



Association
Européenne des
Conservatoires



artesis

koninklijk conservatorium

Brussels, 15th June 2013

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

**Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp,
13-15 September 2013**

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 2012 meeting, which took place in Naples, was attended by 210 participants from 29 different countries.

Participating institutions with an ERASMUS University Charter should normally be able to use their ERASMUS grant for the organisation of mobility (OM) to attend this meeting, although participants are strongly advised to contact their national agency to receive the latest information on this matter.

The theme of the IRCs meeting 2013 – ‘Preparing for Partnerships: Strategies and Practicalities’

Already, in Naples in 2012, a great deal of the IRC meeting was devoted to discussions concerning the European Commission's proposed funding programme for mobility from 2014. The generous scope of the proposals, and their integration of currently separate streams, was welcomed, as was their emphasis on encouraging a strategic approach mobility and the international dimension as integral aspects of institutions' missions. This year's meeting will concentrate on developing existing and new partnerships in line with this strategic approach, finding the right alliances to maximize the benefits of internationalism. A number of case-studies will be offered alongside updates on key initiatives such as the online applications system presented at last year's meeting, intensive projects, work placements and other entrepreneurial actions and joint programmes.

We expect there to be further details of the new European Commission mobility programme available by the time of the meeting. With this in mind, we are very pleased that we shall be joined not only by experts in this area but, at our opening session, by Mr Jan Truszczyński, Director General for Education & Culture. As well as these exciting and informative presentations, plenty of time will be dedicated to networking opportunities which we will round off on Sunday during the networking trip to Antwerp Zoo.

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 <http://www.aec-music.eu/events/event/international-relations-coordinators-meeting>

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

Kind regards,

Jeremy Cox (AEC Chief Executive)