



**Erasmus+**

## **POLICY STATEMENT 2021-2027**

The 2021/2027 7-years' timeframe represents for Saint Louis College of Music the second cycle of its participation in the Erasmus+ Program.

The first 7 years in the Erasmus family proved to be a massive and immersive experiencing period during which Saint Louis managed to acquire a steady, reliable International reputation, being able to create strong international connections which consented to exploit the already existing High Education Erasmus network in the Music area at large, realising a conspicuous number of European mobilities of all sorts and also being able to try its hands in 2 successful non-EU exchanges programs with Georgia and Kosovo.

Thanks to these start-up efforts, Saint Louis got to acquire almost 50 Partners Institutions, managing to realize all the targets set for the first 7-years participation period in terms of individual mobilities of students, staff and teachers, for a total of approximately 200 people mobilized, as well as in terms of modernization and internationalization.

Starting from these strong premises Saint Louis is now ready to set brand-new and more ambitious targets, to be pursued through both consolidated Erasmus Actions (KA1, EU and non-EU) and through new, still unexplored or barely explored, Actions (KA2), tracing a roadmap which is rooted in the principles of the European Modernization Agenda – and in particular the ones individuated by the renewed EU agenda for higher education – but focusing on the new ECHE principles while aiming to reach out to the new goal of integrating in a European Education Area.

Being fully aware of the potential, impact and results of the participation in the Erasmus Project, Saint Louis intends to carry out all the planned Actions in strict connection and dialogue with the Internationalization and Modernization Strategy of the Institute, whose landmarks can be thus summarized:

- pursuing an Excellence path, offering a cutting-edge, innovative and entrepreneurial-based training system, fully respecting and also anticipating the state-of-the-art, meant to form highly skilled and qualified, socially engaged young professionals, with large employability chances in a very demanding job market more and more driven by digital technology, and characterized by a demand for flexibility and trans-disciplinary competences.

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**Saint Louis** College of Music

Via Baccina, 47 - Via Urbana, 49/a - Via del Boschetto, 106 – Via Cimarra 19/b (00184, Roma)

Tel +39 (0)6 4870017 - Fax +39 (0)6 91659362

[www.slmc.it](http://www.slmc.it) / [www.saintlouiscollege.eu](http://www.saintlouiscollege.eu) / [info@slmc.it](mailto:info@slmc.it)

- creating a steady bridge with the job market, connecting the Institute with external enterprises at local, National and International level, and more generally connecting the Institute with the outside world and all relevant stakeholders participating in the modernization process.
- boosting the digital shift: enhancing the development of digital competences in all the subjects active in the Institute at all levels, through cooperation projects for the exchange of good practices as well as through the realization of digital skills traineeship and training mobilities; digitizing systems and procedures to be pursued both via the activation of all the existing sector digital resources and via the study and further implementation of self-developed digital systems, also aiming at implementing digital environmental-friendly policies.
- creating an international community, as diversified and inclusive as possible, European in its core identity but open to embrace the rest of the world and diversity, ensuring equal treatment and possibilities to less represented groups and to individuals coming from socio-economically disadvantaged contexts, fostering social and gender inclusion. A community nourished by International mobility, confrontation, cooperation and exchange, civically conscious and active.
- intensifying and deepening the most successful international partnerships as to create the context for the construction of Joint Degrees and, subsequently, European Universities in the sector of Music High Education, thus actively contributing to the creation of a European Education Area.

### ***Erasmus Actions***

Saint Louis intends to keep on focusing, for the new 7-year period, on learning, training and teaching individual mobilities, targeted to increase the professional, social and intercultural skills and employability of the participants, this being the cornerstone of the internationalization and modernization of education and the main tool for the further development of the European Education Area.

