



## AEC Position Paper on ERASMUS+ beyond 2020

From the very beginning, the European Higher Music Education Institutions (HMEI) have made active use of the opportunities given by the Erasmus programs for student and teacher mobility. The desire to spend part of their studies as an exchange student abroad is more pronounced among music students than in many other disciplines. This does not come as a surprise, as most HMEIs in Europe are relatively small but well connected with each other through long-standing networks. Moreover, language barriers are not particularly an issue in this field. Music is an international language in which teaching and learning often takes place non-verbally, through the medium of music itself.

When the first Erasmus program was launched in 1987, no one could anticipate that the Iron Curtain would fall just a few years later. Erasmus mobility has contributed significantly to Europe's further integration in recent decades. The particular significance and efficiency of culture, art and music for the creation of a European identity, especially among younger generations, is also repeatedly emphasised by the European Commission.<sup>1</sup>

Music students have a highly personal learning experience with individualised guidance and supervision in a diverse study programme. One-to-one tuition in an artistic subject is at the heart of this individualised study and therefore ensures continuity and reliability for the student. Students can shape their own study path and learn particular interests as well as exploring other areas of study through complementary studies. The combination of personalised diverse study programmes and individual guidance bring students into contact with other approaches and experiences, thus broadening their artistic horizons.

A short-term stay at an Erasmus partner institution lasting one to six weeks, would be particularly effective for music students. It would enable them to participate in a masterclass, a summer school or in a concert or opera production, without interrupting the continuity of regular one-to-one lessons in individual courses at his or her home institution.

Therefore, the conservatoires and HMEIs very much regret that the former Erasmus Intensive Programs, which supported short-term exchanges through Erasmus funds, has been removed in 2013 without an alternative.

Re-establishing Erasmus+ short-term stays would address one of the key recommendations made by a study commissioned by the CULT Committee of the European Parliament, which is to give more room for different types of projects to be supported.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture. The European Commission's contribution to the Leaders' meeting in Gothenburg, 17 November 2017.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-strengthening-european-identity-education-culture\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-strengthening-european-identity-education-culture_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Erasmus+: Towards a New Programme Generation (June 2018), page 9

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/617482/IPOL\\_STU\(2018\)617482\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/617482/IPOL_STU(2018)617482_EN.pdf)

On behalf of its members, the AEC therefore strongly recommends to extend the Erasmus+ Mobility Regulation from 2020 onwards as follows:

- to provide short-term stays (duration: at least one week, maximum of six weeks) at an Erasmus partner HEI for the purpose of participating in a masterclass, a summer school or an artistic project run by an Erasmus partner institution.
- to implement an option allowing short-term mobility to be financed involving two or more partners, rather than three or more as done so in the previous Erasmus Intensive Program 2007-2013.

Although having multiple partners is an added value for international exchange, the reduction in number of partners involved should be taken into consideration. This change will allow added flexibility for music students with a personalised study programme to benefit more from the short-term stays and expand their international experience. AEC also encourages political decision-makers to think about creating wider and easier accessibility for HMEIs by facilitating the Erasmus+ application, reporting procedures and to make recognition of ECTS credits within Erasmus mobility.

Most importantly, implementing specific rules for arts studies is much needed. In principle, the need and benefits of Erasmus mobility for further integration applies to all art disciplines: music, fine arts, drama, dance, film and more. Thus, it is important that particular attention to different conditions and requirements are made for arts students.

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