ERASMUS+ 2027 · THEMATIC PROFILE 03 OF 35

Cybersecurity, Data Protection and Digital Forensics

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

Why include AYBU in your consortium? Cybersecurity career pathways, awareness training and data protection skills, led from a running Erasmus+ youth project. 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. Coordinator of a running KA220-YOU project on cybersecurity career pathways
2. An academic with a doctorate in digital forensics on the core team
3. Publications on cloud computing security and on compliance with data protection law
4. A vocational school department that trains computer technicians at EQF level 5
5. Digital forensics and network security courses already in the MIS curriculum

2. Thematic institutional profile

AYBU coordinates the Erasmus+ youth partnership Unlocking Cybersecurity Pathway (2025–2027), which builds structured routes into cybersecurity careers for young people. Behind the project stand academics with a doctorate in digital forensics, sixteen years of network administration practice, publications on cloud security and on data protection law, and a vocational school whose computer technologies department trains technicians. The university therefore covers awareness, career orientation and technician-level skills more than laboratory research in cryptography.

Relevant faculties, departments and centres

- Business School – Department of Management Information Systems
- Vocational School of Technical Sciences – Computer Technologies
- Faculty of Law

Research and training infrastructure

- Computing laboratories of the vocational school and the MIS department
- MIS courses on computer networks and security and on digital forensics

3. Relevant previous projects

Project number	Title	Action	Call	AYBU role	EU grant (project)	Status
2025-1-TR01-KA220-YOU-000361387	Unlocking Cybersecurity Pathway: An Exciting Career Path for Youth	Cooperation partnerships in youth	2025	Coordinator	EUR 250 000	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
Asst. Prof. Dr. Mazlum Özçağdavul	Business School – Management Information Systems	Doctorate in digital forensics; GDPR compliance frameworks; book on cloud computing systems	AVESIS
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vildan Ateş	Business School – Management Information Systems	Chapter on cloud computing security; earlier career as network administrator and IT specialist	AVESIS
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Musab Talha Akpınar	Business School – Management Information Systems	Coordination of digital skills projects for young people	AVESIS
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullah Orman	AYBU	Head of Computer Technologies, Vocational School of Technical Sciences; cybersecurity and computer networks (AYBU PIF 2026)	AYBU record

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.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vildan Ateş. Associate Professor of Management Information Systems at the AYBU Business School, with sixteen years of earlier IT practice. Her recent studies measure AI literacy among university students, AI anxiety among vocational school students and generative AI acceptance among employees; she also publishes on data governance, trust in e-government and cloud security and took part in the Digital Türkiye Index project. Teaching covers courses in the English-taught Management Information Systems programme. Research record on AVESIS: 91 publications (9 in Scopus), 11 theses supervised.

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).

5. Keywords

cybersecurity awareness · cybersecurity careers · digital forensics · data protection · GDPR · cloud security · network security · information security management · cyber hygiene · privacy · secure digital services · security skills gap · technician training · youth digital skills · incident awareness

6. Alignment with Erasmus+ 2027

Digital transformation with safe and responsible use of technology; contributes to digital skills and to the supply of cybersecurity talent.

Relevant 2027 action	Deadline (Brussels time)	Grant per project	Role AYBU can take
Cooperation Partnerships in youth	9 March 2027, 12:00 Brussels time	Lump sum EUR 120 000, 250 000 or 400 000	Coordinator and 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
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
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

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

- Open cybersecurity career paths to young people and career changers
- Improve cyber hygiene in small organisations and schools
- Align technician training with employer needs

Potential activities

- Mapping of cybersecurity job profiles and entry routes
- Development of modular awareness and foundation courses
- Capture-the-flag style learning events for beginners
- Guidance materials for career counsellors

Work packages AYBU could lead or co-lead

- Skills needs and profile mapping
- Curriculum and learning resources
- Piloting and learning events
- Career guidance and exploitation

Training modules AYBU could deliver

- Cyber hygiene for staff of small organisations
- Introduction to digital forensics
- Data protection obligations in practice

Potential deliverables

- Cybersecurity career pathway map
- Foundation course with practical exercises
- Guide for career counsellors and youth workers
- Pilot evaluation report

Potential pilot activities

- Foundation course piloted with vocational school and university students
- Awareness training piloted with SME or municipal staff

Target groups AYBU can reach

- Young people aged 16–30
- VET learners
- Staff of SMEs and public bodies
- Youth workers and career counsellors

Expected institutional contribution

- Curriculum design for foundation-level cybersecurity
- Digital forensics and data protection content
- Piloting with students
- Evaluation and impact measurement
- Links to Ankara technology companies

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

- Cybersecurity companies
- VET providers
- Youth organisations
- Universities with security laboratories
- Public cyber 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
Region (NUTS)	TR51 – Ankara

Website	https://aybu.edu.tr
General e-mail / telephone	basin@aybu.edu.tr / +90 312 906 10 00

11. Institutional representative and contact

Legal representative

Name	Prof. Dr. Ali Cengiz Köseoğlu
Position	Rector
E-mail	ackoseoglu@aybu.edu.tr
Telephone	+90 312 906 10 04

Main contact person

Name	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Musab Talha Akpınar
Position	Associate Professor, Department of Management Information Systems; Vice Dean, Business School
Unit	Business School – Department of Management Information Systems
E-mail	mtakpinar@aybu.edu.tr
Telephone	+90 312 906 16 47
Academic profile	https://avesis.aybu.edu.tr/takpinar

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.