

ERASMUS POLICY STATEMENT

Codarts Rotterdam is a leading university of the arts, offering accredited degrees in music, dance and circus at BA and MA level, with a strong research agenda. Codarts teaches 1000 students, 50% of which are international from over 50 countries. Codarts is recognized and funded by the ministry of education and is active participant in the Erasmus+ program. This Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS) 2021-2027 outlines our international goals, instruments and impact in relation to Erasmus+ and is part of our adherence to the Erasmus Charter Higher Education (ECHE) and its underlying principles.

Our goals for a modern and international university

Codarts Rotterdam trains talented and driven dancers, musicians and circus performers to become dedicated and inspiring artists, leaders and facilitators, ready to spread their wings in a dynamic, international context. Our mission is founded on six concepts that together make up Codarts' vision:

Craftsmanship, Self-Management, Diversity, Inquisitiveness, Sustainability, Connectivity. Our university [strategy](#) 'Where talents become artists' outlines our commitment in realizing this mission.

As a leading university of the arts, our scope is both regional, national and global. The arts transcend boundaries between countries and cultures and, especially at Codarts, seeks transdisciplinary crossovers between disciplines. As such, international competences are a key aspect of our learning outcomes: we seek to offer our students a diverse and open learning environment, where students learn intercultural competences and develop their own artistic identity. Modernizing our curriculum is an ongoing process, where international developments play an important role. These international learning outcomes are achieved through our international classroom, through student and staff mobility and through our strategic partnerships within the European Education Area. Erasmus+ plays a vital role in all three aspects through key action 1 (both incoming and outgoing mobility of students and staff) and key action 2 (strategic partnerships).

On a regional level, Codarts seeks close cooperation with our Rotterdam partners (for example within the Rotterdam Arts and Sciences Lab) and contributes to the Rotterdam municipal agenda on education and culture. On a national level, Codarts is committed to the Ministry of Education's strategic agenda for higher education and research and works together with other universities of the arts in our sector agenda KUO Next. And on a global level, Codarts is an active partner in ELIA, AEC, EAIE and various strategic partnerships. Codarts works to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, the Bologna process and the various elements of the European higher education agenda. The principles outlined in the Erasmus Charter provide a clear framework for our activities and are implemented fully within our organization.

The Erasmus+ programme greatly contributes to our international classroom, to mobility of students and staff and to our strategic partnerships:

- Incoming students and staff enrich our international classroom in Rotterdam through their diverse background, talent and specific expertise. Codarts selects students for all study programmes on the basis of their artistic quality through auditions; this also applies to incoming Erasmus students. To maintain a balance between incoming and outgoing mobility, a limited number of places is available each year. Incoming staff mobility allows us to present our students with a broader array of guest lectures and expertise and gives our teachers the opportunity to learn from their international peers. All exchanges are within the framework of inter-institutional agreements to ensure full and automatic recognition of credits (ECTS), with special attention given to inclusion, reducing our environmental impact and promoting civic engagement. Codarts has, in the past, signed

over 100 Erasmus+ bilateral agreements with universities throughout Europe. For the 2021-2027 programme we will prioritise and renew agreements based on a qualitative review and will sign additional agreements based on individual mobility requests.

