



In November 2007 the Academy of Music in Gdansk has submitted its application for Extended ERASMUS UNIVERSITY CHARTER 2007-2013.

The important part of the application is a three-part declaration referring to Erasmus European policy of the institution.

See below this declaration, following by the Senate document which is a base for all European activities of the Academy of Music in Gdansk.

1.

In our Erasmus Policy, students' mobility still remains our main objective. We give to every student who attains the appropriate level of grades (an average of at least 19 out of a possible 25, with the main subject at the level of at least 20 out of 25 possible points) the possibility to study abroad as an Erasmus student. We are ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 169 institutions in the latest Polish statistics concerning the number of outgoing students in comparison with the general number of students at the institution.

On the other hand, we ought to improve our offer for the incoming students. We will open in the next academic year a carillon course (in the second cycle, giving the degree of Master of Art), entirely taught in English and addressed to the international community of students. We have opened some English-language courses in the theory of music, which support the instrumental or singing courses for students from abroad. This offer is gradually being improved every year.

The members of our teaching staff have become more interested in the possibilities of the TS programme. In the current academic year, our academy is supporting its teachers with substantial means (along with Erasmus grants), because the number of outgoing teachers – as well as incoming ones – has rapidly increased.

We consider the Erasmus IP branch as the third important field of our activities. We take part in the Tallinn Academy of Music IP and we took part in the Utrecht Music Academy IP. We also organised an IP project ourselves with partners from Rostock and Odense. There is a significant gap in contemporary music education, namely modern music in the variety of its aspects. The Erasmus IPs are a very good tool to improve the ways of teaching (and learning) the secrets of modern music.

Now the Erasmus possibilities are common knowledge at our Academy. We are a small institution devoted to artistic goals. In a good social atmosphere, the best way of promoting the ideas of Erasmus is person-to-person consultation, adjusted to the individual interests of the student and to the profile of the teacher.

The Erasmus topic is part of our www site and our information boards present the latest Erasmus news but we still consider individual contact as the best way forward.

The Erasmus Policy of the Academy of Music in Gdansk is based on several documents accepted by the Academy's Senate. The documents refer to the European aims of the institution's activities. All of them state as follows:

"In European culture, music is an area which unites, it is a common field. One of the properties of this art form – and at the same time of the profession of musician – is to transcend linguistic and ethnic barriers. In practical terms, Europe is already a common auditorium and it is transforming itself into an integrated educational network and a common labour market. The Academy sees in this fact primarily a challenge before which stand students, graduates and teachers."

2.

The Academy of Music in Gdansk has implemented the ECTS system both for external and internal purposes.

We offer our students the officially accepted Supplement to the Diploma.

In the next academic year, we shall divide our one-tier system into two cycles. We would like to stress that the crucial factor behind this decision was compatibility with universities of other kinds, both in Poland and in Europe. This was a hard decision for our institution, which had run a one-tier system from its foundation and which can easily prove the benefits of a one-tier course, too. On the other hand, we see the advantages of the two-cycle system for young people who intend to study in a more individual and creative way.

We prefer individual counselling as the best support for our outgoing Erasmus students. They have different hopes in every single case. The variety of Erasmus partner institutions (we had 34 partners in the last year) helps us to find the best solution for our candidates.

The incoming students easily find accommodation here. We have a student hostel on our campus and every year we book the rooms for foreign students according to their needs.

There is no language communication problem during individual lessons of instrument playing, singing or conducting. For theory purposes, we organise occasional courses in English, in accordance with the current needs of incoming students. We do not believe in the effectiveness of short Polish language courses; Polish is a difficult language and a short preparatory course is useless from the academic point of view.

We try to incorporate our incoming Erasmus students into the regular student life of our community. They are given student ID cards from our institution and they take part in university and inter-university events for Erasmus students.

The TS visits do not present us with any problem, except that of raising the number of participants..

3.

In our institution the issue of placements depends – first of all – on needs of the students of the Musical Education department.

They conduct lessons of music in general education schools of lower levels, primary or secondary, as their practice placements. This training is a regular part of our syllabus. Our students are welcomed to the schools as temporary teachers, because of their devotion and their knowledge of the new methods.

Many of these students are prepared to teach in English.

On the other hand, we have contacts with some foreign schools (either general education or music) ready to accept our students as temporary teachers of music, teaching in English.

Other opportunities for our students are placements for conductor assistants. The rules mentioned above will concern these students too: the full recognition of their placements abroad.

