

Utrecht, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Dear colleagues,

The AEC has the pleasure to invite 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

**Escola Superior de Música, Artes e Espectáculo (ESMAE)  
Porto, 9-11 September 2011**

**What for and for whom?**

The Annual Meeting for IRCs is meant for administrative and/or teaching staff members in conservatoires who deal or are willing to deal with international relations and European programmes (such as ERASMUS). This year the meeting is open also to students interested in the topic. During the meetings, relevant topics in the field of mobility and international cooperation are discussed in plenary sessions, workshops, discussion fora and breakout groups. 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 developed within their home institution.

During the years, the AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators has seen a strong development and a substantial increase of participants. The 2010 meeting, which took place in Istanbul, was attended by more than 180 participants from more than 30 different countries.

Participating institutions should be informed that 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 2011 – Mobility and Employability: “upwardly mobile”**

All International Relations Coordinators naturally believe that student mobility is a positive thing: that it enriches students' experience at the time and that it ought to enhance their employability in the future. But is this really the case? The main theme of this year's meeting is to explore whether mobility during study really does help employability subsequently; whether experiencing different institutions, countries, languages and traditions during study truly helps students to be 'upwardly mobile' in their careers. The theme will be addressed from both the market and the students and alumni's perspectives. The conference will also include breakout group discussions, an information forum on projects of international relevance as well as networking activities.

**Practical information and procedures to attend the meeting**

Further information such as the programme of the meeting, information on travel and accommodation, a call for project presentations and information on participant fee payment as well as the links to the online registration and to the online questionnaire on ERASMUS activities, can be found at [www.aecinfo.org/porto](http://www.aecinfo.org/porto).

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

Kind regards,

Jeremy Cox (AEC Chief Executive)  
and Bruno Pereira (International Officer at the Escola  
Superior de Música, Artes e Espectáculo)