

# **ANNEX 1**

## **ABSTRACT**

The Istituto Franci, Conservatory of Music of Siena, considers the education of young students to the musical profession as its core mission.

As per the international nature of the artistic profession, we believe in the necessity of connoting our strategic planning with an attentive look towards the international scene, the values of social inclusion, the green deal and European-wide partnerships.

We therefore eager to apply for the Erasmus Programme for multiple reasons, the most important being to enrich our territory, reinforce our international relations, strengthen the ability to disseminate within the musical sector and develop a socially sustainable environment capable of proposing and attaining environment-friendly best practices, also by means of the optimization of our digital systems.

# ANNEX 2

## EPS

The Istituto Franci of Siena is strongly convinced that lifelong learning is one of the fundamental tools necessary for the development of civil society, together with the awareness of the young of the importance of cooperation, respect and knowledge of diverse cultures. The “mission” of a Conservatory of Music today is to educate the young students by promoting their growth as citizens integrated in an international and intercultural society as well as shaping complete and capable professional musicians. In this regard the strategic planning of the Istituto Franci in the next few years is connoted by an attentive look upon the international scene and also to the values of social inclusion, green deal and cooperation with partners within the EU.

Strengthened by this awareness, the Istitute plans to explicitly include in its international mobility regulation – already present on the official website (<http://www.istitutofranci.com/images/DIDATTICA/EREASMUS/REGOLAMENTO%20erasmus-franci.pdf>) – the principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union regarding equity and non-discrimination, committing to fighting every kind of social marginalization.

From the viewpoint of broadening quality and improving the educational offer, a new first academic level course was activated in 2020 which could also encompass significant international perspectives.

The planning of educational and professionalizing activities is focused on inserting those of international teachers within the learning paths so as to broaden the range of possibilities for all students in multiple aspects. An additional qualifying characteristic, integrated within the international vision of the Istituto Franci, is having implemented learning paths aiming at issuing Joint Degrees together with the University of Nantong (China). This is a pilot project, the only one in Italy to be awarded with the signature and validation of the Chinese Minister for Culture, with the purpose of implementing the variety of international exchanges also in view of a gradual broadening of the educational offer and of the prospective employability. The linguistic quality of these paths is also guaranteed thanks to specific agreements stipulated with the University for Foreigners of Siena.

### Objectives:

- To provide enriching opportunities within the educational paths of the students by means of the implementation of culture-integration processes with diverse geographical areas.
- To provide to the European students all professional competences (teachers and administrative personnel) within the Istituto Franci; widen and consolidate the international relations also aiming at enriching the territory, strengthen the dissemination capacity in the musical sector and develop a socially sustainable environment, capable of proposing and implementing environmentally-friendly best practices.
- To implement the network of international exchanges and the circulation of musical events produced by the educational activity also by means of the synergy with local partners already active within the international cooperation.
- To ensure the visibility of the results of the educational projects, by disseminating them throughout the institutional website and the mainstream social networks

- To enhance and optimize the digitalization of the Institute in order to ameliorate educational quality also through the usage of e-learning platforms, in particular regarding blended mobilities
- To implement and develop the practice of traineeships so as to refine the learning of worthwhile professional practices valuable for the prospective near-future job-placement of the students.
- To invest resources in order to augment the number of available grants and/or supplement their economic value so as not to penalize economically disadvantaged students and those with disabilities.
- To implement the relationship with the University of Siena focusing on sharing and improving the services dedicated to international students, included hospitality.

In order to attain the above-mentioned objectives, the Conservatory of Siena envisages the following actions:

