



O R P H E U S

INSTITUUT

Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

Erasmus Policy statement (EPS): your strategy

Your Erasmus Policy Statement should reflect how you intended to implement Erasmus after the award of the ECHE. Should you wish to add additional activities in the future, you will need to amend your Erasmus Policy Statement and inform your Erasmus National Agency.

What would you like to achieve by participating in the Erasmus Programme? How does your participation in the Erasmus Programme fit into your institutional internationalisation and modernisation strategy?

(Please reflect on the objectives of your participation. Please explain how you expect the participation in Erasmus to contribute towards modernising your institution, as well as on the goal of building a European Education Area¹ and explain the policy objectives you intend to pursue).

Original language (and translation into EN, FR or DE if the EPS is not in one of these languages)

The Orpheus Institute has a unique international reputation and acts as a major ambassador for doctoral and post-doctoral education, research and culture in Flanders. The mission of the Orpheus Institute is based on three distinctive characteristics:

1. The creation of a specialized research environment for artist-researchers in music;
2. Sharing new knowledge, know-how and artistic research results on local and international level.
3. Playing a key role in the international development of artistic research in music.

The Orpheus Institute has two main tasks to fulfil:

a/ organizing a doctoral training programme for musicians, docARTES. DocARTES distinguishes itself from most foreign PhD trajectories in artistic research because of a strong emphasis on the entanglement between research (at an academic level) and the further development of artistic practice.

b/ the development of a research centre, the Orpheus Research Centre. This research centre focuses on artistic research in music by developing a discourse on artistic research and generating research expertise in the field of practice-based research in Europe .

Both the doctoral programme and the research centre focus on research questions from the perspective of the artist-researcher. Research at the Orpheus Institute builds on the unique expertise and insights of musicians and is constantly in dialogue with other disciplines.

The core assignments (education and research) are becoming increasingly intertwined. Orpheus Institute also actively strives to create synergies between the two activities. For example, the doctoral training has evolved into a research environment in which doctoral students can optimally develop into junior researchers and work with and in the internationally operating research centre. Senior researchers of the research centre generate new impulses for their own research through collaboration with PhD students. From their own research, they simultaneously give substantive input to the doctoral training docARTES, and second and third cycle programmes in higher music education in Europe.

Participating in the Erasmus Programme allows the Orpheus Institute to

- develop and share (new) practices, methods and parameters in the evolving field of artistic research with institutions, researchers, students and staff in all artistic and academic disciplines.
- exchange with areas of technological innovation: to co-explore potential and implications for creative practice and research methodologies, which is increasingly fundamental to employment prospects.
- start collaborative projects with a view to developing and implementing transnational creative and methodological practices.

- share new experience and insights at institutional level into the cultivation of environments for artistic research, its conduct, evaluation and dissemination, as well as the relationship of artistic research with other areas of education and research.
- incorporate remote network collaborations and in longer term physical/virtual modus operandi.
- enrich the diversity of research cultures and research topics of the institute itself as well as the different institutional partners in Europe.

Through the training/teaching mobilities and by investing in education and training systems through collaboration actions, the Orpheus Institute will

- strengthen the understanding, conduct, and delivery of artistic research in Europa.
- contribute to a new shared vision of the evolving role of creative industries in Europe.
- reinforce the interaction between education, training, research and the labour market in order to anticipate the future skill needs of a changing European labour market. In this way it will support young artist-researchers in challenging new future employability conditions and personal development in this perspective.

Please reflect on the Erasmus actions you would like to take part in and explain how they will be implemented in practice at your institution. Please explain how your institution's participation in these actions will contribute to achieving the objectives of your institutional strategy.

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The Orpheus Institute is participating in KA1 staff mobility actions, and KA2, partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices. These actions will have a major impact on the following objectives from the institute's strategic plan: 1/ Leadership in research and 2/ Partnership with higher education.

1/ Leadership in research

The Director of the Orpheus Institute chairs the European Platform for Artistic Research in Music of the AEC (Association of European Conservatories) and has been invited to join the group of international conservatories (Brisbane, Den Haag, Guildhall London, Helsinki, McGill Montreal, Oslo, Singapore) forming their vision for the future of higher education in music, ConNext. The Orpheus Institute has been invited as the sole representative of music to be part of the Working Group on Artistic Research of ELIA (European League of Institutes of Art). This privileged position is essential for disseminating the experience of the institute, but also to identify crucial coming questions, to inform further work. It is the institute's aim to continue to actively participate in and encourage the formation of international networks, in which KA2 collaborations play a crucial role, in order to

- search for higher-level questions and challenges,
- give more attention to the relevance of such work for wider cultural, educational and intellectual life,
- and consolidate the institute's role as a vital nexus among artistic research communities.

Researchers and staff also allow the Orpheus Institute to develop further its networks and profile and to stay at the leading edge. They are encouraged to take part in training/teaching staff mobility actions in order to identify emerging topics and issues and to foster relationships with other disciplines.

