

IRCs Prague September 2019

Pre-Conference Seminar on Diversity in Internationalization

by SMS project (Strengthening Music in Society) Working group 2:
Diversity, identity and inclusiveness

[A summary from the world café session](#)

The three strands below arose from the conversations:

Code of conduct and support systems

- Senior management needs to be involved
- Information and documents need to be easily available and understood
- The institutional systems need to be clearly communicated between partnership institutions prior to student exchange
- Sharing the existing instruction documents available in institutions

Socialization into institutional culture

- What is considered 'normal' varies vastly between different societies and institutional cultures
- What is expected legally and socially of the student and the staff?
- Building trust takes time
- Everyone has a reason to be who they are
- The relationship between student and teacher (friendship, collegial, formal or something in between), can be confusing to the student from a different institutional culture. What is appropriate varies between institutions, safe space
- Awareness of power structures and power relations, unconscious bias
- Student may perceive their (new) institution's culture as relaxed and encouraging or as 'overwhelming openness'

Student advisory group

- Such advisory group would benefit every institution
- The group can provide advice for management and staff
- Peer support for new students
- 'Trusted person': this person may be experienced in negotiating different educational and institutional cultures

Other: IRC's role in developing new programmes with diversity of cultural and musical traditions and 'own artistic project' at the core of studies

POLICY -> **COMMITMENT** -> **REAL LIFE!**