

Pre-conference seminar on Quality and Internationalization
QUALITY ASSURANCE FROM IRC PERSPECTIVE
Summary of discussion & recommendations by **Lika Glonti**

General remarks:

- Diversity as an asset and enrichment.
- While coping with increased internationalization higher music education institutions shall involve not only administrative, but also academic staff, as well as local students and other stakeholders (f.e. non-academic partners).
- Networking / experience sharing with non-musical higher education institutions and National Erasmus+ Agencies could be helpful.
- External review of institutions/programmes is significant quality enhancement tool.
- Support for local and international students shall be provided, but without jeopardizing main Erasmus idea of student's independence.

Specific questions:

How to ensure that learning outcomes relate to the international student body?

- include musical heritage of international students in lessons; let Erasmus visiting teachers provide lectures on their musical heritage

How to overcome language barriers?

- main goal: enabling working communication, whether in English and /or the native language
- it's not about overcoming, it's about diminishing language barriers
- both parties are in charge: sending & hosting institutions (teachers, student, staff)
- difference between language requirement between regular/degree seeking & exchange students
- offer additional language courses for students and staff
- collaboration with language schools for work placements
- pairing students with native speakers
- introduction of classes in local language for international students
- give ECTS for student-based language exchange groups "each one teach one"
- reduce language importance in tuition: teach courses with theory content in specific language or make core courses in English
- compensate missed courses with language courses
- **idea:** online dictionary for music vocabulary in different languages

How to ensure international employability?

- develop inter/trans-cultural competences
- creative entrepreneurship
- include projects outside the school
- cultural sensitivity, awareness, knowledge
- willingness to integrate yourself and others
- international experience during studies
- internationally experienced teachers

How to ensure social and academic inclusion in an international environment?

- buddy system, nights out, cultural events, performances, students' union activities, social counselor

How to meet international and diverse learning cultures and traditions?

- training seminars for IRC
- welcome packages for international students
- student tutor programme
- guidelines for teachers

How to ensure that incoming and outgoing students (and staff) feel supported by the institution?

- quality assurance of host institution by home institution
- teachers should have information on potential host institutions to recommend them to students
- teachers should support mobility
- cross influence between institutions and feedback
- academic and administrative staff to share ideas about mobility