

Erasmus Policy Statement 2021– 2027

The strategy of the Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice in reference to the Erasmus+ programme in 2021-2027 constitutes an integral element of the activities aimed at internationalising and modernising the university, carried out in line with the overall development strategy.

The activities planned in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme in 2021-2027 include higher education student and staff mobility under Key Action 1 (KA1) and cooperation between organisations and institutions under Key Action 2 (KA2): Partnerships for cooperation and the exchange of good practices, Partnerships for excellence: European Universities, Partnerships for Excellence: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, Partnerships for Innovation.

Key Action 1 (KA1)

The learning mobility of students and staff (KA1) will be implemented on the basis of our existing procedures and internal regulations, which ensure equal access to all potential participants, transparent rules of selection and granting the financial support, as well as systemic institutional support for people with potentially fewer opportunities to take part in the programme.

The activities carried out in the area of KA1 learning mobility will allow the Academy to effectively support its process of internationalisation and modernisation, especially with regard to teaching in a broad sense. The learning mobility will allow us to support our students in their individually-defined education paths and professional development, and also to support our academic and administrative staff in planning their academic (artistic) development and effectively extending their professional competences. These activities are also vitally important for building the intercultural experience and social competences of the Academy's students and staff and their awareness as members of the European community.

As a new element in the area of learning mobility, the Academy plans to commence works to ensure the use and promotion of digital tools for mobility management, and to explore the possibilities of wider use of blended mobility in the education process.

In line with the current developments in the European higher education, the Academy plans to work towards the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and degrees and towards the introduction of the European Student card, and will include its students, staff and alumni in the relevant promotional activities.

Key Action 2 (KA2)

Starting formal cooperation with organisations and institutions under the Erasmus+ programme (KA2) will usher in a new stage of the Academy's internationalisation and modernisation. Cooperation in the framework of Partnerships for cooperation and the exchange of good practices, Partnerships for excellence: European Universities, Partnerships for Excellence: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, Partnerships for Innovation will allow us to take further steps toward developing an international education offer.

The implementation of the activities planned under KA2 in 2021-2027 will be related directly to the initiatives that our Faculties undertake in the area of curriculum modification and research projects. The goal of our KA2 activities is to develop a long-term strategy of education in an international dimension, supporting all project partners and participants in implementing integrated solutions in the area of art education and practical application of innovative design methods for activities aimed at improving the quality of life and the condition of the natural environment.

Strategic objectives of the AFA in Katowice have been defined in 4 major areas of activity: education, research, institutional cooperation, and organisation and management. Each of these areas includes references to the plans of modernisation and internationalisation of the university as one of the chief priorities of its institutional development. The activities undertaken in the framework of ERASMUS+ KA1 and KA2 in 2021-2027 will directly support the implementation of the strategic objectives listed below:

1. In the area of education, with regard to the expansion of the education offer and continuous improvement of the quality of teaching:

- a) raise the attractiveness of the education offer (incl.: support students in individually designing their education paths and professional careers through providing opportunities to complete part of their studies and internships abroad, permanently involve foreign experts in the teaching process, create an inter-faculty international studio taught by foreign visiting professors)
- b) expand the scope of educational services in the area of life-long learning through offering additional forms of education: short courses, workshops, training sessions support the development of academic staff (incl. through offering opportunities to complete training courses, residencies and teaching experience abroad)
- c) develop inter-university cooperation to track graduates and operate exchange and scholarship programmes
- d) create curricula that meet the requirements of the labour market, including through continuous cooperation with external stakeholders
- e) organise conferences, symposia, art and design workshops, and international competitions for students of art universities (incl. Events organised jointly with foreign partners)
- e) continuously improve the education offer by means of ongoing evaluation and review of the curricula
- f) internationalise the education process: introduce additional study paths in English.

2. In the area of education, with regard to the strategy of development of the academy as an institution of culture and a leading opinion-making centre for art and design:

- a) increase the academy's opinion-making and expert presence at the regional, national and international level
- b) strengthen the academy's position through its cultural activities in the capacity of an important culture-forming centre of visual arts
- c) establish cooperation with cultural institutions and organise cultural and academic events of an international character
- d) animate the environment through cultural activities open to the local communities.

3. In the area of research (artistic activity) with regard to optimising relations with the environment:

- a) support the development of the faculty by providing wide access to research possibilities (incl. Offering opportunities to complete training courses and residencies abroad, to participate in joint projects with international partners)
- b) undertake academic and artistic cooperation with academic centres and cultural institutions abroad
- c) support projects which promote a multi-dimensional integration of the university with the industrial and business environment
- d) create open educational resources (digital archives).

4. In the area of cooperation, with regard to the activation of international cooperation:

- a) cooperate with academic centres and cultural institutions abroad to carry out joint research projects, art projects and educational programmes
- b) support long-term inter-institutional and interpersonal relations with partners abroad to facilitate the development of intercultural programmes
- c) consistently expand the scope and quality of international cooperation and operate a regular exchange of students and academic and administrative staff
- d) participate in international research projects and consortia
- e) promote the academy on an international level through organising international academic conferences, symposia, art and design workshops and international competitions for students of art universities.

5. In the area of organisation and management, with regard to the implementation of organisational improvements:

- a) replace and implement an electronic system of the study process management and integrate the system with the website (incl. the introduction of the European Student Card)
- b) issue publications to disseminate the results of research and present the effects of art and design activities, including publications regarding major international projects
- c) provide systemic support for the development of social, linguistic and intercultural competences of administrative and teaching staff
- d) enhance the positive image of the academy by producing promotional and informational materials for international students, and developing and implementing a programme of practical activities to support the integration of foreign students and teachers.

The activities planned in the framework ERASMUS+ in 2021-2027 will also be a continuation of the comprehensive programmes of modernisation of the AFA in Katowice realised in the form of projects funded from external sources, including:

- *“Development Programme for the Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice”* (2019-2022), with the goal to strengthen the potential of the AFA in Katowice through: the internationalisation of study programmes, implementation of restructuring activities, improving the competences of teachers and administrative staff, and improving the competences of students in order to meet the requirements of the economy, labour market and society. The project is co-funded by the European Union.
- *“AFA international”* (2019-2021), with the goal to increase the potential of the Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice with regard to the services for international students and staff. The project is carried out in the framework of the NAWA “Welcome to Poland” programme and co-funded by the European Union.