Alongside the mobilities to be realized in the European Zone, under the KA103 Actions, Saint Louis is also driven towards the realization of Credit Mobility Projects with non-EU Countries, under the KA107 Actions, which have proved to be an inspirational and mind-opening experience for the entire enlarged community of the Institute, boosting the European Consciousness and offering a deep diversification insight, thus speeding-up the internationalization processes. As to geographical positioning Saint Louis is already setting the roots to open collaborations with Partner Countries neighbouring the EU, namely in the Western Balkans and in the Southern Mediterranean, reaching out to Northern Africa and Latin America.

Last, but not least, Saint Louis also intend to work extensively in the context of KA108 Consortiated mobility activities, of both EU and non-EU scope. The Institute just celebrated the successful creation of a Roman High Education Network for the Arts, which constituted itself under the name of Body Sound DiVision as a brand-new Erasmus Consortium in which Saint Louis, project coordinator, teamed up with the Accademia Nazionale di Danza, the one and only recognised Italian Dance Academy, and ISIA Roma Design, the unique State Design Academy in Italy, to intent international exchange and cooperation projects of larger scope and maximized impact.

Whereas the KA1 actions for the mobility of individuals in both EU and non-EU context will remain a core part of Saint Louis Erasmus activities, the Institute is now also ready and willing to enter the KA2 Cooperation Actions, both as Partner (as recently already happened) but also as leader, focusing, in the order, on the following Actions:

- Cooperation and exchanges of good practices: to start working more in-depth with selected Partners, already individuated for their excellence and similarities or complementarities with Saint Louis itself, with whom exchanging knowledge and good practices on specific areas contributing to the Institutes modernization and internationalization
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees: following the knowledge and expertise exchange, Saint Louis will try and build Joint Master Degrees, to enter the concept of an intense collaboration with designed Partners to create European, innovative, internationalized and highly appealing Study Courses
- Erasmus Universities: once gathered the necessary expertise in the creation of Joint Courses, Saint Louis will expectedly be ready to pursue the final target of being a Member of a European University.



**Erasmus+**

## **POLICY STATEMENT 2014-2020**

Thanks to its geographical position, being based in Rome, Saint Louis College of Music is a natural catchment area for international students wishing to spend part of their studies abroad.

Starting from a firm belief in the importance of the internationalisation process for the valorisation and qualification of formative, artistic and research activities, Saint Louis has established since long time a policy of opening to the rest of Europe and of the world, actively promoting collaboration projects with other Institutions, run so far on a private basis: studies exchange programs for both students and staff, master classes and full-immersion workshops held by visiting artists, an international jazz competition involving about 15 nations and run in collaboration with another European HEI Institution, the Conservatorium Maastricht. ([www.europeanjazzcontest.eu](http://www.europeanjazzcontest.eu))

In 2011 Saint Louis became active member of the AEC - Association Européenne des Conservatoires, understanding the importance of confronting on an International basis with same level educational Institutions.

In line with this overall acting, Saint Louis intends to focus its Erasmus activities on students and staff mobility, giving them the chance of a wider international comparison, to attain personal, didactic, professional developments.

As far as students mobility is concerned, the students involved will be the ones attending 1st and 2nd cycles. They will be selected on the basis of merit, and of the potential benefit they would get from this experience, individual motivations, language proficiency. The selections will be carried out on the basis of a non-discrimination policy, regarding gender, ethnic origin, race, religion or social background. Disabled students will get a totally identical evaluation and the incoming ones will be fully integrated in Saint Louis everyday life.

Short-term mobility for teaching and administrative staff will also be a priority.

The selection of the candidates will be carried out on the same transparency and non-discrimination policy applied to students selection, and on the basis of the curriculum vitae and of the validity of their projects and proposals.

In choosing the partners Saint Louis will privilege those institutions, which it has already worked with successfully in the past. Fundamental criteria selection will be: acknowledged reliability, cutting edge didactics, targets and didactic methodology similarity or complementarity, non-discrimination policy, disabled students acceptance and integration.

