

## Erasmus Policy Statement (Overall Strategy) 2014/2020

The Conservatory "Umberto Giordano" of Foggia promotes the internationalization and modernization of Higher Education in Music and Arts strengthening and improving worldwide partnerships. This international outlook has been developed in the last few years with the ultimate goal to refresh the overall educational offer through exchanges and relationships with artistic institutions both with EU and non EU countries. Therefore, this Conservatory will continue its agenda of cultural exchanges involving students and teachers with the Sungshin Women's University Seoul (South Korea). Since 2010, the two institutions signed an agreement whose purpose is the realization of common projects in Arts and Music.

The ultimate goal is to share and support the European Strategy 2020, investing in Education and Research of the highest levels. The "U.Giordano" Conservatory makes a strong effort in preserving the quality standards of its cultural offer through constant revision of its classes and of the degrees offered, which are kept relevant and up to date. The Conservatory will also strongly support the development and realization of innovative pedagogical approaches. Specific musical knowledge and creativity at large will be used to establish new study programs and train highly qualified musicians who would contribute to a new European growth. Therefore, the Conservatory is strengthening further its already existing politics of cooperating with public and private local institutions to develop international cultural activities. More specifically this institution is promoting collaborations with Universities, High Schools for Music Education, orchestras active in the province of Foggia. The Conservatory will also work on developing partnerships with political authorities on local and regional level.

In addition in the seven years period 2014/2020, the web of bilateral agreements with new International Partners (Universities for Music and International Professional Musical Organization) will be highly improved. This effort is made in order to offer to everyone involved in the Erasmus project new occasions for comparisons with realities that are different in terms of space, cultural goals and artistic as well as scientific achievements. The Coordinator for such project will determine the most fitting public or private institutions to partner with. This decision will be based on the guidelines of the Conservatory's academic programs.

The institutions which will be chosen should preferably show the following characteristics:

- General academic profile and classes with unique and diverse cultural value for the students.
- Valuable occasions to share experiences for teachers and staff members in the administrative offices.
- Partnerships with institutions interested in realizing cultural projects to advance the overall growth of the Mediterranean area.
- Size of the institution in terms of student population and degrees offered. This aspect would allow the Erasmus participants to acquire the widest amount of knowledge as well as to experience the most diverse pedagogical approaches.
- Fairness of the evaluation system ECTS adopted or similar to those standards.
- Strategic geographic area able to interest participants from the largest number of countries and cultures, therefore leading to diverse future employment opportunities.
- Level of proficiency in the language required.

This Conservatory will keep supporting and upgrading mobility activities as its core strategy. In addition, any discriminatory barrier will be removed in order to guarantee equality of access to those opportunities.

The recipients of the mobility activities are:

- Students of "U.Giordano" Conservatory enrolled in the Bachelor programs (first and second degree cycles). Those students will keep benefiting of the possibility to spend an academic period abroad. The institution which will host the student should sign a bilateral agreement with this Conservatory.
- Faculty members employed by this Conservatory interested in having a teaching experience in one of the partner institutions.
- Faculty members, administrative staff employed by this Conservatory that would like to start a mobility activity for educational purposes with one of the partner institutions.

The Conservatory "U.Giordano" will continue to offer the possibility to graduate with a double degree title. Therefore in 2012 the Conservatory signed an agreement with the "Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra" (Vatican Institute of Sacred Music) in Rome in order to realize joined educational paths based on a shared academic plan. This plan consists in an amount of credit hours shared by the two institutions for students pursuing a Double Degree in Composition, Organ and Piano. This agreement has also guaranteed the possibility for the students of the Conservatory to perform, after a successful audition, in the very prestigious concert series organized by the "Istituto Vaticano" (Vatican Institute).

### **Institution's strategy for the organisation and implementation of international (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training in relation to projects implemented under the Programme**

The Conservatory "U. Giordano", within the new European Program 2014/2020, will keep improving and supporting the mobility activities of the program both hosting and sending abroad its students faculty and staff members. The goal is to increase the number of participants and the artistic and cultural qualities of the participation.

The Erasmus Office will provide all the information concerning the goals and the procedures to take part in the mobility activities of the new Erasmus Program through meetings with students, faculty and staff members. In addition, the Conservatory's website and the official pages on Facebook and Twitter will contain most of the information. The Conservatory "U.Giordano" will guarantee equal opportunities to all participants without any discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, disabilities, political beliefs. All disabled or disadvantaged people interested in participating to the mobility activities will be supported through financial contributions based on their income.

Students, faculty and staff members, will be selected with the utmost fairness accordingly to the regulations for mobility activities established every year. The Erasmus Office will constantly assist them before during and after the mobility activities. The scholarships (related to grades and placements) will be co-financed with grants from the Government and from the Conservatory. Upon completion of the mobility, the Conservatory will recognize the credits and other cultural activities completed abroad. Those credits have to be included in the Learning/Training agreement signed before starting the mobility and verified in the Transcript of records/work. This operation will be fulfilled through the transferring of credits with the support of the ECTS. The credits will be recorded in the degree and in the Diploma Supplement. The work in the mobility activities of the faculty and staff members will be acknowledged as primary element for the growth of this Conservatory.

### **Impact in the Programme on the modernisation of this institution (for each of the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda)**

This Conservatory answers to the five priorities linked to the European Program for modernization of Higher Education pursuing the following agenda:

1. The increase of its cultural and artistic level to form musicians and support research, essential aspects of European growth. Consequently, the students will be encouraged to pursue a degree which would guarantee specific knowledge in the Arts and Music and strong appeal in the job market. The Chart of Studies, annually updated, will provide them with all the information to find the most appropriate academic path based on the strengths of their musical talent. Every student will benefit of equal opportunities, including whoever might be in difficult financial conditions, or adults with specific needs.

2. The improvement of quality and relevancy of Higher Education based on knowledge and innovative skills. The Conservatory will favor its excellences through advertisement and competitions of musical skills. The ultimate goal will be to make the students familiar with various professional paths and job opportunities.

3. The improvement of its educational offer through mobility activities and international partnerships. This educational focus will create the possibilities to share knowledge and experiences with strategic partners. Therefore, the Conservatory will be in the conditions to guarantee:

to the students an increasing amount of new professional skills gained through the study abroad program. Once back in Italy, the students will have the assurance of the full recognition of all activities completed abroad.

to the teachers the possibility to transfer professional skills contributing to the growth of the study plan. The teachers will also be able to offer to students and to teachers not involved in the mobility activities new ideas and different pedagogical approaches. to the faculty and administrative staff the possibility to transfer skills and the learning of new procedures known abroad during the mobility activities.

4. The activation of the triangle of knowledge, creating a link between the teacher of Higher Education, Research and Businesses to promote excellence and regional growth through education, professional training and artistic production. This cooperation of forces should consider the needs of the job market and the partnerships with organizations involved in the Arts. The result will be a common as well as European growth.

5. The strengthening of the governance and of the financial support, through the improvements of local human resources' management and an increasing number of activities to realize on behalf of third party. Thanks to its autonomy, the Conservatory might be able to invest in projects in similar geographical areas, and in fields who would guarantee the growth of Education and Artistic Production of the highest quality.