

European Policy Statement 2021-2027

Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music (JVLMA) is the only one university-type education establishment in Latvia providing higher musical education in performing arts, composition, musicology, music education and choreography, as well as carrying out research.

JVLMA offers internationally accredited study programmes on bachelor, master and doctoral level and professional qualifications. International policy of JVLMA aims to develop international cooperation and integration into the European and global academic community, to ensure high quality standards in higher education in music.

JVLMA is a member of AEC (Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen - European cultural and educational network with around 300 member institutions for professional music training in 57 countries). Majority of the international activities of JVLMA are realized in collaboration with partner HEIs within this organisation.

International strategy of JVLMA envisages further internationalisation and modernisation of the Academy in frames of participation in the Erasmus+ programme - student and teacher/staff mobility with programme countries and international credit mobility, partnerships of cooperation and exchange of good practices, development of joint study courses and modules on the basis of the new study programmes offered in English, introduction of “knowledge triangle” /education-research-business/ offering new study courses and modules on the realisation and production of projects in arts and music, project management and self-management, marketing and communication skills.

JVLMA is going to base its international strategy in the next programme period 2021-2027 on the vision contained in the EK initiative to build the European Education Area: To offer high-quality European dimension of teaching, at the same time strengthening national traditions of our music education which is an integral part of the European cultural heritage;

- To include in the education process knowledges, skills and approaches necessary for lifelong learning which is essential in the field of arts and music;
- To introduce digital technologies in the study process, developing innovative tuition methods, online learning, virtual and blended mobility and using best practices of the partner HEIs;

- To collaborate with the partners in AEC promoting automatic mutual recognition of diplomas, qualifications and learning periods abroad;
- To support the European Student Card Initiative and introduce three-step Erasmus Without Paper principles ensuring online administration of student mobility till 2023;
- To develop artistic research in frames of international collaboration resulting in the innovative and interdisciplinary curricula;
- To ensure possibility for all the students to master at least two foreign languages on the working level introducing innovative teaching methods;

To work out international marketing policy with the aim of attracting talented students from EU and other countries.

In the next period JVLMA will continue to participate in

Key Action 1 "Learning Mobility": The mobility of higher education students and staff, as well as in

Key Action 2 "Cooperation among organisations and institutions": Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

Accordingly mobility and cooperation will be cornerstones in the institutional policy of internationalisation being preconditions for achievement of all the objectives of JVLMA international strategy.

We shall promote student mobility for studies and traineeships, as well as staff mobility for teaching and training continuing collaboration with the partner HEIs in Europe and partner countries and establishing new contacts with strategic partners in the field of music providing more opportunities for the student traineeships.

In all mobility issues (information, selection, grant award) JVLMA will respect in full the principles of non-discrimination and transparency. Special attention and support will be provided for the individuals with special needs (health problems) and lower socio-economic background, students with family responsibilities, etc. – including additional financial support.

In the next period JVLMA will introduce a new concept – blended mobility (combination of short-term physical mobility with a virtual component) – ensuring flexibility and better access to the Erasmus+ programme, especially for the students with families and part-time jobs. The “Regulations about the studies abroad in frames of Erasmus and Nordplus programmes” will be supplemented with the concept of blended mobility which is applicable to any mobility including mobilities for studies and traineeships.

JVLMA guarantees full recognition of all credits gained during the learning/traineeship periods abroad in case of both standard and blended mobility.

Participation in the Erasmus+ programme is closely connected with the JVLMA study programme development as it is a guarantee of competitiveness of the HEI on the international education area.

In frames of **Key Action 2** JVLMA is planning to continue the Strategic Partnership Project as a member institution of the European Opera Academy - "European Opera Academy – Competence centre for shared education in opera training" (2018-2021), to collaborate in several other cooperation projects aimed at the development of joint digital study courses in music theory, to develop joint modules in early music in collaboration with partner institutions in frames of AEC, as well as coordinate Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation staff exchange project fostering creativity and entrepreneurship, sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market.

The new policy towards the development of transnational teaching activities will include development of joint courses, modules and curricula. It will ensure the improvement of the language and digital skills of the teaching staff and modernisation of the study programmes at JVLMA.

JVLMA has always recognised the importance of the results achieved by its teaching staff during individual mobilities or participating in cooperation projects and is permanently encouraging all the staff members, especially the younger generation, to use all the opportunities offered by Erasmus+ programme and make themselves at home in the European Education Area.

Participation in Erasmus+ learning mobility involves all academic process and leaves impact on the whole community of HEI including students, teachers and administrative staff. Clear definition of targets set for the learning mobility contributes to qualitative implementation of all the activities:

- Organisation of student/staff mobility within framework of revised, updated and digitally signed Inter-Institutional Agreements.
- Fair and transparent selection procedure.
- Revised and regularly updated course catalogue and study plans on the website with the general information about JVLMA and practical information for exchange students about the language of tuition, grading system, Riga and Latvia.
- Proper preparation of outgoing mobility participants – improvement of foreign language proficiency (OLS, language courses when necessary prior to mobility, encouragement to master second foreign language) and awareness of the host country and its culture,

support in finding accommodation, paid health insurance from the financing for the organisational support.

- Development of the new online documentation – Inter-Institutional Agreements and Online Learning Agreements for study and traineeship mobilities (2021), student nominations and confirmations (2022), Transcripts of records (2023). JVLMA will follow transparent and reliable procedure of managing mobility documentation accepted and approved by AEC in the Code of Good Practice.
- Mentoring and informative/practical support to incoming mobile students and staff, equal academic treatment and integration in the JVLMA community. Regularly updated “Survival kit for exchange students” on JVLMA website with all the essential information. International credit mobility - necessary assistance in visa procedure, health insurance for the incoming mobile students from the financing for the organisational support.
- Staff mobility as a part of the professional development policy at JVLMA and one of the most important criteria on the elections for the academic position and regular assessments. JVLMA is encouraging and prioritizing participation of the junior teaching staff, as well as supporting peer teaching. Good practices in partner HEIs used for the innovation of study programmes and institutional structure.

Increased involvement in the European cooperation projects – second most important element in the JVLMA internationalisation strategy: direct impact on the modernisation of study programmes, development of new study courses, sharing teaching experience on transnational level; administrative support provided for all cooperation projects. Sustainability and long term impact of the cooperation projects guaranteed by the permanent close collaboration of project partners with the other AEC institutions – project results will be available for use of all the member institutions of AEC contributing to the development of the European Music Education Area.