

# HANDBOOK FOR WORK PLACEMENTS IN HIGHER MUSIC EDUCATION IN EUROPE

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ERASMUS NETWORK FOR MUSIC

*polifonia*



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## FOREWORD

This publication is meant to be a brief practical guide for higher music education institutions willing to engage not only in student mobility for studies, but also in student mobility for work placements. The new focus of the mobility programmes on placements is the tangible response to the rapid changes in the job market, which occur also in the music sector. Future musicians will have to face increasing competition at international level to have a place in a new-shaped job market, where flexibility but also specific skills such as linguistic skills will eventually be the key of success. Student mobility for placements could be a tool to tune student competences to the new reality of the sector. Modern higher music education institutions need to acknowledge this strong link between education and profession and tune their offer to the evolution of the music job market.

This work is meant to be a contribution to the work of the External Stakeholders Group in the framework of the ERASMUS Network for Music 'Polifonia'<sup>1</sup>, which consists of the following European and international networks representing organisations in the music profession:

- The European Music School Union (EMU);
- The European String Teachers Association (ESTA);
- The Performing Arts Employers League Europe (PEARLE\*);
- The International Federation of Musicians' Unions (FIM);
- Chamber Music Europe;
- The European Music Council (EMC).

One of the aims of the External Stakeholders Group has been to explore ways how to improve the links between music training and the music profession. Internships are a natural and effective way to increase connections between conservatoires and professional organisation. Nevertheless, the new opportunities offered by the ERASMUS Programme to receive support for transnational internship have not been used much so far and often unknown, especially to organisations in the music profession. It is this situation this guide would like to improve.

This guide complements the successful handbook *Ten Steps on how to implement your Erasmus Exchange in Music*<sup>2</sup>, which has been published by the 'Polifonia' Network in 2007 and which has already been used by many European higher music education institutions as a important guide for the implementation of their international activities.

The information collected here is based on the experiences of the Conservatorio di Musica "S. Giacomantonio" of Cosenza in Italy, which is the coordinator of the Consortium ARTS, a good

<sup>1</sup> More information about the ERASMUS Network for Music 'Polifonia' and its External Stakeholders Group can be found at <http://www.polifonia-tn.org/Content.aspx?id=1920>.

<sup>2</sup> This handbook can be downloaded in English, German, French, Spanish and Italian at [www.doremifasocrates.org/usefulinformation](http://www.doremifasocrates.org/usefulinformation).

practice example in ERASMUS mobility for placements in the higher music education sector. In the following chapters, practical steps, as well as strategic guidelines to undertake ERASMUS placement actions in the field of music education will be described. A special section will address the role of consortia of institutions and enterprises in successful placement strategies. In the final chapter, information about placement opportunities in another strand of the Lifelong Learning Programme, LEONARDO DA VINCI, is also presented.

## CHAPTER I

### ERASMUS PLACEMENTS: A SHORT INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL DEFINITIONS

#### 1. ERASMUS STUDENT MOBILITY FOR PLACEMENTS

Student mobility for placements enables students in higher education institutions to spend a placement (traineeship/internship) period between 3 months and 12 months in an enterprise or organisation in another participating country. The general objectives of student placements are:

- To help students to adapt to the requirements of the EU-wide labour market;
- To enable students to develop specific professional skills including language skills and to improve the understanding of the economic and social culture of another country in while acquiring work experience;
- To promote cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises;
- To contribute to the development of a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced young people as future professionals.

#### 2. THE EXTENDED ERASMUS UNIVERSITY CHARTER

Only students belonging to higher education institutions holding an Extended ERASMUS University Charter (EUC) can benefit from this mobility action. The EUC is a prerequisite for HEI interested in organizing student mobility and teaching and other staff mobility, willing to carry out Erasmus intensive language courses and intensive programmes, and to apply for multilateral projects, networks, accompanying measures and to organise preparatory visits. There are three kind of EUC an institution can apply for, allowing different level of mobility:

1. The Standard ERASMUS University Charter is for institutions which wish to apply for Erasmus funding for transnational student mobility for studies, for transnational mobility activities for teachers and other staff and/or to apply for EILCs, Erasmus IPs, multilateral projects, networks, accompanying measures or preparatory visits.
2. The Extended ERASMUS University Charter (Student Placements only) is for institutions which wish to apply only for ERASMUS funding for transnational student placements in an enterprise during their studies.
3. The Extended ERASMUS University Charter (Standard Charter and Student Placements) is for institutions which wish to apply for activities covered by both the Standard and the Extended University Charter (Student Placements only).

Information on how to apply for the ERASMUS University Charter can be found in the handbook *Ten Steps on how to implement your Erasmus Exchange in Music*<sup>3</sup> or on the websites of the European Commission.

<sup>3</sup> This handbook can be downloaded in English, German, French, Spanish and Italian at [www.doremifasocrates.org/usefulinformation](http://www.doremifasocrates.org/usefulinformation).