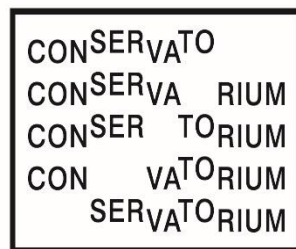


BIP – Workshop Blended Intensive Programme

AEC/IRC Meeting @ LUCA Lemmens, Leuven
21 & 22 September 2023



Royal Conservatoire
Antwerp



Structure of the presentation

1. Introduction
2. Case study n°1: LUCA School of Arts, Thomas De Baets: Synergies in Musician Educators' Practitioner Research, 10-14/10/2023
3. Case study n°2: Metric BIP, Contemplay BIP - Royal Conservatoire Antwerp /AP Hogeschool, Véronique Blockhuys/ Charlotte Saelemakers
4. What are BIPs? Target group? BIP mobility directions? Role of the Coordinating and Sending HEIs....
5. Q&A / Best Practices & Lessons Learned



BIP
CASE STUDIES



Case study 1: LUCA School of Arts, Thomas De Baets: Synergies in Musician Educators' Practitioner Research

BLENDING INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

Synergies in Musician Educators' Practitioner Research

Mobility period: 10-14 October 2023
LUCA School of Arts
Campus Lemmens, Leuven, Belgium