As part of the objective of consolidating a leadership position the Orpheus Institute seeks to explore ways of interdisciplinarity and new forms of knowledge. The mature phase of artistic research affords self-confidence and a more outward-looking stance. The institute is establishing collaborations with related disciplines (such as psychology, philosophy, digital humanities, visual arts, cultural and media studies) to consider boundaries, emerging common

concerns and opportunities for collaboration. Exploring the relationship between the modes of knowledge proposed by artistic research and the wider, technologically-informed knowledge discourse is one of the institute's goals. The Orpheus Institute will seize and explore the Erasmus+ opportunities to concretize these challenges.

2/ Partnership with higher education.

It is now widely accepted that artistic research has a role in higher music education. There is less clarity and consensus as to the nature of that role. However, in a fragmented musical world a broader awareness of cultural, historical and economic context is increasingly seen as a vital element of professional training; artistic research develops the rigorous skill set necessary to achieve such artistic, intellectual and professional adaptability and invention. The Orpheus Institute will continue to collaborate with the sector to develop the role of artistic research in higher education.

The Orpheus Institute is recently invited to advise, to organize and to establish new networks, structures and programmes internationally – most recently for the conservatory system in Italy. The leading conservatories of Milan, Florence and Rome have asked the Orpheus Institute to introduce and help implement artistic research in their institutions by organising introductory workshops as a preparation for new 'third cycle' provision. The Orpheus Institute is sending teaching staff as part of the KA1 mobility. Since artistic research is at the centre of the next stage of higher music education in many European countries, the institute would like to explore its potential as a provider of consultancy in other European institutions and thus increase the KA1 sending staff mobility in this sense.

The Orpheus Institute is currently involved in the KA2 Erasmus+ strategic partnership for higher education project 'Advancing Supervision for Artistic Research Doctorates' (2018-2021). This project aims to improve doctoral education at art universities. It addresses doctoral supervision as the core component in doctoral education, proposing a balanced set of measures to improve supervision on a practical level (addressing institutions and students), a strategic level (addressing membership organisations), and on an advocacy level (addressing stakeholders and policy makers). This cooperation between various higher music education institutions is already proving to be particularly fruitful and the Orpheus Institute will continue to work with conservatories and international universities to encourage exchange between research and education. The Orpheus Institute envisages new KA2 initiatives and projects which address students, teachers, researchers and institutions.

The Orpheus Institute will establish new kinds of provision in artistic research to address a new generation of artist researchers. At this moment there is little opportunity in Europe for post-doctoral development in artistic research in music. The Orpheus Institute will be a pioneer in offering such training. It is uniquely placed to do so, by mining its considerable resource of methodological experience, range of research topics and network of associated researchers. It will offer post-doc training (short courses as well as longer residencies) to the expanding number of artist-researchers looking to the next stage of their career. The Orpheus Institute will implement KA1 mobility structures and agreements to open post-doctoral training to international incoming staff (training and teaching). Once again, the institute will play a leading role by example and experiment. With this initiative, the Orpheus Institute both acknowledges its responsibility to the discipline of artistic research in music and explores its potential as a provider of consultancy.

Implementing KA1 and KA2 actions into the strategic policy affects the individual research projects and output. It helps to develop the Orpheus Institute's discourse of artistic research on an international level and further determines its place in the field. Furthermore, the actions have a positive influence on the improvement and the (mutual) enrichment of the quality of higher education in Artistic Research, of students, teachers, researchers and institutions alike. They not only further shape the doctoral curriculum docARTES, but also affect European Higher Education Programmes according to the needs of the ever-changing world of artistic research. Finally, the Erasmus actions facilitate active collaboration in higher art education and facilitate the formulation of new initiatives.

The Orpheus Institute therefore adapts its operational working accordingly and integrates mobility at all levels: (strategic) management, finances, administration, and communication.

- Researchers from the Orpheus Institute regularly visit other research institutions to share experience, new approaches and vision in areas of education and research. Such mobility is important in disseminating and fertilising work at the institute, but also in identifying emerging themes and topics and developing common agendas.
- The Orpheus Institute has an established practice of welcoming visiting staff members in function of their objectives, needs and expectations. One or more staff members of the institute are responsible for guiding, instructing or integrating guests, whether this concerns training or teaching mobility. The Orpheus Institute always ensures that the incoming staff gets acquainted as much as possible with all branches of the institute's working, vision and mission during their stay. There is an openness in the Orpheus community to give space to artistic researchers and staff and projects. The institute encourages incoming staff to participate and present at events (conferences, seminars, workshops, general assemblies, etc.) organised by the Orpheus Institute, and to actively contribute to one of the running research projects at the institute. In this way, it becomes not only a personal experience, in which insights are shared for or from one's own working experiences, but also an opportunity to implement new knowledge and skills on an institutional level.
- The Orpheus Institute aims at an increased involvement in cooperation projects in order to develop joint training, research and innovation projects with European reference institutions. The Orpheus Institute addresses existing networks but also explores the network of further identified partners.

