

Erasmus Policy Statement 2014-2020

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Scuole Civiche di Milano (SCM) operates in the field of Higher Education: divided into four departments, it trains professionals in the entertainment and communication sectors (music, theatre, cinema and television, translation, interpreting and international relations) and promotes a policy of international relations aimed at developing openness and exchange between different cultures, in Europe and in the rest of the world; supports initiatives that promote the human, educational and professional growth of people. In this perspective, SCM has actively participated in the Erasmus program since 2003, organizing student, staff and teacher mobility. In 2016 he managed an International Credit Mobility with Azerbaijan; outside the Erasmus Programme, he managed several projects financed by Tempus, Leonardo, Grundtvig, Creative Europe.

SCM undertakes for future planning to continue operating in an international context with the aim of:

- strengthen cooperation with European Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) for international exchanges and projects;
- to increase the number of student and student mobility (for study and training) and for academic and administrative staff (for training and teaching) both incoming and outgoing;
- guarantee and improve the quality of its educational programs by renewing its educational offer to make it more competitive and innovative.

Modernization and internationalization expected from participation in the Erasmus Programme are mainly linked to the role that a training institution has in responding to the needs of its territory to educate and train citizens capable of managing the complexity of the world of work and modern society..

The departments involved in participating in Key Action 1 (KA1) - Learning mobility are: the Civic School of Music Claudio Abbado (Department of Music), the Civic School of Interpreters and Translators Altiero Spinelli (Department of Languages) - which includes the Higher School for Linguistic Mediators - and the Civic Paolo Grassi Theater School (Theater Department) - authorized to issue first (bachelor) and second (master) level qualifications.

International mobility plays an important role in SCM's growth and modernization strategy as it has a significant impact on the quality of education offered to our students:



the opportunity to acquire specific skills even in fields not available at our institution and growth in terms of autonomy and personal abilities.

Students who have had experience abroad also have more opportunities to access a national and international job market. Higher education has the role of fighting unemployment, contributing to economic growth, improving living conditions by creating better opportunities in one's own country as well as in Europe: in fact, the ability to network and to have international contacts leads students to a natural predisposition to mobility, but above all, a point on which we insist a lot, train them as European citizens.

Participation in an exchange program is also a stimulus to strengthen the knowledge and skills of our institution: teachers' mobility is held in high regard, as it is capable of establishing relationships suitable for building new partnerships and for giving life to new projects, as well as to the updating and innovation of teaching.

In order to support the efficiency of the internationalization action, each Department involved in the project has an International Mobility Office which, in agreement with the General Management, is able to respond properly to the needs of our beneficiaries by offering them the best opportunities in their specific field of study. The International Mobility Office has the main task of coordinating the organization of mobility in all its phases and signing new Inter-Institutional Agreements; its goal is to increase and promote mobility within its Department.

In the coming years, we are interested in increasing the number of incoming and outgoing mobility, with flows of around 50 beneficiaries per year.

The goal will be to maintain high standards of mobility for study and traineeships and continue to stimulate teachers to carry out mobility aimed at establishing new relationships with international partners by also organizing preparatory visits. Part of the project action, in this regard, will concern the growth of the Inter-Institutional Agreements especially with Universities of interest to the Theater Department and for interesting exchanges for students attending our newly recognized masters. In order to support the personal and professional development of students, for a successful entry into the job market, SCM aims to further support mobility for traineeships and to stimulate greater connections with the job market.

Our Institution constantly monitors the quality and quantity of Inter-Institutional Agreements in accordance with the quality and specificity represented by the three academic fields. Each Department defines the priority strategic areas, which are reflected in the institutional strategy of SCM: the Partners are selected on the basis of common cooperation interests and through the mutual analysis of the study plans, specifically seeking both the complementarity of the training objectives and the specificity of some study path that can enrich the academic curriculum of our students. The Erasmus Academic Coordinator and academic staff, depending on their subject area, guide the work of the International Mobility Office in establishing new agreements: to date 40 agreements have been signed with partners operating within European countries.

The goal of SCM in the coming years is to improve the attraction of international students and teachers with the consequent greater internationalization of our institution. The



number of foreign students is already high and there are already international networks and contacts that each department has established over the years. This pushes us to invest in structured communication actions (site, brochures, promotional videos in English), hospitality and mobility support.

Openness to the presence of international students positively affects the quality of the courses, contributes to increasing interest in Italian universities and in our country by becoming ambassadors of our culture, our artistic heritage and our economy. With this aim, SCM has joined the initiatives of the Municipality of Milan to facilitate the reception of foreign students in the city of Milan with the Study in Milan project in collaboration with YES Milano.

To further improve communication with our partners and the usability of our information, a website translation project has been launched which will involve the entire structure of the Civic Schools of Milan. In particular, the entire catalogue of courses in English has been included in the Erasmus section regarding incoming. All documents, administrative and useful information to organize a life in Milan are available in English.

The Erasmus mobility project enriches the attractiveness of our institution both towards new members and towards partners of international projects and companies. In the context of the next seven years, we intend to invest more in qualitative aspects: periodic project evaluations, improvements in the support of incoming and outgoing students, monitoring and expansion of partnerships for mobility, development of web applications and constant updating of the course catalogue, agreements that facilitate the living costs of our city.

The institutional impact will be measurable:

- in the results transferable to other projects;
- in the increase in activities dedicated both to the training of employees (administrative and teacher) and to students and young graduates through targeted training on the English language, since secretariats and administrative staff is frequently in contact with people from other countries (students, teachers, collaborators, guests).
- in the organization of masterclasses, seminars and meetings offered to students and graduates with international artists who can provide an opportunity to meet and get to know what is happening internationally both at the didactic and at the performative level.

As for the impact on the beneficiaries, the working group involved in the evaluation of the project will be composed of the Department Director, the Erasmus Academic Coordinator and the International Mobility Office. The indicators that will be evaluated are, as far as students are concerned, the change in terms of openness and collaboration, dialogue and listening skills and the ability to successfully complete the course of study. The effects/changes that we can register in students upon returning from mobility are certainly an improvement and growth of skills, knowledge and personal abilities: specifically, it increases linguistic competence, the awareness of being a European citizen,



autonomy in studies and in private life and an easier comparison between different cultures. Once back from mobility, the student is more aware of his/her skills and future possibilities. The network of contacts developed through this experience can help him/her find a job. Often, bachelor students who had an international experience prefer to continue at the level of the master's degree.

Our teachers, stimulated by a spirit of discovery and comparison, approach the mobility experience to understand how teaching in other universities works. They come back, full of suggestions for what concerns the functioning of the institutional structure and teaching, and they offer different perspectives. We collect their stories both during interviews and, for those who want to, through diaries and photos of their mobility. Even the incoming teachers bring updates and news for both our teachers and students, and the seminars they carry out are of the highest academic level.

Students coming back from mobility are welcomed at a local and regional level by companies that need their skills in their activities. At national and international level, some former Erasmus students have found work in multinational companies active in Italy. Through the contacts acquired during the mobility some of them work in European and non-European institutions.