MTU
Crest-Soell
Crest School of Music

**kunst
uni
graz**

**Royal
Conservatoire
The Hague**

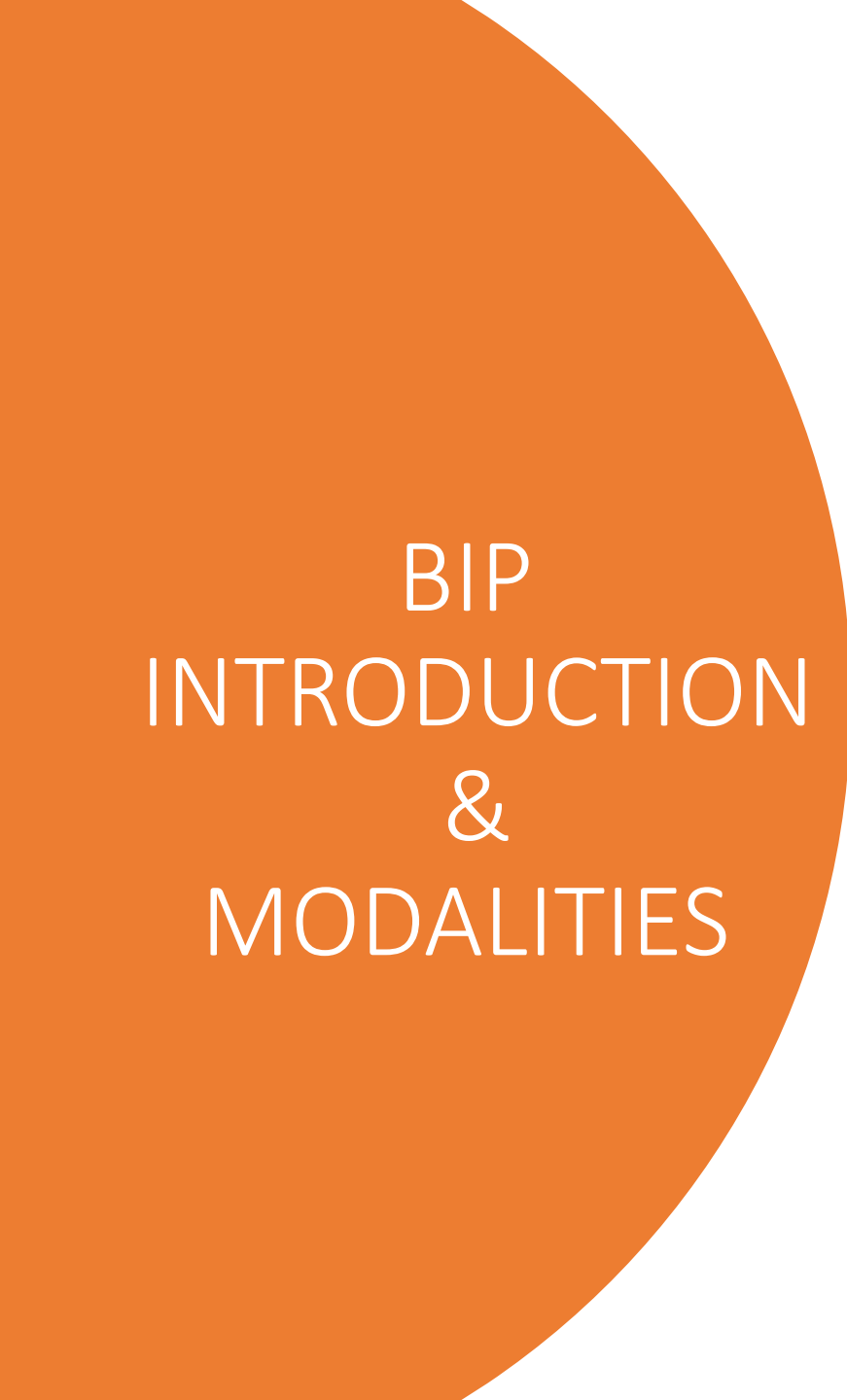
LUCA
SCHOOL
OF
ARTS

Case study 2:

-

AP Hogeschool, Royal
Conservatoire Antwerp

- Intensive project **Metric BIP** --> created by partners from the Metric network (<https://metricimpro.eu/>) - network: innovating higher education in music through improvisation
 - BIP: all about improvisation, in 2024 Conservatoire Antwerp = host
 - Lessons, workshop, contest in improvisation
- **Contemplay BIP** --> created by Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (Vilnius) as module for the European Opera Academy (<https://europeanopera.academy/>) - network: innovative approach to opera, offering mobilities of 2 months and longer
 - BIP: Opera as ultimate interdisciplinary and contemporary artform



BIP
INTRODUCTION
&
MODALITIES



What is a BIP?

- BIP = blended intensive programme
- Funding possibility via Erasmus+
- Short physical mobility component: min. 5 days, max. 30
- Mandatory virtual component (except PhD): before and/or during and/or after the physical mobility component
- For students: study-related activity
- For staff: teaching assignment during a student BIP (STA) or staff as learners (STT)
- Mandatory transfer and recognition of min. 3 ECTS, to be awarded through the TOR by the receiving HEI (higher education institution)
- BIP: collaboration of min. 3 HEI's in at least 3 different Programme Countries

TARGET BIP?

- Offer mobility window for students who have less access to long-term mobility windows,
- Offer mobility windows for educational programmes who cannot organize semester mobility by offering short, flexible and blended mobility formats to students
- innovative ways of learning and teaching
- transdisciplinary approach (if possible)

! BIPs don't replace the classical Erasmus semester mobility!

BIP Mobility roles

1. Receiving/Coordinating institution:

- welcomes international students from the sending HEIs ,
- welcomes international teaching staff contributing to the BIP programme
- Students from the receiving university are involved as local students
- Incoming exchange students for long stays at receiving HEI are involved as local students

2. Sending institution:

- You send your students to a BIP,
- You send your staff as teacher/contributors to a BIP
- You send your staff as 'learners' to a BIP !!

