



UNIVERSITY OF ARTS
IN BELGRADE



Erasmus+

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

International strategy

The University of Arts in Belgrade (UAB) aims to achieve and sustain excellence in teaching and research, become internationally recognised centre of education in the arts, keep the focus on creativity, individual approach to students and expand interdisciplinary perspectives. With this in mind, we have a strong commitment to embedding an international dimension and intercultural ethos in all aspects of our activities and consider internationalisation to be an important part in the quality assurance and overall development of the university.

International commitment is integral component of the UAB's Vision of Development. In line with the institutional policy, the Internationalisation Strategy is being developed to define strategic importance, provide an internationalisation chart and support delivery of the core aims. The internationalisation strategy is focusing on the following objectives:

- Strengthening our academic position and international reputation
- Increasing the number, intensity and scope of our international collaborations
- Encouraging the development of an international perspective and intercultural awareness in all our students and teachers
- Developing a curriculum that is responsive to global currents in art and reflects international contexts
- Increasing the number of mobile students and staff as well as the number of full degree international students
- Providing an accessible and supportive environment for international students and staff
- Enhancing the UAB's global research reputation through establishing international platforms and strategically-conceived partnerships
- Preparing graduates to start their careers at the international level

The UAB views involvement in the Erasmus+ programme as fundamental to the achievement of these objectives.

We have many bilateral agreements and continue to build new collaboration with international partners with strengths, values and approaches to teaching and learning. The selection of partners is based on quality criteria, priority given to those with whom we can establish active collaboration, share good practice, enhance the student learning experience and enrich the curriculum. We wish to develop deep and sustainable relationships across the range of activities - exchange, joint degrees, research - always looking for commonalities regardless of borders and divisions.

Currently, our focus is widely directed towards European collaboration: on the one hand, our goal is to reinforce connections within the Western Balkans, the South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, where common cultural and historical roots are strong; on the other hand, we

are focused on building partnership with European regions which are remote to us or have different artistic traditions. We are also determined to establish stronger global connections and look for partners in this direction, especially towards countries and regions where links have already been established through networks and other programmes (China, Canada, the United States, Latin America and Australia).

Mobility is the cornerstone of the UAB's international ambitions. In the previous period we have achieved a significant increase in mobility and built institutional capacity for further development. The Erasmus+ has been a key driver of both the scope and quality of the mobility and we aim to further internationalise the UAB's ambiance with full commitment to the ideals of the Programme. In order to create such an environment, we will actively stimulate the mobility of students and staff.

The UAB will guarantee high quality in the organisation of student mobility, whilst ensuring equal academic treatment and services to home and international students. Our activities include student mobility in all cycles we provide (1st, 2nd and 3rd cycle). As anticipated in the International strategy, we attempt to intensify incoming mobility and gradually introduce the student mobility for traineeship. We stimulate outgoing students to spend a period of study abroad and gain international experience which will support their artistic development, enlarge their competencies and research capacities. For incoming students, we provide full individual support and mentorship, ensuring their integration into the university life. We also encourage staff mobility, both for teaching and training purposes, in order to assure constant comparison of teaching methods and further development of study programmes in the international context.

Joint study programmes represent significant international activity of the UAB. Existing joint master programmes have grown out of productive, long-term cooperation with our European partners. The UAB provides central administrative support for establishing and implementing joint programmes and intends to use this experience to launch new programmes with partners from abroad. Our focus will be on interdisciplinary, innovative and experimental programmes that combine research and new artistic practices.

Strategy for the organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects

The UAB plans to continue and increase its activities in international cooperation projects and use the Programme's possibilities to facilitate partnerships for curriculum development, institutional development, integration of innovative practices and growth of research potentials.

The UAB is an active member in several international networks, including membership in the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA), the Francophone University Association (AUF) and Uni-Adrión. Our faculties also collaborate in networks in various disciplines - the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC), the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT), the European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres (ENCATC) etc. These networks are of strategic significance for boosting our participation in collaboration projects and initiatives.

The UAB has long-lasting experience, as coordinator and partner, in previous EU educational programmes (Tempus and Erasmus Mundus) and is active in the ongoing Erasmus+ programme (Capacity Building for Higher Education and Jean Monnet projects). Based on the results of these projects, our goal is to expand the cooperation within existing consortia and generate new strategic partnerships.

We aim to stimulate participation in the Erasmus+ activities related to cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices.

- In Strategic Partnerships we see a range of possibilities for developing innovative approaches to education in art and transnational and intersectoral exchange of knowledge and artistic practices with European partners.

- We also anticipate work in relation to Knowledge Alliances, which can be valuable for strengthening links with enterprises in order to connect young artists with cultural and creative sectors, support entrepreneurship in the arts and empower young artists to start successful careers.

