



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



Association Européenne des
Conservatoires, Académies de
Musique et Musikhochschulen

Brussels, 21st June 2015

Dear colleagues,

The AEC has great pleasure in inviting you to the next edition of

**The AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators in
European Institutions for Higher Music Education (IRCs meeting)**

which will take place at the

**Academy of Music in Krakow
Poland, 15-18 September 2016**

What for and for whom?

The Annual Meeting for IRCs is meant for administrative and/or teaching staff members in conservatoires who deal with international relations and European programmes (such as ERASMUS+). The meeting is open also to students interested in the international dimension of their learning. During the meetings, relevant topics in the field of mobility and international cooperation are discussed in plenary sessions, workshops, discussion fora and parallel sessions. The meeting is also a unique platform for networking at European level: participants have the opportunity to develop relations with fellow IRCs, meet project partners and potential partner institutions and show projects and activities that have been developed within their home institution.

Over the years, the AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators has seen strong development and a substantial increase in numbers of participants. The 2015 meeting, which took place in Corfu, was attended by 196 participants from 27 different countries.

Co-creating internationalization: from Papers to Careers

The work of an international relations coordinator is multifaceted and demanding: the road to internationalization is full of challenges and the skills and competences required very diverse. Starting from forms, signatures and bureaucracy, balancing out the rules of the agencies and the dreams of the students, the job gets more and more concrete when dealing with real people and practical problems. Finally, it also requires a certain vision in order to make the results of successful projects and mobility have an impact in the broader picture of an internationalization strategy.

Furthermore, concepts like cooperation and collaboration are fundamental: by definition, you cannot be international staying by yourself. The relation with the IRCs fellow colleagues, the capacity to build a network, to carry on a project together and to merge and coordinate efforts in order to achieve visible results is the real added value that an IRC can co-create together with colleagues at international level as well as "at home".

During this year Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators in Kraków - which is the last IRCs Meeting organized in the framework of the FULL SCORE Project - we will investigate various aspects of the international coordinators work ranging from more practical matters to a reflection on long term visions. The practical issues will mainly be addressed by the pre-congress seminars on project design and funding opportunities, international strategy, and the upcoming common online application system "EASY", which will be exciting to see taking first steps in real life. Parallel sessions on credit mobility, internships, joint programmes and strategic partnerships will be held within the meeting – reflecting not only on current tasks and challenges, but also on the vision, the future and the impact of the IRC activities: *How to maximize the benefits of exchanges in terms of future careers? What if there is no Erasmus in 2020? How would you organize your IR efforts?*

Participants will be encouraged to reflect together on these topics and to finally co-create an output with their fellow colleagues. Two strong keynote speakers, Maria Finkelmeier and Patricia Pol, will introduce this reflection by focusing, on one hand, on the importance of looking at future careers and employment opportunities when dealing with mobility, and on the other hand by being up-to date on the current trends in internationalization. These aspects will be further discussed during two special parallel sessions: the first one led by conservatoire students, who will present their point of view on mobility issues, and the second offered by EUA (European Universities Association) who will present the results of their mid-term consultation on the ERASMUS + programme by showing the results of our sector against the general results of the university sector. Last but not least, following the success of the previous years, participants will again take active part in shaping the conference by co-creating part of the programme proposing project presentations for the Information Forum and discussion topics for the Bar Camp.

Practical information and procedures to attend the meeting

Further information, such as the programme of the meeting, information on travel, accommodation and participant fee payment, as well as the links to the online registration can be found at www.aec-music.eu/irc2016.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in Krakow in September!

Kind regards,

The AEC Office Team