



COSCYL – ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

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COSCYL – SALAMANCA

Conservatorio Superior de Música de Castilla y León

COSCYL, after 18 years of participation in European mobility programmes, has made important and decided progress in its international relations policy, which is considered as an essential aspect in its educational project in order to guarantee the highest quality of musical training. COSCYL initiated its participation in the ERASMUS teacher-student mobility program in 2002-2003, and since then has received students and teachers from a wide array of European countries with excellent academic and cultural results. Likewise, students from COSCYL have been sent to other centers participating in the ERASMUS program with similar success.

The recent change in the Directive Board of the Conservatory has made necessary a re-evaluation of the advances made up to the present in the ERASMUS programs and the search for means to improve participation. An Erasmus Committee has recently been formed in order to improve the diffusion of ERASMUS among faculty members and students, and to assure an improved diffusion of program possibilities. The new Directive Board considers of vital interest the establishment of new contacts and links to broaden the scope of the musical education aims of the centre.

The number of inter-institutional agreements has increased quite a lot during the last few years and an important network with other music institutions has been established. These bilateral agreements cover up a wide area within Europe, geographically speaking, although the particular countries might change a little from year to year. Nonetheless, our Erasmus candidates are often quite fond of some institutions throughout the years. COSCYL will work to keep the existing partnerships and add up some other partners, in particular those outside the EU.

COSCYL is a member of the AEC (Association of European Conservatories, Academies of Music and Musikhochschulen) and it is also a member of the ACESEA (Spanish Association of Upper Education Centres in the Arts) the Spanish equivalent of AEC. Also part of the COSCYL policies has been to encourage the participation of relevant personalities of European conservatories from different areas of music training in seminars, master-classes and courses offered in the centre and we would like to keep on doing so.

One of the main objectives of our international policy is to enable both students and teachers to expand his musical horizons through contact with professional musicians from other countries and deepen cultural exchanges, expanding their knowledge on music and ensuring the highest quality of musical training. The mobility of teachers also favors the transmission of good practices at both teaching and management levels.

The initiatives that are being developed by the European Commission to help work toward a European Education Area and its vision contained within this policy fully meet our expectations and our institution shares those objectives, namely:

- Spending time abroad to study and learn should become the norm
- School and higher education qualifications should be recognized across the EU
- Knowing two languages in addition to one's mother tongue should be standard
- Everyone should be able to access high-quality education, irrespective of their socio-economic background
- People should have a strong sense of their identity as a European, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity

During the last years the number and quality of international mobility has improved in our institution. Within the different activities, those of student mobility for study and staff mobility for teaching and training (Key Action 1) have been fostered the most. In the future, we would like to keep the focus on those specific activities although some other like student mobility for training might be also implemented in the following years. Although our institution has recently implemented 2nd cycle studies (Master studies), all international mobility belongs to the 1st cycle (student credit mobility at Bachelor level), at least for the moment.

COSCYL will focus on Key Action 1 as we have already done in the recent past although this time we are planning to increase not just the number of student and staff mobilities but also broaden up our horizons regarding our partner institutions by starting some projects in KA107 and keeping the usual activities in the domain of KA103. In doing so we will promote the development of cooperation with partners in other EU and non-EU countries, which is at the core of COSCYL internationalization strategy. Participation in such international projects is seen as an important aspect of the professional development of the staff and the students and it has a great impact in the modernization of the institution. The selection of partners is based on sufficient knowledge due to the active involvement of the academic staff. Likewise, feedback from former participants in the program will help in keeping the excellence of the mobilities in the future.

COSCYL international strategy and policy includes explicit allocation of responsibilities for its efficient implementation and our International Relations Office (IRO), which is highly supported by the hierarchy, is set up with staff driving the internationalization agenda. All the international activity is carefully monitored. The recently created Erasmus Committee is also an important piece that will contribute to the good development of the international projects. All the regulations regarding COSCYL international strategy and policy are collected in an official document that is crucial in the management of the Erasmus program since all the procedures are finely described and explained on it, among other things the different steps to be taken into account before, during and after the mobility.

Before the mobility:

- Erasmus Annual Call for participants is published
- Information Days to give students and staff all the details of the program
- Make sure all the procedures are fair, transparent and documented
- Publish and up-to-date course catalogue on the web and information regarding the evaluation system and grading scale.
- Sign inter-institutional agreements
- Work with the students in their Learning Agreements
- Help teachers with their staff mobility agreements
- Help participants with practical issues such as accommodation, language skills, information about visa and insurance
- Erasmus Student Card, OLS, etc.

During the mobility:

- Welcome Meeting for incoming students
- Implementation of safety regulations for all participants in the program
- Equal treatment policy for Erasmus and regular students alike
- Integration of Erasmus students and guest staff in the daily life of the city and the institution
- Follow up of participants' experience
- Intermediate report for the National Agency

After the mobility:

- Credit recognition according to the Learning Agreements
- Recognition of staff mobilities
- Sending transcript of records and certificates of stay to outgoing students
- OLS; EU surveys
- Evaluation of the achievements and impact of the program
- Dissemination of the program outcomes
- Final report for the National Agency

COSCYL will work actively in the idea pointed out by The Commission regarding the full potential of education and culture as drivers for job creation, economic growth and improved social cohesion, as well as a means to experience European identity in all its diversity.

With regards to the outcomes and experiences of Erasmus + activities, the results are monitored, evaluated and disseminated as a way to improve international cooperation and mobility activities.

An important part of the project is the impact assessment of the different activities carried out every year. The intermediate and final reports sent to the National Agency and the feedbacks we get from them are very important tools in order to establish the good health of the project and to change those aspects that might not be working. Some of the figures and statistics we take into account during evaluation of the impact are among others:

- Number of signed inter-institutional agreements and the quality of the strategic partnership across the EU with other higher music institutions
- Number of mobility exchanges
- OLS indicators in order to enhance the learning of languages
- EU Surveys of participants in order to detect and improve the weaknesses
- Assessment of the different activities that take place during the year: Welcome Meeting, Info Days, etc. to promote student mobility and participation in educational and cultural activities
- Impact mobility has on the employability of students
- Assessment of the media coverage and the visibility in social networks / website
- Participation in public events
- Support on mobility offered by the International Relation Office and the Erasmus Committee

The assessment of all these indicators gives us valuable information and makes possible improvements in the Erasmus program every year.