Through the framework of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, we intend to outline new international curricula, jointly developed in synergetic partnership, with the aim to support our cross-disciplinary approach to art.

We will continue to foster teaching and research in the field of European integration studies through the implementation of the ongoing Jean Monnet module in the field of music and the encouragement of new initiatives.

In the upcoming years, the UAB will stay proactive in other EU programmes (Creative Europe, Horizon 2020, COST), especially in research programmes and projects, where international links and research platform activities could lead to integration of viewpoints from local contexts into the global streams.

The International Relations Office will ensure that the UAB actively fosters partnerships in EU programmes in order to expand and develop its international activities. The Office will promote and disseminate information on the calls for projects, stimulate proactive engagement of the staff, provide them with any assistance that they may need during the application process, provide support for project management and information exchange. Administrative procedures have been developed but they need to be fine-tuned to be able to respond to new flows and requirements.

There are some other units at the central level which are closely involved in the delivery of cooperation projects: The Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies has durable experience and full capacity to implement joint study programmes and the Financial Office is capable of providing quality financial management of the EU projects. Also, we anticipate the establishment of the Career centre for student guidance in the near future, which could provide additional support to cooperation projects leading to better employability of our graduates.

III Impact on the modernisation

The UAB's International Strategy is closely linked to a renewed EU Agenda for Higher Education as well as the goals towards a European Education Area. Participation in the Erasmus+ programme plays the central role in accomplishing its institutional objectives.

With an aspiration to build **well-designed programmes** we are committed to incorporating innovative dimension into our curricula. Contemporary art is a broad and dynamic field encompassing a wide range of views, contexts, technologies, traditions and social functions. Therefore, key attributes of our curricula must involve: an integrated approach to production, theory and critical reflection; actual and up to date study programmes; student-centred approach to learning; teaching methods that allow students to develop autonomy and the necessary creative, intellectual, theoretical and practical skills to equip them for continuing personal development and professional practice within the arts.

We are trying to enable students to acquire **transferable skills** which can be applied to a great variety of career paths and new professional roles in wider artistic, creative and entrepreneurial contexts and management. In this respect, international experience is valuable for further development of their core abilities, such as cross-cultural communication, respect for diversity and language skills.

Our curriculum modernisation strategy is focused on **interdisciplinarity** and **intersectoral collaboration**. We seek to maintain an academic portfolio based on synergy of concepts and methods from different disciplines, but also to integrate collaboration with other education cultural, business and public sectors into the curriculum. This will include the development of joint degrees.

Through the Erasmus+ we want to support **teachers** to develop their pedagogical skills and professional competences as well as to stimulate the development of high-quality curricula through exchange of knowledge and good practice. In this respect, we intend to improve rewards and recognition criteria and stress international aspect of the staff development.

We are committed to creating a culture of **diversity** and **inclusion** within all activities of the university. The UAB secures equal opportunities for all students and staff regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic and cultural background or disability. The university aims to attract and retain the most talented students regardless of their background. We have developed an institutional strategy for inclusion and provided adequate support and mentoring through the specialised unit. Further steps of accelerating diversity lead us towards better implementation of policies, improvement of guidance methods and progress monitoring.

The UAB has a profound influence on the arts community and culture in Serbia, but beyond this, the UAB tends to be actively engaged in a broader **social sphere**. Our students are encouraged to build links with surrounding local community and interact with vulnerable social groups through different participatory art projects, public art projects, specific workshops and training.

In order to assure and enhance the quality of doctoral studies and **research** environment at the UAB, we stay focused on refining doctoral curricula, applying open science principles at the institutional level and encouraging international collaboration between researchers.

Innovative capacity and relevancy of our research results will be stimulated through collaboration with public sector and highly dynamic environment of creative industries.

We aim to educate innovative and entrepreneurial students not only at the doctoral level, but in all study cycles as well. **Employment perspectives** are already incorporated in a number of our study programmes, but we want to do more for career development of our students and use partnerships with creative industries and other sectors to offer them more diversified career paths. The Programme provides crucial support for these ambitions within Knowledge Alliances, student mobility for traineeship and mobility of researchers and staff.

Most of our strategic priorities include **reinforcing mobility** within the Erasmus+. For those involved in studying and teaching arts, mobility plays a key role, allowing them to explore new territories in art, giving them broader perspective on their own practice, different research outputs, but also exposure to cultural and multilingual diversity, advancement of language skills and deep intercultural understanding.

With respect to the Agenda's priority of **building effective and efficient higher education systems**, we intend to develop more flexible internal procedures, encourage diversification of funding through the project activities and joint dialog and broader cooperative actions of the state authorities and education sector.



Zoran Erić
Rector

Belgrade, 23rd February 2018