What is the envisaged impact of your participation in the Erasmus+ Programme on your institution?

Please reflect on targets, as well as qualitative and quantitative indicators in monitoring this impact (such as mobility targets for student/staff mobility, quality of the implementation, support for participants on mobility, increased involvement in cooperation projects (under the KA2 action), sustainability/long-term impact of projects etc.) You are encouraged to offer an indicative timeline for achieving the targets related to the Erasmus+ actions.

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The Orpheus Institute's main aim is to have 50% of the staff (research, coordination, management, administrative and teaching staff) to be involved in KA1 and KA2 actions in any given year.

Being involved in KA1 actions, will have an impact on:

- The quality, improvement and renewal of the doctoral training programme docARTES the ongoing research projects and the discourse of artistic research in general. Education and training thrives on well-qualified teachers. New and ever-changing societal and technical challenges demand new competences, skills and qualifications. The Orpheus Institute is experiencing new technological and interdisciplinary challenges in the field of artistic research. Staff training mobility allows our researchers to gain new insights and skills which allow the Orpheus Institute to meet the new requirements of an ever-changing society.
- An increasing task for our international coordinator. Commitment to more mobility possibilities requires a professionalisation, a constant improvement and an extension of the tasks of this coordinator: putting information procedures and selection criteria in place, giving administrative and logistic support, keeping track of finances and budget,

maintaining good contacts with receiving institutions (agreements, responsibilities, tasks), regular reporting, etc.

- The institute's financial situation. The Orpheus Institute will take into account that not all costs will be fully covered by the funding foreseen in the KA1 and KA2 actions.

The impact of KA2 actions will show as follow:

- An increase in the workload of staff involved in cooperation projects. Staff (administration, management and researchers) will be in charge of organizing training events and/or multiplier events and team meetings, developing, testing and implementing output and deliverables, developing communication and dissemination strategies, etc.
- Longer-term impact of cooperation projects will be evident in the development of new approaches to teaching and research at institutions with which the Orpheus Institute collaborates on the Flemish, European and international stages. It will also be seen in the evolution of topics and priorities within the institute itself – both in the work of individual researcher and in institutional strategy.

The Orpheus Institute aims to welcome interested external staff members (about 5 to 10 staff members from higher education institutions and research centres) on a yearly basis for a period of 2 days to 1 week in the framework of staff training or teaching mobility (KA1).

- Staff training / teaching will be implemented in the daily working of the researchers at the Orpheus Institute. The mobility is organised in a way that both the sending staff as the receiving institute benefit from each other. The Orpheus Institute makes sure that mobility visits are always organised during an ongoing event at the institute, so that incoming staff can participate and contribute at the same time from these opportunities. Incoming staff can always count on the support of inhouse staff responsible for the supervision, mentoring or tutoring. The Orpheus Institute contributes as much as possible to the content of the training/teaching visit.
- The international coordinator makes every effort to arrange and facilitate the guest's stay as optimally as possible (explaining the possibilities and responsibilities at the institute, informing about accommodation possibilities, fulfilling the agreements, taking care of the evaluation, etc.).

The quality and the quantity of the participation in both KA1 and KA2 will be monitored and measured through different channels:

For KA2 actions, the Orpheus Institute will either initiate a project as a coordinator and actively search for suitable partners, or be called upon to participate in a collaborative project. In both cases, the project will in the first instance be evaluated in terms of the Orpheus Institute's strategic goals and needs, the topic of the project in relation to the institutional mission, the opportunities for the collaboration, the quality of the partner network, the foreseen outputs and methodologies, impact on the research projects and the doctoral curriculum, and the financial and workload consequences.

- Staff travelling from the Orpheus Institute should demonstrate how mobility affects their own research work and how the mobility is in line with the Orpheus Institute's research strategy. Staff members will give as many details as possible about the purpose of the mobility and its impact (also on the receiving institute).
- Staff visiting the Orpheus Institute should explain their expectations from the institute on different levels (content, support, guidance, opportunities, objectives, etc).

The Orpheus Institute has two quality assurance bodies at work that are competent to assess different applications:

- a Steering Committee that meets every two weeks to evaluate, consult, and 'steer' ongoing research projects. The committee is responsible for the development of a goal-

oriented research agenda in the longer term. Strategic and operational objectives of the Orpheus Institute are also evaluated by this committee.

- the Research Advisory Council, an international body of external experts which annually advises on the professionalisation of research strategy and management tools.

In KA1 actions, the international coordinator takes the responsibility to monitor the implementation of the mobilities:

- the coordinator keeps track of data: the number of participants in the mobility actions, the workload of the mobility on the sending staff and the supporting administrative staff, the impact of the mobility, etc.
- The sending and receiving staff as well as the different stakeholders will be monitored on a regular basis by means of surveys.
- Staff travelling from the Orpheus Institute are required to regularly report on the experiences, achieved objectives, and results to the Steering Committee.