



Update on DEMUSIS project during COVID-19 health crisis

Enhancing the digital competencies and entrepreneurship skills of academic musicians in Serbia for culturally more engaged society - [DEMUSIS](#) is a Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) project funded by Erasmus+ programme and coordinated by the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. DEMUSIS project aims at enhancing entrepreneurial abilities of academic musicians to use digital technologies artistically, creatively, knowledgeably, critically and responsibly (both toward self and others) in general and cultural context. The objective is to introduce forward-looking curricula that will offer sustainable career for musicians and provide them with knowledge, skills and understanding how to work alone and manage their own careers.

In the course of the first project year (2019), over 100 courses at three academic partner institutions in Serbia (Faculty of Music, University of Arts in Belgrade, Academy of Arts, University of Novi Sad and Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac) were [modernized to answer the project aims](#), and eight new courses introduced. The Covid-19 pandemic and declaration of the State of Emergency in Serbia in March 2020, transferred the implementation of new and modernized courses into the digital environment in spring semester of 2020. Distance learning was realized using university e-learning Moodle-based platforms, along with other applications and tools for communication such as Trello board, Google Classroom and Google Meet, Zoom and other.

Along with changes of existing curricula, new courses aiming at development of digital and entrepreneurial skills and knowledge were developed and introduced in academic year 2019/20 at Faculty of Music, University of Arts in Belgrade, Academy of Arts, University of Novi Sad and Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac. Courses focused on introduction of entrepreneurial skills to the music studies curriculum - *Introduction to project planning and music entrepreneurship* and *Basics of music entrepreneurship* were introduced at the University of Belgrade and University of Kragujevac respectively in October 2019. Their successful implementation, along with public procurement of equipment and its subsequent installation in new and upgraded digital laboratories at three national academic partner institutions, provided grounds for the launch of the second group of new courses, aiming at enhancement of digital skills and competencies of music students.

[Four new courses aiming at enhancement of digital competencies of music students](#) were implemented in spring semester of the academic year 2019/20 at the Faculty of Music, the University of Arts in Belgrade. The new courses - *Introduction to digital notation*, *Contemporary notation and advanced digital notography*, *Basics of digital literacy for musicians* and *Basics of working with Digital Audio Workstation - DAW*, were developed in coordination of DEMUSIS Faculty of Music team with the Work Group for the modernization of curricula of the Faculty of Music during Spring 2019 and adopted by relevant institutional bodies by October 2019.

The aim of these new courses was to introduce music students to the basics of work with DAW - digital audio workstation using Cubase 10 software, software for digital notation (Sibelius and Finale) on basic (*Introduction to digital notation*) and advanced level (*Contemporary notation and advanced digital notation*), while the course *Basics of digital literacy for musicians* was designed to answer the need of music research students to acquire basic digital skills and knowledge in text, score and sound editing essential for professional work of music teachers and researchers. All the courses were electives and offered to the bachelor students of all study programs - composition, music performance and music research.

The courses were realized in the newly equipped and installed digital laboratory at the Faculty of Music, University of Arts in Belgrade in February, March and June 2020, and online (Zoom platform, YouTube channels, distance learning platform) during the close-down of universities due to the spread of corona virus.

Over the same period, Academy of Arts - University of Novi Sad introduced new course *Methods in Music Education in Digital Environment - MEDIG* as an elective in the master study program Music and Media, Musicology and Ethnomusicology, and as compulsory in Music production master study program. The third national academic partner - The Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac implemented throughout the same period the course *Music in digital environment* at Music theory and pedagogy and Music performance study programs, which previously haven't included digital skills and knowledge in the curriculum. As in the case of the Faculty of Music, University of Arts in Belgrade, new courses at academic partner institutions from Novi Sad and Kragujevac were realized mostly online, on Moodle-based distance learning platforms and other communication applications and tools.