

## ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

The Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica is a higher education institution providing education in the field of film, music, fine arts and theatre. One of its main tasks is to form a creative, free, innovative space where students, under the guidance of teachers, change their talents into a specific art form. Through art, they are able to express relationships and events in society, improve cultural and artistic perception of the world and society, ensure the creation of rare and original connections between art world and society, transfer the acquired theoretical knowledge into practice, sustain heritage and create and shape cultural and social values.

The Academy fulfils this role not only alone and on its own but often in cooperation and more broadly with other institutions at home and abroad. The Erasmus program is its main financial instrument in the field of international mobility. Erasmus has a positive effect on the content modernization of our study programs, supports scientific and artistic cooperation projects and activities, and facilitates the transfer of know-how between the art world, practice, other universities and cultural institutions. The Erasmus program helps to increase the language and professional competences of students and staff. It helps to overcome geographical distances and remove intercultural barriers. Participation in the Erasmus program is therefore a necessary, important and probably also an irreplaceable part of the internal strategy of the Academy of Arts. Erasmus helps the Academy to make full use of the potential of education and culture within the wider geographical region. The application of European identity in all its diversity, a stay in a foreign country, adapting to a new environment, living in a different culture helps to set human values and empowers individuals to make the most of their lives, find personal fulfilment and be willing to actively participate in building a sustainable, just, resilient and cohesive society.

The objectives for the coming years:

- 1) **Our goal is to provide the European experience to most students during or shortly after their studies.** We believe that mobility in the Erasmus program helps students to develop their professional, intercultural, social and communication competencies. It helps in finding, strengthening and comparing their own values, identity, and sense of belonging to a certain community. Students also benefit from the fact that their artistic skills and talents can be developed and presented at international level. They themselves get to know a new culture, environment and other pedagogical approaches and methods. They learn to be independent and responsible and expand their language and creative skills.
- 2) **Our goal is to deepen the international discussion and work on curricula, qualifications frameworks and quality assurance systems.** All the areas cited above help to formulate and implement an international standard, improve the inclusive nature of educational systems and open up a locally closed environment to new ideas and solutions. At the same time, they strengthen the relevance of teaching and education to the needs of society. An open environment is more attractive and competitive than a closed rigid system. We believe that mobility directly facilitates the exchange of best practices and know-how between institutions, directly supports the innovations of the education system and enables the comparison of one's own approaches with those established at partner institutions.
- 3) **Our goal is efficiency and simplification of recognition procedures.** We still face problems in Europe when applying for formal recognition of a qualification obtained in another country. These unjustified obstacles lead to uncertainty and frustration for applicants. We believe that it is Erasmus mobility that helps to identify obstacles more quickly, to look for new approaches and to formulate clear,

transparent rules that may lead to automatic mutual recognition of qualifications in the future. Erasmus mobility offers numerous opportunities to set the parameters of recognition procedures. Seamless recognition of qualifications and achievements is essential for the labour market. It leads to greater transparency, certainty, trust, satisfaction and is a cornerstone in building the European Educational Space.

**4) Our goal is to increase the language skills and multilingualism of students, teachers and other staff.**

Languages bring people together, open up other countries and their cultures, and strengthen intercultural understanding. Knowledge of foreign languages plays an important role in increasing employability and mobility. Multilingualism also increases the competitiveness of the economy and enriches cultural exchange. We see Erasmus mobility as a unique opportunity for the active use and development of a foreign language, often in nuances and uniqueness of a multicultural and multilingual environment.

**5) Our goal is to deepen European identity and promote Europe's cultural heritage.** We fully support education and embrace values based on the historical heritage of Europe and its individual nations. In cooperation with partner institutions (schools, cultural centres, galleries, etc.) we want to spread the principles of European tradition, tolerance, multiculturalism and identity, as well as mutual cooperation, whether in a physical or virtual environment (online). We are convinced that within the mobility of students and teachers, as well as by initiating, supporting and producing their mutual projects and de facto international activities, we help to promote, protect and preserve Europe's cultural heritage.

In fulfilling our goals, we consider the Erasmus program to be a key tool that enables us to support those interested in mobility, regardless of their socio-economic background. To select the candidates the Academy of Arts uses transparent non-discriminatory selection procedures and follows the ECHE Charter.