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Erasmus Policy Statement

The CSMN is implementing the Erasmus Programme progressively, encouraging an institutional mobility culture which involves the whole academic community. This strategy for modernisation and internationalization acknowledges the key contribution of mobility of staff and students, and of participation in European and international cooperation projects to the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience.

With regard to educational structure -kinds of departments, courses, curricula- and artistic character -kinds of musical activities, levels, styles- some of our partners are institutions with similar profiles while others have bigger institutional structures. The contacts are made through personal contacts between teachers, the reception of foreign students, and meeting representatives of other institutions at events, mainly organized by the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC), which we are members of. Our aim is to have a mixed portfolio of partners with a variety of sizes, profiles, geographical areas, cultures and educational approaches in order to profit each other from the our various types of expertise and backgrounds.

The main activity we are engaged in is students' mobility for study. We are trying to set goals over a number of years. We started in 2009 from small-scale bilateral one-to-one exchanges and we are progressively expanding our activity to the extent economical and organizational conditions allow. Our next steps include: to assess regular, long-term student mobilities for study, to set student mobilities for placements in professional music organizations in order to broaden their opportunities to develop required professional and work competences, to expand staff mobility promoting cooperation between our staff and foreign teachers by inviting other trainers from professional music organizations, and to participate in joint music programmes.

Our most important objectives are: the enrichment of the internal culture of our institution, the enhancement of the external image of our institution, the improvement of the benefits to students and teachers and to gain new insights and perspectives for the development of our curriculum.

Policy objectives

By signing the Erasmus Charter, our Institution expects to contribute to the European Union's modernisation and internationalization agenda in higher education, which includes 5 priorities:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs.

We intend to increase the number of higher education graduates in the four types of specialization our institution offers (Interpretation, Musicology, Pedagogy and Composition) through the Erasmus Programme, because an engaging portfolio of international activities may assist to attract students more readily. Regarding research, our policy consists in equipping the existing workforce with research skills, and information on opportunities so

that career paths outside academia could become career prospects for early stage researchers.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

Through the Erasmus Programme, the perception of our local community may be heightened. Our objective is to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and researcher training, and to equip graduates with the knowledge and core transferable competences they need to succeed in high-skill occupations into musicians' professional life.

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border cooperation

We expect to provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance. Students will have a unique chance to get acquainted with different cultures, musical traditions, languages and teaching approaches, with positive effects on their development as musicians, providing a broader perspective of the world and its multitude of cultures and diversity. With the complete implementation of our four-courses new Study Plan, completely in ECTS and the addition of the Diploma Supplement, we expect to ensure the efficient recognition of credits gained abroad by linking qualifications to the European Qualifications Framework.

4. Linking higher education, research and business for excellence and regional development to strengthen the "knowledge triangle", linking education, research and business.

Our objective is to stimulate the development of entrepreneurial, creative and innovation skills through more interactive learning and making agreements of cooperation with musical organizations like orchestras. Also, to enhance the capacity of future professional musicians to engage in start-ups of musical activity enterprises and projects.

5. Improving governance and funding

Setting up structural links with partners through Erasmus by developing a cooperation agreement to which both institutions have to contribute financially, costs of the activities, like masterclasses and joint projects can be shared and therefore lessened for each participating institution.

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