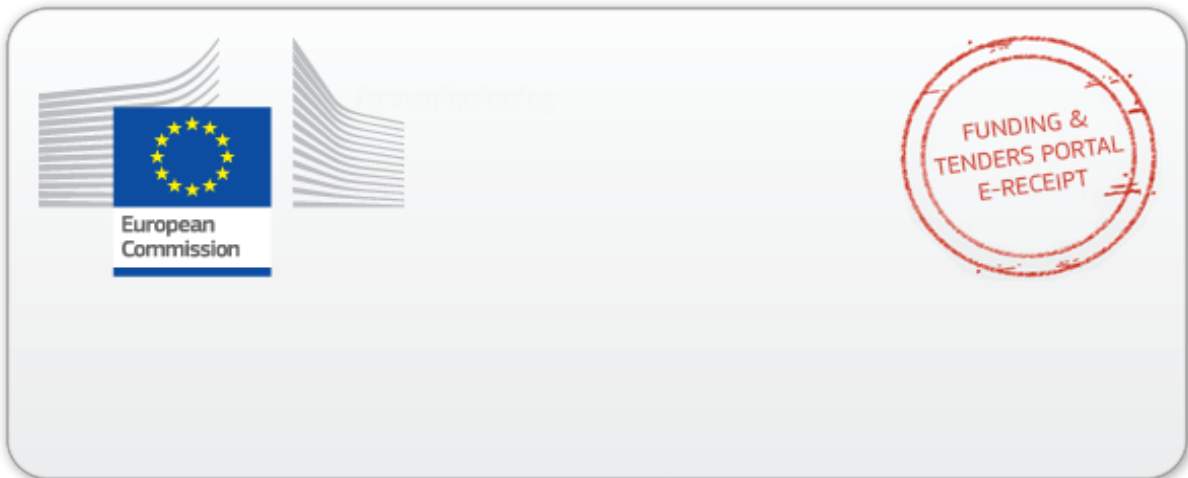
- To foster the mobility activity through the implementation of direct relationships between teachers and students, both of the first and second cycle of studies, by honing the integration of the study plans and the comparison with other European Countries. The Institute has also invested considerable sums in modernizing its digital systems in order to accelerate the exchange of opinions, video-conferences, online lessons and creating and delivering high-quality audio-video contents.
- To keep in consideration the widening of the assortment of European partnerships, always keeping in mind the necessity of maintaining a qualitative high standard of the educational offer. To this end the digitalization of the previous point sets the ambition of speeding up and optimizing the planning, managing and fruition of the curricula of the outgoing and incoming students as well as the communication with the partner Institutions, diminishing the usage of paper.
- To develop innovative blended-mobility paths and short-term mobilities to set side-by-side to the long-term traditional mobilities, as well as promoting intercultural activities, such as the virtual exchange project, aligned with what is stated by the Erasmus + Programme.
- To qualitatively preserve and improve the currently active relationships with extra-EU partners such as the University of Nantong –with whom a double degree agreement has been signed – and the Dartmouth College (U.S.). In fact, with the latter an orchestral production project had been inaugurated that involved both Erasmus+ international mobility students present at the moment at the Institute and American students that participated by integrating into the roles.
- To promote joint musical production research and educational projects also aiming to develop and innovate teaching systems.
- To improve the support towards acquiring outgoing linguistics competences, implementing the collaboration with the University for Foreigners of Siena, focusing on ensuring the necessary training and a satisfactory CEFR language level to all students before their departure.
- Since 2016, the Conservatory has been part of the “Polo Musicale Senese” (Musical Center of Siena), constituted by the musical field excellences of the city area. The international relevance of the Accademia Chigiana and the jazz specificity of the “Siena Jazz University” are relevant stimuluses for all conjoined artistic productions and professional-competence perfecting activities. The international prestige and the competence of the teachers of these Institutions has shaped a virtuous circuit enriching all the students of the Istituto Franci, mostly in those skills helpful in improving the future job-placement phase.
- Since 2015 the four Conservatories of Tuscany have founded a Regional Orchestra in order to plan and diffuse large-scale productions, optimize costs and provide high-level experiences that one single Institute may not be able to achieve.
- Since 2019 a network of all the Conservatories of Tuscany has also been established through the design of a Federation focused on the forthcoming objective of maintaining high-standard educational offers on an international basis, increasing the attractiveness of all the Institutions involved.
- The Istituto Franci is also a member of a working group focused on testing the Erasmus Dashboard Platform, therefore taking an active part in the Erasmus Without Paper project, with the objective of achieving the complete usage of paper-free procedures in managing the mobility activities. Moreover, the Institute plans to focus on all sorts of socialization for the incoming students in a perspective of

inclusion and communication aimed at sharing indispensable non-discrimination values, as well as musical knowledge dissemination techniques.

- The Istituto Franci of Siena has always paid considerate attention to international mobility and to all those related projects as of strategic importance for its own development and, as a consequence, for those students benefiting from it. In this regard, among the short-term objectives that the Institute has set is the monitoring of qualitative indicators of the mobility activity through the adoption of various statistical and computer-based tools capable not only of maintaining the current standards but also, and mainly, improving them. In this respect the historical collaboration with the University of Siena allows de facto a high-standard receptiveness, also keeping into consideration the scale of the Institute but of the city as well.

Therefore, in the next five years, the Institute intends to pursue the following actions:

- to improve and optimize the services regarding hospitality, guidance and tutoring currently active through an investment to be expected also in terms of hourly availability, both of teachers and administrative personnel, dedicated to the functioning of the international desk
- to carry on with the close collaboration with all departments and with the backing of the Erasmus Group (ESN – Siena), traditionally highly active in town and already acknowledged for its supporting activity, helpful to all outgoing students.
- to gradually adapt the management processes by improving the communication with the international users, a simpler and immediate usability and access to the information regarding the available educational offer and the modalities of usage and related services.
- to establish a closer collaboration with the Nucleo di Valutazione (Assessment Center) within the Institute with the aim of identifying critical elements regarding the educational and artistic results of the international experience and also feasible solutions.
- to establish the Erasmus Student Card in application of the Erasmus without Paper Project and of the digitalization of all the management procedures of the Erasmus+ Programme. The process of Federation among the Conservatories of Tuscany, already ongoing, also envisages the establishment of a Regional Register of Students in support of and aligned with what is required for the ESC.



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