!!! Avoid mixing **parallel/double mobility**:

=> Receiving HEI 'X' hosts incoming exchange students for long stay (semester or full year) and incoming students wish to join a BIP hosted abroad by HEI 'Y':

- Students have to apply for funding via their home HEI, not the receiving HEI 'X'
- The home HEI = the sending HEI => IIA is required between Home HEI and BIP receiving HEI 'Y'
- Grant:
 - the Home HEI may offer a short-term BM grant for mobility to BIP HEI 'Y', => BUT: the grant for long exchange at HEI 'X' => add **interrupted days** = the period of the BIP)

BIP: Coordinating institution

- receiving institution is the institution where the BIP takes place. It is recommended that coordinating = receiving institution.
- receiving institution needs to be mentioned on all the erasmus documents and needs to provide the TOR at the end
- Coordinating institution applies for OS-funding (OS = organisational support)
 - 6000 euro for min. 15 incoming participants
 - Max. 8000 euro for 20 or more incoming participants
 - ! They have to be registered as Erasmus students in the Beneficiary module by the sending institution
- ! Local students from the receiving HEI are not counted as official participants of the BIP
- < 15 official participants = no BIP OS-funding (however, NA's are applying 10% tolerance)
- Calculation of OS-funding: synched with participants registered in Beneficiary Module
- BIP OS is a separate budget within the Erasmus budget to be used by the coordinating institution for organising the BIP

BIP: Coordinating institution (2)

- Flow:
 - Annual Erasmus KA131 application in February => applying for BIP OS funding per BIP
 - National Agency awards OS-funding based on the application form
 - Grant agreement between National Agency -> coordinating HEI
 - Registration of BIP in Beneficiary Module + creation of ID-nummer for partners
 - Sign single IIAs with individual sending HEIs (via EWP), or sign a multilateral IIA (not digital, only paper-based) including all consortium
 - List with all incoming participants (student/staff) x weeks before the start
 - Learning agreements for all student participants / mobility agreements for teaching staff
 - Transcript of records / CoS for students; CoS for Staff (STA)
- Decide the roles of your central or faculty level in the flow!

BEST PRACTICES /
LESSONS LEARNED



BIP: Partner/Sending institution

- Erasmus short-term mobility grants for participating students
 - 79 € per day (t.e.m. 14 days), 56 € per day (15-30 days)
 - Top-up cat. 1 : 100 € per mobility (150 € for a mobility \geq 15 days)
 - Travel support cat.1 + green travel top-up for cat.1/cat.2
 - + max. 2 additional travel days may be covered
- Erasmus short-term mobility grants for participating staff
 - Amounts decided upon national level
- !! no separate Erasmus Short-term Blended Mobility budget:
 - =>Short Blended mobility grants are awarded from the same budget as mobility grants for long-term mobility

Best Practices / Lessons learned – ESTABLISH YOUR PARTNERSHIP

- Ask a clear and official commitment from your partner HEIs:
 - How they will contribute to the educational programme,
 - The number of participants per HEI
 - Transparency about nomination procedure of participants,
- Prepare the BIP identification template for BM => needed to describe the BIP content, virtual component
- Ask your partners to double-check national legislation on exchange and signing of Erasmus documents, recognition of blended mobility activity (Denmark)
- Be transparent about grants and co-funding of participants and set out rules with regards to costs from the OS budget or reporting of students
- Be transparent about the internal recognition of students attending the BIP
- Green mobility consent: limit travel distances by choosing partners with limited geographical spread?

Best Practices / Lessons learned

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS @ HOSTING

- Implement a clear procedure at central/faculty level how to apply and award OS funding for the coordination of new BIPs
- Check you have IIAs with Sending HEIs: bilateral agreements per sending HEI (digital) or multilateral IIA (only paper-based) with all consortium partners in one agreement
- Ask your financial department to create internal budget code at project level for every BIP: better overview of cost allocation

Best Practices / Lessons learned

— ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS @ SENDING HEIs

- Allocate well in advance a certain number of Erasmus grants for SBM (Short-term Blended Mobility) or secure a proportion of the Erasmus mobility budget (as requested in the application to your NA)
- Set-up a clear internal regulation how faculties/programme can suggest new BIP as coordinator or as partner (well in advance) and set deadlines
- Create a transparent internal regulation how grants for students/staff are awarded and set deadlines.
- Participants need to get an (O)LA, Grant Agreement, mobility registration in BM, report/survey, ToR.... => same conditions for participants as for long-term mobility
- ! Do not engage your faculty/HEI to join a BIP or to send students at the last moment => no quality assurance and difficult administrative follow-up

