

- Acceptance and usability research for urban services
- Skills intelligence methodology
- Curriculum and micro-credential design
- Investment appraisal framework
- Access to municipal partners in Ankara and Konya

8. Management, quality and dissemination capacity

EU projects at AYBU are run by academic project teams with support from the Business School's projects office and the Competitiveness and Innovation Research Centre (REKMER). Financial administration follows Turkish public financial management and control legislation (Law No. 5018); EU grants are kept in dedicated project accounts and the university is subject to external audit by the Turkish Court of Accounts. In the Commission's project database AYBU appears in 28 Erasmus+ cooperation, policy and Jean Monnet projects from call years 2014–2026, 17 of them as coordinator; 9 are running today.

For each project AYBU proposes a quality plan with internal peer review of deliverables, milestone monitoring and partner feedback surveys. The university operates an institutional quality management system under the national Higher Education Quality Council framework, and Business School staff include an accredited external evaluator of that Council.

AYBU disseminates through its institutional website and faculty pages, official social media accounts, a community of more than 26 000 students and about 2 600 staff, its partner universities and its links with ministries, municipalities, chambers and Teknopark Ankara. Multiplier events and training activities can be hosted on its Ankara campuses, and online courses can be delivered through the Distance Education Research Centre.

Results can be sustained through courses in degree programmes, certificate programmes of the Continuing Education Centre, online delivery by the Distance Education Research Centre and follow-up funding from national programmes such as TÜBİTAK. Open publication of materials is the default.

9. Partners we would like to work with

- Municipalities and city networks
- Smart city technology providers
- VET providers
- Universities with urban studies or engineering
- Regional development agencies

10. Organisation identification

Legal name (national language)	ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT ÜNİVERSİTESİ
Legal name (Latin characters)	ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITESI
Name in English	Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU)
Organisation ID (OID)	E10137893
PIC	952723525
National / fiscal ID	9600521531
Type of organisation	Higher education institution (tertiary level); Public (state) university; non-profit public body
Erasmus Charter for Higher Education	Erasmus Charter for Higher Education holder — Erasmus code TR ANKARA15
Established	21 July 2010 (decision published in the Official Gazette)

Registered address	AYBÜ Etlik Milli İrade Binası, B-Blok, Ayvalı Mah. Gazze Cad. No: 7, Etlik, Keçiören, 06010 Ankara, Türkiye
Main campus	Esenboğa Merkez Külliyesi, Dumlupınar Mah., 06760 Çubuk / Ankara
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General e-mail / telephone	basin@aybu.edu.tr / +90 312 906 10 00

11. Institutional representative and contact

Legal representative

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Main contact person

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12. Links

- University: https://aybu.edu.tr
- Business School: https://aybu.edu.tr/isletme/en
- Academic profiles (AVESIS): https://avesis.aybu.edu.tr
- AYBU projects in the Erasmus+ project database: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects

Data verified on 20.11.2026. Institutional figures from aybu.edu.tr and AYBU records; project data from the European Commission's Erasmus+ project lists; staff data from AVESIS.