It is obvious and fully according with our policy and recognition schemes that we shall recognize the abroad student practical placement in the same way as the domestic placements. Even more, in our academy the student placement abroad will be treated as the bigger challenge for student than domestic one.

We see the new Erasmus placement policy as a good chance and the good recommendation in the student's further career.

All relevant data referring to the Erasmus placement will be listed in student Diploma Supplement, too.



## THE EUROPEAN AIMS OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC GDAŃSK

A document accepted at the session of the Senate of the Academy of Music in Gdańsk on 18 December 2006.

1. In the eighth year of our cooperation with the Erasmus European educational programme, the Senate of the Academy states that the European aims of the activity of the Academy of Music in Gdańsk, accepted by the Senate of the Academy on 19 June 1998 and supplemented by the Rector's College on 9 October 2000 and subsequently by the Senate on 7 October 2002, remain in force.

It befits us here to repeat the most important viewpoint.

The Academy of Music in Gdańsk is still directed by the principle that participation in the international exchange of knowledge and skills is a necessary condition for proper education in the field of music.

In European culture, music is a unifying field, a common field. The characteristic of this art form – and of the profession of musician – is the transcending of linguistic and ethnic barriers. In the practical dimension, Europe today constitutes in this measure a common auditorium and it is transforming itself into a unified network of education and becoming a unified labour market.

The Academy recognises in these facts a challenge, which must be faced by students, graduates and teachers.

2. The eight-year-long participation in the EU Erasmus programme has ensured new impulses and has opened new horizons for the young people studying in Gdańsk. Each student attaining very good grades was offered the opportunity to study for from three to ten months in a foreign partner institution. The list of these schools now contains twenty-five names. The possibilities offered by Erasmus are constantly broadening. Students now regard this as a natural part of the Academy's educational offer.

According to the latest available statistics (2004/2005), the Gdańsk Academy occupies eleventh place out of the 169 Polish institutions participating in the programme as concerns the number of students going abroad in relation to the general number of students.

The number of students arriving from other institutions in the best years constitutes only 40% of the number of students going abroad. This does not differ from the average proportions in Poland. In fact it is one of the indicators of the attractiveness of our Academy and is a point worth bearing in mind.

Greater momentum should soon be apparent in the number of teachers going abroad (the TS programme). The series of guest visits to partner institutions is an excellent preparation for registering for higher academic degrees, a new test of abilities and a stimulus for the teacher. Every year 3 to 5 teachers visit the Academy from partner institutions. The desirable situation is for this number to be matched by a similar number of journeys abroad.

The Academy has participated, and continues to do so, in special undertakings to broaden the scope of teaching. The Gdańsk Academy coordinated an intensive project (IP) devoted to the composition and performance of modern music; it is also participating in projects coordinated by partner institutions in Tallinn (improvisation in modern music) and Utrecht (learning to play the carillon).

The Academy has implemented the ECTS points, meaning that the credit for a subject attained by a student is recognised by all European institutions applying this system, which has radically increased the possibilities for students to participate in international educational exchanges.

The entirety of our actions in the Erasmus programme has been supported by EU funds to the sum of 151,000 EUR and also by annual sums from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

3. In the new phase of the Erasmus programme, foreseen for the years 2007/2013, the Academy regards as its most important task the implementation of the rules of the Bologna Conference, i.e. the division of the five-year integral studies into two cycles, the lower three-year cycle and the higher two-year cycle ending with the degree of Master. This is a significant and difficult novelty in the traditional system of musical education but it does open up before the students further possibilities of adding variety to their studies, broadening their horizons and individually constructing their careers.

Further aims include the development of various post-graduate studies, including doctoral studies, in accordance with the European project of Lifelong Learning Programme.

We maintain the opinion that the field of musical education, so strongly connected with tradition, is still based – for rational reasons – on the model of “the master and the pupil”. Improving musical education does not depend on undermining this model but on creating new possibilities within its scope.

4. The eight-year-long participation of the Academy in the Erasmus programme has greatly increased the international exchange of skills. It has become a visible component of the greatly broadened international activity of the Academy. Nevertheless, the aspirations of the Academy, as far as participation in international teaching, artistic and academic exchanges is concerned, are still far from being satisfied. This will require the Academy to undertake new activities and to expend even greater effort. The Academy regards the exploitation of European Union programmes as a significant help in this measure.

Gdańsk, 18 December 2006