



Conservatorio Statale di Musica "Antonio Buzzolla"

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027



Participation in Erasmus+

The Conservatorio di Musica Antonio Buzzolla di Adria (CMUSAdria) regards internationalization as a core element of its development policy in the coming years. By participating in the Erasmus+ programme 2021-27, the Institution would give a new impetus to its international dimension, in order to achieve, over the seven-year period, a strong increase of mobilities and exchanges, along with the full implementation of the fundamental ECHE principles, such as non-discrimination, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all disadvantaged people.

Despite being a small conservatory, the CMUSAdria has always boasted, since its foundation, a high level of teaching quality, that has made it a center of attraction for students both from other Italian regions and from abroad - China above all, but also Japan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Georgia, USA. Since the academic year 2006-07, the CMUSAdria has been participating in the Erasmus program, signing inter-institutional agreements with Conservatories and Universities from all over Europe, with an ever-increasing number of students' mobilities and, relevant in percentage, of teachers'.

The CMUSAdria, while drafting the guidelines of its participation to the Erasmus+ Programme for the seven-year period 2021-27, chooses to focus its energies on Key Action 1. Once the activities of Key Action 1 will be underway, and their results clearly visible, in the second half of the period, it will be possible to implement projects in the context of Key Action 2, if conditions will allow. However, if any of its partners involve it in some cooperation projects, the whole Institution will be glad to participate and at any time will make every effort to contribute to the best of its possibility.

Students' Mobility

OUTGOING SMS. The CMUSAdria intends to gradually increase the number of outgoing SMS in 2021-2027, aiming to achieve 15-20 students per year (approximately 10% of the total) at the end of the period. This objective will be achieved mainly through a strongly improved information about the Erasmus+ Programme and its benefits, both among students and teachers.

OUTGOING SMP. This type of mobility has never been implemented in our Conservatory before, even existing several students and graduates interested in it, in particular pianists (for experiences as accompanying pianists in musical institutes, academies, choral or opera bodies) students of various instrumental disciplines (for experiences in ensembles or orchestras, both in classical and jazz) music education (for music teaching internships in various types of schools). During the current academic year a project for traineeship with the University of Aveiro (Portugal) has been implemented, to be carried out in second semester 2021-22. Another project for traineeship mobility is going to be implemented, with the Kunsthøgskolen i Oslo, Norway, Department of Opera, where our piano students or recent graduates will trainee in Vocal Coaching. This project will take place in the second semester 2021-22 or first semester 2022-23.

To increase SMP mobility, besides improving information among students, it will be appropriate to:

- Make surveys among students and new graduates to verify which are their main fields of interest for traineeships;
- Look for structures within the EU that may be recipients of traineeship activities, and implement contacts and agreements;
- Include the CMUSAdria in Mobility Consortia aimed at students' traineeship.

INCOMING SMS. In order to increase the volume of incoming students' mobility for study, the main strategy will be to give prominence to the high teaching level of the CMUSAdria, encouraging the outgoing mobility of teachers, and implementing exchange projects with Partner Institutions, with both teachers and students involved, belonging to the same Department or Instrumental School, incoming and outgoing. In addition, the learning offer will be improved, with some of the courses taught in English; incoming students' integration will be helped offering them free Italian language courses (both for Erasmus and non-UE students); and the existing information in English about study programmes on the institutional website will be increased and improved.

INCOMING SMP. In order to create the conditions to host incoming students or recent graduates for traineeship, involving them in artistic productions and academic activities (e.g. accompanying pianists and instrument players to be included in various ensembles or orchestras) it will be necessary to implement an adequate academic and organizational structure, under the supervision of the Erasmus Coordinator. It will be necessary to define clearly the engagement of the trainee, also in terms of days/time, and a particularly accurate Traineeship Agreement must be signed by all parts involved. As for other types of mobility, appropriate information will be disseminated.

Staff Mobility

OUTGOING / INCOMING STA /STT. The CMUSAdria intends to further increase outgoing teaching mobility - that, besides raising teachers' professional level, acts as a driving force for students' mobility - as well as administrative staff training mobility, both as job shadowing and language courses. Since the current academic year also teachers are

taking part in STT, with the purpose to improve their linguistic skills (language courses) and educational skills (job shadowing at other institutes). Outgoing STT will be increased through the participation in Mobility Consortia aimed at it, as the CMUSAdria is planning to do. Moreover, there is the intention to set up mutual exchanges for job shadowing with administrative staff members from Partner Institutions, incoming and outgoing. Also incoming STA will be increased, by directly inviting teachers from Partner Institution to hold lectures and Masterclasses. Each of these mobilities could be carried out in the presence or in a virtual or blended form.

Still within the framework of Key Action 1, the CMUSAdria aims to implement the new modality of blended intensive programmes, which can be joined also by those students who, for various reasons (family, simultaneous attendance of another school) cannot afford long-term mobility. Several teachers still have contacts with colleagues in Partner Institutions, interested in sharing this kind of experience with their students, and hopefully in a.a. 2022-23 a project of this type will take place.

The main tool through which the CMUSAdria would achieve these goals is the efficiency, modernization and strengthening of the Erasmus Office, which will have to operate in constant dialogue with the other sectors of the Institution, both academic – Director, Academic Council - and administrative ones.