The partnerships and relative agreements will be developed year by year: starting with one or two initial partners only, to slowly increase them on the basis of accrued experiences and progressively acquired skills. Possibly, the first agreements will be developed with Institutions already experienced in Erasmus activities.

Suggestions from Educators, who happened to get in touch with foreign Institutions and having a positive experience feed-back, will be duly considered and brought to the attention of the Academic Board, who will vote in meetings all proposals received or developed.

Saint Louis will also privilege those Institutions who currently avail themselves of the precious tools of ECTS, Learning Agreement, Transcript of Records and Diploma Supplement.

Bilateral Agreements and Learning Agreements will be carefully worked on, in order to guarantee easy, transparent procedures and recognition processes.

The Institution partner selection will be carried out with no initial specific geographical area in mind: the possible partnerships will be evaluated on the basis of the aforesaid characteristics of the single Institutions. At the beginning, Saint Louis will try and sign agreements with Institutions located in more developed geographical areas, which could work as example for Saint Louis itself; subsequently, once Saint Louis gathers the necessary experience on International level, it would include in its partners also Institutions located in less developed area, so as to help them grow in their turn.

Saint Louis will carry on all international and Erasmus activities on a basis of total transparency and prompt communication, in order to allow all students and teaching or administrative staff to be actively involved in all projects. All initiatives, projects or activities under the Programme will be therefore given duly visibility by every means: on the web and on social networks, by e-mail, with posters located in strategic positions of the Institutions, but also through organized meetings, orientation and open days, meetings with students and staff returning from mobility. Such visibility will be ensured both before than after mobility, in order to keep on growing, confronting and opening up.

Saint Louis commits itself to providing a steady and continuous support to both incoming than outgoing students and staff, through direct, constant contact with the Erasmus Coordinator and International Office.

Saint Louis looks forward to entering the Programme, considering it one of the best available resources: Innovation, updating, full exploitation of human resources, research, are among Saint Louis' targets and expectations in participating in these comparison-based activities. Saint Louis wishes to improve the quality level of educational offer, to constantly update activities and didactics in comparison to the ones of other European Institutions, developing a Communitarian consciousness in both staff and students.

Saint Louis expectations in relation to the 5 priorities of the Modernisation Agenda are:

1. A larger networking with the labour market

Saint Louis expects a broadening in the students' horizons, improving skills and competences, while having to cope and confront with a different social and artistic environment. This should lead to a further self-awareness and to an understanding of the world music business, which will then enable the student to enter this world, to be requested by it, improving his/her job possibilities and the chance to get a better job.

Saint Louis, with its active internal Management and Production Centre (networking with clubs, festivals, recording studios, TV, radio, etc.) is especially aware of the difficulties found by the students in accomplishing the jump towards their professional career.

Saint Louis is targeted in this sense to widen this job network on international level, also implementing the international experiences of staff and students.

## 2. Enlarged social dimension

Saint Louis has always implemented an active opening policy towards under represented groups and students unable to constantly attend classes because of economic, social or disability reasons. For example, Long-distance (fortnightly) courses, both academic and non-, were specially designed. Therefore Saint Louis expects that under the Programme these students categories will be further integrated and made active part of educational and professionalising experiences.

## 3. Communitarian Consciousness

Actively committing itself to the removal of obstacles to mobility in HEIs (especially in matters of recognition, implementing ECTS, Europass, etc.) and boosting communication about mobility, Saint Louis expects to witness a larger involvement of varied staff and students to these activities, thus collaborating to the creation of a large European Communitarian Consciousness both artistic and social.

## 4. Inter- and trans- disciplinarity

By means of new institutional and managerial approaches, Saint Louis expects to progress towards an enlarged study system based on wide research field instead of single disciplines, in which students, researchers and educators work side by side.

## 5. Excellence

Through a larger confront and research on international basis Saint Louis wishes to further develop its student and musicians excellence, conveyed through new CDs and didactic methods releases and promoting cutting edge original productions.