

The International Relations Coordinators of Higher Music Education Institutions

AEC IRC's Manifesto 2025

Our Vision

The International Relations Coordinators (IRCs) of AEC member institutions believe that an effective and meaningful international strategy, in line with the international reality of the music profession, should be embedded and integrated into the overall institutional strategy for quality enhancement and institutional transformation.

IRCs should be consulted and involved by top management of their institutions in the definition and implementation of the international strategy, including (but not limited to) mobility actions.

To do that, the AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators is a strategic moment for IRCs to be up to date with developments in the sector, to learn and share practices and to forge relationships with international partners both in formal and informal settings.

Recommended standards and practices emerging from the IRCs community should be taken as reference points by all its members.

The IRCs should pay great attention to the environmental impact of mobility actions and its consequences on the day-to-day running of the international offices, setting an example of sustainable practice for the whole institution.

The ultimate goal of the IRCs is to provide society with successful students, teachers and staff that are global citizens with strong intercultural communication and collaboration skills.

Our Mission and Values

The IRCs community of the AEC is an engine to trigger and carry out innovation in the sector and to provide capacity building opportunities for its members.

The IRCs community aims at being united in diversity. The IRCs believe in intercultural enrichment through exchange.

Working relations within the members of the community are characterised by trust, respect, inclusiveness, transparency, solidarity, equality, tolerance, flexibility, dialogue and collaboration.

IRCs contribute to strengthening the social relevance of music education by improving access to it at international level. Students and teachers, their well-being and development, are at the core of the work of the IRCs.

Our Strategic Focus to 2030

- **Expanding Geographical Horizons:** broadening our international reach by fostering collaborations beyond the EU, with a particular focus on non-EU European countries as well as regions in Africa and South America.
- **Advancing Digitisation:** supporting our community on the path to digital transformation by embracing tools such as artificial intelligence and facilitating the pathway towards the implementation of Erasmus Without Papers.
- **Supporting the Capacity Building of Staff:** providing IRCs with opportunities for their continuing professional developments in particular in relation to (but not limited to) project application and management.
- **Developing Sustainable, Strategic and Innovative ways of Transnational Cooperation:** setting up new collaborative educational formats such as joint courses, modules, and programmes that will support progressive curriculum enrichment and development, and educational and artistic innovation.
- **Improving the Mobility Experience:** rethinking processes and developing shared guidelines to ensure a high-quality, inclusive experience for mobile and international students, staff, and educators by working towards the removal of barriers to mobility, including those obstacles caused by political circumstances.
- **Promoting Mental Health and Well-being:** prioritising the mental health and well-being of mobile and international students, faculty, and international office staff, fostering resilience and the long-term sustainability of mobility programs.
- **Reflecting on Climate Sustainability of Mobility:** finding ways to reduce the environmental impact of mobility activities and integrating sustainability into our internationalisation strategies.