This modernization will take place through two approaches:

- 1) Increase in human resources, with the appointment of a Digital Officer and the involvement of more administrative staff members.
- 2) Full gradual digitisation of all mobility management procedures.

The second tool to obtain these results will be a great increase in informational activities, towards the internal target and towards future incoming host students and staff.

In the first case (internal target) the objective will be a better knowledge of the E+ programme and the benefits it can bring, and the information will take place using the institutional website, newsletters and social media; also very important for this purpose are live and online meetings involving students and staff who have previously been in mobility and can share their experiences abroad, acting as Ambassadors of the Erasmus+ programme.

In the second case (future incoming) it will be necessary to further improve the incoming section of the institutional website, with a complete Course Catalogue in English, besides reaching the right international student target through internet and social media communication.

Strategy, objectives and impact

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme is part of a wider internationalisation strategy for the CMUSAdria, in which the increase of exchanges is not an end in itself, but is aimed at a series of positive effects on the whole Institution.

Firstly, the general quality of the artistic-academic level is expected to be raised. Students, immersed in educational and artistic situations different from their own, will obtain useful stimuli for their professional growth, which will be reflected in their

subsequent placement in the work world; teaching and administrative staff, that from the comparison with other realities will get the stimulus to renew and to widen their methods, programs, texts and authors object of study, or ways to carry out their work in the home Institution. The teachers, in particular, will be able to pour the experiences had abroad for all their students, who will indirectly receive the benefits.

The process of modernisation, efficiency and digitisation of the Erasmus sector will be part of a similar process that is already investing, and even more in the coming years will invest all the management aspects of the Conservatory, and in turn will influence it positively, thanks to the requests coming from the European context. A crucial figure in this passage is the newly appointed Digital Officer, who, in addition to monitoring and supervising the digital switchover of the management of CMUSAdria's Erasmus Office, and the entering of students and staff data into national and European data networks, will also monitor the digitisation of all the processes that involve students and staff data between the various offices that manage them, ensuring that everything is done with maximum efficiency, ease of access for the user, and security.

Not less important are the outcomes that will affect all the people of the Institution, and mostly students, in terms of increased openness, tolerance, independence and spirit of collaboration, which naturally arise from dealing, in the formative age, with people of different cultures, languages and habits, and are even more important in the reality of a small town whose young people must be able to fully participate in the European workspace in the future. These young people are the European musicians, artists, citizens of tomorrow; for them Europe will be the natural space of act and work, bringing the peculiarity of their culture of origin.

For this reason, the CMUSAdria not only aims to a greater internationalisation, but to a full adherence, in the international dimension, to the European values of which the ECHE is the holder. The internationalisation of the CMUSADRIA will be carried out always keeping in mind the principles of non-discrimination, inclusion, equal opportunities, environmentally friendly behaviour, civil engagement and active citizenship. In this way, it will contribute to the creation of an European Education Area, to which its young students can and must fully participate, and of which the CMUSAdria fully shares the vision: the Institution is committed to promoting this vision, both regarding its international dimension and all other aspects of the Conservatory's life.

In detail:

Quality. The raising of the artistic-professional quality level is the natural goal of an Institute for Higher Artistic and Musical Education. It will be promoted by an increased participation in Erasmus+ mobility, and, as well, it will be reflected, in the medium term, in an increase of the number of its students selected for mobility by the Erasmus Partner Institutions; in the long term, in an increase of the professional level of its graduates and their easier and more natural integration into the international work world.

Inclusion and non-discrimination. CMUSAdria actively promotes inclusive behaviour, both in access to mobility and all other areas of the Institution's life, and has a set of strategies in place to ensure no discrimination against people with special needs or disadvantages. An Inclusion Officer will be appointed, in charge to monitor this aspect of the institutional life. With regard to the Erasmus+ programme, it is therefore expected that even people with some form of disadvantage will be able to access mobility.

Gender equality. Cmusadria is strongly committed to achieving full gender equality,

both in the access to international mobility and in all areas of institutional life. This goal will be reached raising awareness in young people about how gender stereotypes are still present in professional choices, how some types of artistic profession are still considered not suitable for women, and how girls are still less encouraged than boys in pursuing their artistic and professional goals, so that, in the near future, gender equality can be fully represented in the world of artistic work.

Green transition. The Europe of tomorrow cannot be separated from a responsible behaviour towards the environment, whatever the professional area in which people operate. In this field, young people are often more active and informed than adults. The CMUSAdria will also pursue a policy of raising awareness of environmental issues, with some strategies – such as dedicated top-ups - aimed at encouraging an environmentally friendly behaviour. It is expected a significant increase in the number of students and staff members who carry out this type of behaviour, choosing, for example, means of transport alternative to plane in international mobilities.

Civil commitment and active citizenship. The CMUSAdria has always been active, and so will be in the future, in organizing musical events focused on strengthening young people's awareness about basic values of the human being, and deepening the knowledge of those moments in history in which these values have been obscured. Incoming students will also be involved in this kind of events, in order to improve their integration into the social tissue of the Conservatory, and contribute to a fully integrated European society, in which the fundamental rights of all are respected by all.