



ERASMUS DECLARATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY 2021–2027 (EPS)

The Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart (HMDK) sees itself as a training institution for aspiring artists and (music) pedagogues from all over the world and is of course already a place for international encounter and mutual exchange. This takes place in everyday university life as well as in international personal and institutional cooperation beyond the university location, as well as in activities in international networks.

Teaching and learning at the HMDK is based on the values of an enlightened, cosmopolitan and future-oriented understanding of art, culture and science and aims at the development of artistic personalities, which goes beyond the professionalisation of specialists. Cultural values and their communication are therefore of high importance. The content of the training at the HMDK focuses on European music and theatre culture in all its diversity. The daily discussion of this tradition – including a reflection of one's relationship with non-European cultural traditions – promotes both cultural awareness and expression and includes the promotion of individual cultural identities.

Everyday life at the university is characterised by cultural, ethnic, religious and social diversity. The understanding of equality and equal opportunities at the HMDK implies ensuring this diversity and avoiding discrimination. The exchange and respectful coexistence of people from different traditions and spaces as well as in different life situations take place in artistic projects and in the joint exploration of artistic objects.

The labour market for artists is an international one; accordingly, the HMDK provides training for the global labour market. In addition to excellent artistic and professional training and the development of an artistic personality, the communication of a European identity and the promotion of intercultural competences are of great importance. In order to be precisely trained for a globalised employment environment and to be able to exist, students should be able to make the best use of the diverse international learning opportunities available in Europe and

worldwide; Teachers should be able to act confidently in this environment and be able to act competently in a modern and internationally shaped working environment. HMDK therefore strives to further advance the internationalisation of studies, research, teaching and administration: In this context, international networking and exchange as well as teaching and learning mobility should continue to form a natural part of university life. The maintenance of existing and the development of further university cooperations in Europe and worldwide are prerequisites for the international exchange of teaching and learning content and methods as well as artistic practices and the exchange of best practice, for the expansion of intercultural competences and the deepening of language skills. The HMDK considers both the professional gain of mobility and the acquisition of key competences and identity-building experiences as a contribution to the internationalisation of studies and teaching, research and artistic practice.

In addition to a wide range of exchanges in individual mobility and institutional cooperation, the HMDK is regularly present in international networks, for example in the association of the European music academies “Association Européenne des Conservatoires” (AEC) and their content-oriented working groups “Pop and Jazz Platform” (PJP), “European Platform for Artistic Research in Music” (EPARM), “International Relations Coordinators (IRC) Working Group” etc.

The HMDK is not only a training institution, but also one of the major cultural organisers of Stuttgart and the region. Through concerts, theatre and opera performances, scientific lectures and conferences as well as other cultural events and projects, the results of the artistic, educational, scientific and artistic research work radiate to the public. These include events and projects within the HMDK as well as in the city (orchestra, opera, museums, educational and social institutions, etc.). The HMDK, networked with numerous cultural and educational institutions in the city and the region, thus makes a central contribution to the social and cultural life of the city society and strengthens the willingness of its members to engage in civic activity.

The HMDK aims to enable excellent applicants from all over the world a high-quality education in the subjects offered and to train its students into responsible, artistic, pedagogical, scientific and entrepreneurial professionals. In addition to professionally excellent training, always based on current developments, this includes, in the understanding of the HMDK, the teaching of key competences, as they can be acquired, for example, in the context of mobility abroad.

Scholarship programmes such as Erasmus+ support access to the acquisition of artistic, professional, entrepreneurial, social, intercultural, foreign language and digital skills abroad.

Erasmus+ mobility activities (student and human resources mobility, key action 1) are of great importance for both individuals and the university as a whole: Individual teaching/learning constellations play an important role in the development of artistic personalities, as they can be realised in individual mobility within the framework of a study programme. Mobility in the field of teaching contributes to the internationalisation and modernisation of teaching at HMDK. They also contribute to attracting the most talented students to study at the HMDK. In the field of administration, mobility provides insight into examples of best practice in Europe and supports the acquisition of intercultural and linguistic skills.



All competences strengthened by mobility increase the quality of teaching and learning at the HMDK, strengthen the university's position in national and international competition and contribute to the preservation and expansion of the university's excellence.

Scholarships are an important strategic means of promoting mobility. In addition to grants from the Erasmus+ programme, further scholarships such as STIBET, PROMOS, from funds from the Baden-Württemberg Foundation and other sponsors (Society of Friends, Foundations) are available at the HMDK. Ongoing work is being carried out on the expansion of scholarship funds.

In order to further develop the possibilities of enhanced university cooperation, the HMDK is currently carrying out a bilateral cooperation project with a partner university in Poland, funded by the Baden-Württemberg Foundation (duration until 2023). In the perspective of longer-term cooperation, the aim is to develop this cooperation, in which other partners could also be involved (key action 2).

Erasmus+ student and personnel mobility is already firmly implemented at the university. For the 2021-2027 generation of programmes, the number of mobility for all groups, in particular in the area of student mobility, is to be increased as far as possible. The aim is to increase mobility by 10 %; this appears to be achievable within the programme period.

The basis for this is a stable network of partner universities with which, in some cases, exchange relationships have existed for years. Continuous care and further expansion of this network should provide students with reliable guidance when selecting the host university and ensure that they can complete a professionally high-quality and administratively well-accompanied stay abroad at the respective partner universities. Carefully developed learning agreements as well as transparent recognition structures of academic achievements abroad ensure that study content is compatible and that academic achievements are fully recognised.

The HMDK currently has around 75 inter-institutional agreements with universities in Erasmus+ programme countries. Not all of these universities have an equally intensive exchange relationship. In the process of renewing the IIAs at the beginning of the new generation of programmes, all cooperations will be evaluated in terms of quality and quantity. IIAs with partner universities with which there are continuous and stable relationships will be immediately renewed. IIAs with partner universities with which in the past only one-off exchanges have existed, will be gradually renewed if meaningful mobility corresponding to the strategic orientation of the university is to be planned and carried out. Furthermore, there is ongoing discussion on the usefulness of extending the university network to Erasmus+ partner countries.

The administrative support of mobility by the International Office of the HMDK is continuously evaluated and adjusted if necessary. For part of the administration of outgoing mobility of students, HMDK has joined the consortium KOOR/BEST at the University of Technology in Karlsruhe. It is envisaged to continue this cooperation.



HMDK has not so far requested any projects under Key Action 2, but considers that it is strategically desirable for such international networking. As this area requires coordination with potential partners and concrete project development, an application is foreseen in the second half of the programme period.

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