



ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Alma Mater Europaea was established in 2007 as European center Maribor. Already at that time, most of the programmes had the European dimension, targeting issues of the Danube region. Several years later and after the first generation has completed its studies, the European Center Maribor became part the Alma Mater network. Alma Mater Europaea of the European Academy of Sciences and arts is a European University that was established in Salzburg in 2011 by the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. It is its aim to connect scientists, researchers and academics from all around Europe. When the European Center Maribor obtained the patronage of the European Academy, it changed its name into Alma Mater Europaea – ECM and became one of several institutions that are now connected under the Alma Mater Europaea network. The network consists of over 1,900 international scientists, researchers, academics, professors, and professionals; among them are also 29 Nobel Prize winners and former Pope.

We see this international background and network of excellence as a great challenge to continue our international

appearance and activities.

In early 2014, Alma Mater in Slovenia was joined by the Institutum Studiorum Humanitatis (now known as AMEU ISH), an independent HEI that had by then carried out study programmes of Humanities and Anthropology for over 20 years. In the end 2014, Alma Mater in Slovenia was joined by the Dance Academy (now known as AMEU Dance Academy), an independent HEI that carried out study programmes of Dance from 2009.

With this application, we are applied for Erasmus+ charter (ECHE) for AMEU Dance Academy that is now an independent unit under the Slovene umbrella of Alma Mater. While AMEU ECM already has a working Erasmus network, AMEU Dance Academy as its sister faculty does not have it yet. Therefore, the staff and students were not able to use Erasmus+ possibilities. Through applying for ECHE also for AMEU Dance Academy we hope to continue the good work on the international floor. We are hoping to add European international dimension also to AMEU Dance Academy once the ECHE

is obtained. Several universities have already approached us with requests for exchange. Furthermore, we would also like to apply for other actions (Jean Monnet and similar). An international dimension, established through Erasmus+, would considerably improve our chances and international ideas and projects in this field. Because is the interest for mobilities larger among the faculty than among students, is this also our short-term plan to start off with staff for teaching and training, which will eventually develop into student mobilities.

At the Dance Academy, wish to provide our students connection with external institutions where student deepen their knowledge and experience, make their professional name, exchange contacts and acquire practical training. The programme emphasises creativity, respect for diversity, consideration of human rights, solidarity and responsible attitude

towards work, students, lecturers, experts and general public, as well as social environment.

Under the previous leadership Dance Academy did not participate in major international projects co-financed by the EU. But AMEU Dance Academy has been quite successful in national (no-funded) projects. We hope that the Dance Academy under the guidance of AMEU in the future will be successful at national levels with projects funded by the Slovene Agency for research and development, ARRS.

Through Erasmus+ exchange we are hoping to reach the next level and aim at European projects. These include joint degrees, development of joint study programmes and similar. The ideas have generated already, we are looking for partners and hope to be able to apply in 2018, if all goes well with the application.

The impact of participation in Erasmus+:

Since the basic network of partners is already established (by the sister institution, AMEU ECM), we want to focus on selected and high-quality partnerships with added value, while at the same time following the EU objectives – Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education. In order to fulfil that, a more pro-active, strategic and sustainable approach must be selected, where partnerships will be based on mutual understanding and our strategic priorities. AMEU has included the Modernisation Agenda with its five priority areas in the following way:

1. Increasing attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs

Being independent means being flexible. This is our strength, as we can quickly react on the needs of Europe, needs of the labour market and modernisation approaches, enabling student state-of-the-art approaches and top faculty to learn from.

2. Improving the quality and relevance of higher education

As mentioned previously, a more flexible approach allows us to operate a good network of tutors and mentors, focus more actively on the career center and approach the industry in order to evaluate the quality and relevance of our HEI study programmes (great focus on distance learning and blended learning).

3. Strengthening quality through mobility and cross-border collaboration

We think beyond borders because through international collaboration makes us stronger, better and more valuable. Without international partners, the knowledge and experience don't count that much. We will therefore seek further opportunities for international collaboration, being it through joint projects, research or just teaching exchange.

4. Making the knowledge triangle work

Offering 5 study programmes at Bachelor level (that includes a lot of practical training), we cannot work without partnerships with business and the industry. Our career center is therefore dedicated to making this triangle work.

5. Improving governance and funding

Being an independent HEI, we are not funded by the government. However, a range of project activities contributes to a better positioning of the institution and makes the operations more sustainable, all in line with the mission, vision and strategic plans of the University.