Best Practices / Lessons learned – PARTICIPANTS

- BIP: All students, but sending HEI may prioritize on students with fewer opportunities,
 - Sending to other short-term blended mobility activity: only those not able to participate in long-term physical study or traineeship mobility or because they have fewer opportunities for participation
- BIP participants (students): also zero-grants are possible. Zero-grants student are counted for the OS calculation as long as they registered in BM by the sending HEI
- Receiving HEI : prepare a pre-filled template for the sending HEIs to fill out the Learning Agreement (students) or Mobility Agreement (staff)
- Number of BIP participants: target 1 or 2 additional students per partner to avoid dropping below the minimum threshold
- Pay attention for the impact of incoming exchange students (long-term) and exchange students from Partner Countries

Best Practices / Lessons learned – FINANCIAL MATTERS

OS funding: to cover expenses related practical, logistical arrangements, welcome and cultural activities, guest speaker

OS funding: is not sufficient for covering all staff costs (teaching-administrative support)

=> Erasmus is a supportive measure, it cannot cover all mobility/organizational expenses

Best Practices / Lessons learned – REPORTING AND QA



The sending HEI: report mobility flows of students/staff in BM and link participants/staff to the BIP



The receiving/coordinating HEI: report the BIP organization for OS



! Pay attention that sending/coordinating HEI may report their activities under different projects or project cycles (mobility: project 2021, OS: project 2022)



Reports from the BIP participants:

EU Questionnaire in BM

Optional: survey/written report for the Sending/Coordinating HEI



Coordinating HEI: keep an attendees list with the participants

CONCLUSIONS





Conclusions

- Do BIPs have an added value: yes!
 - Internationalisation@home experience for local students and coordinating study programmes,
 - Alternative activity for (more) expensive study trips,
 - The possibility to award grants or top-up/incentives for fewer opportunities students,
 - Short-term mobility is an alternative for students with less chances for long-term mobility
 - The creation of a jointly developed curriculum and trans/interdisciplinary exchange of staff adds to the exchange of expertise and good practices,
 - It may bring existing collaboration and individual mobility with the partner HEIs to a next, more structured level => jointly developed module or curricula; mobility of larger groups
 - BIPs as learning activity for teaching or administrative staff engage more staff into international mobility
- Did the workload increase for the International Office?
Yes, but communicate via your NA or via network organisations (AEC/IRC) to EU/EACEA to decrease the administrative workload for IRC



Conclusions (2)

- Did the workload increase for International Offices?
Yes, it did, but regardless the increased workload:
 - support BIP/Blended Mobility when BIP/Blended Mobility is implemented in your international strategy
 - Only by organizing BIPs or blended mobility we can optimize administrative flows and processes (enrolment, administrative follow-up...)
 - Ask questions and share experiences openly with other HEIs in our countries
 - Approach your NA, fill out mid-term Erasmus position papers to decrease the administrative workload for IRC's
 - Network organisations (AEC/IRC): advocate for programme/regulation revisions by EU/EACEA

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Read the [Blended Mobility Implementation Guide](#) and the [Erasmus Guide](#).
- Ask your NA to share a FAQ on BIP/SBM. Examples:
 - Dutch Erasmus agency:
https://www.erasmusplus.nl/sites/default/files/2022-03/KA131%20Blended%20Intensive%20Programmes%20QA_0.pdf
 - EACEA via the Italian NA:
https://www.erasmusplus.it/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/FAQs_April-2023_KA131-Blended-Intensive-Programmes-and-blended-mobility.pdf



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