- Outgoing mobility of students contributes to our international learning outcomes. It gives our students access to a global supply of teachers and courses, thereby expanding the diversity and quality of our curriculum. It also allows our students to improve their intercultural skills, language skills and civic engagement. Codarts actively promotes exchanges abroad and will ensure credits obtained abroad are recognised within our study programme. We will follow and join the developments in virtual mobility which now have become even more important due to the Corona crisis. Even though face to face contact will always remain important in art education and also in the future an important reason to focus (as much as possible) on physical mobility.
- Outgoing staff mobility is a central part of our teacher and staff professionalisation strategy. Next year we will incorporate the evaluation of outgoing staff mobility in our regular HRM-cycle. Outgoing staff mobility also contributes to our professional network abroad and as such provides a basis for future partnerships. A great example is our cooperation with Trinity Laban, whose *Colab* project was the inspiration for our experimental *Incubator* project. Incubator is a special event that takes place every year during the second semester. It enables students to focus their attention on their artistic relationships with dancers, musicians, circus artists and educators from other disciplines. The projects they create, rehearse, devise and develop are all site-specific, community based and artistically experimental.
- We will actively promote Erasmus+ exchanges for teachers and staff and aim to facilitate this additionally through our professionalisation budget.
- The Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships have proven to be a valuable instrument to enrich our education and research, our international network and our university profile. Codarts has participated in several successful strategic partnership proposals and will continue to invest in new proposals, always judging opportunities on their merits. We will focus on topics that are important to our strategic plan, such as health and transdisciplinary education/research. We seek partnerships with universities of similar quality and complementary profiles, based on mutual reciprocity. An example has been the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Grant which RASL received in 2019 through the Erasmus University to expand the possibilities for transdisciplinary cooperation with international partners in the field of education and research. Partners involved are TU Dublin, Roskilde University, Moholy Nagy Budapest and HKU Zurich. Another example is the so called DoPoDo (Dance On, Pass On, Dream On) project in which Codarts (as the only University of the Arts) participated from 2016-2019 together with cultural partners from 7 other countries. DoPoDo was initiated by Diehl & Ritter (Berlin) and funded within the Creative Europe Framework. The project received a very good evaluation in which especially the intercultural context, the involvement of students, the attention given to health related issues and different communities in dance, as well as the quality of the academic research were emphasised. One of the Codarts DoPoDo activities was the development of an online annotation tool together with Hochschule Mainz/Motionbank. With even more partners (eleven) from different European countries we recently applied for a follow up of this successful cooperation. Although the first DoPoDo project did not have a link with the Erasmus+ programme this could be the case in the new edition.

Being a relatively small university mandates a strong focus. Our limited resources will be used to ensure the success, impact and visibility of student/staff mobility and of our strategic partnerships.

Codarts has fully committed to the Erasmus Charter Principles and has transparent procedures in place to ensure these principles are followed by all parties involved. Our experience in the previous Erasmus+ programme shows adequate management of the programme, with positive evaluations in all years. Our international office is in charge of programme management and will liaise with the various heads of studies, as well as our student administration, communication department and exam committee. The Erasmus+ programme management will be part of the overall Codarts PDCA-cycle for quality assurance. This consists of the Institute Plan, the annual framework letter on Finances & Quality Assurance, the activity summaries per study programme/department and, twice a year, a so-called traffic-lights report. These are discussed in consultations with the Executive Board to monitor progress and for managerial adjustments by the Board if necessary (and eventually result in the annual report). The activity summaries are drawn up in such a way that they assess whether goals are being achieved and, where applicable, contain concrete target figures.

Being a relatively small university allows for a personal and more individual approach, where transparent procedures are combined with accessible personal advice. We believe that this approach benefits the quality of programme management and will improve equitable access for all. Student and staff mobility must have concrete results that will be officially recognized. The heads of study will play an important role in determining the added value of an exchange (such as access to specific courses or teachers, intercultural skills, language skills, connecting with the labor market or building up network); all student exchanges will have a learning agreement and all teacher/staff exchanges will have a mobility agreement. For Strategic partnership proposals, Codarts will appoint a senior project leader from one of the departments, who will manage the process and will be responsible for its long-term impact, internal/external communication and evaluation.

There are many examples of the impact of Erasmus+ on our university. One example is the large number of dance students who find employment at the dance company where they do an Erasmus+ internship exchange (roughly 30%). Examples are employments at Skanes Tanztheater and Norrdans (Sweden), at Tanz Mainz and Dresden Frankfurt (Germany) and the company of Isabelle Beernaert (Belgium). The before mentioned Incubator project is also a good example of the impact of Erasmus+ within Codarts as well as the songwriters camp as a result of the exchange of our Pop Music department with 02 Academy Leeds. Other examples are more intangible, Erasmus+ contributes to students building their own network and peer community, leads to lasting exchanges of best practices between institutions and the sharing and transfer of knowledge. Examples from the last few years are for instance the exchange with the dance in education department of Oulo (Finland) on blended learning, the sharing of educational practices within (music) academies and knowledge on the health and well being of musicians/artists (Norway and UK) and the share and transfer of knowledge with the Skopje Dance Academy Macedonia and the Zürcher Hochschule der Kunste in Switzerland.

In our participation in Erasmus+ we aim for quality over quantity and will not set overall targets for exchanges or partnerships in 2021-2027. Yearly targets are difficult when dealing with small numbers, also because the actual exchanges rely on students being accepted for their exchange by the host institutes. Based on previous years, we expect around 30-50 exchanges (students and staff) and one strategic partnership proposal per year. We plan to evaluate the experiences of incoming as well as outgoing exchange students regularly and aim in evaluation and participant feedback for above-average results. The 100% recognition of ECTS obtained will stay standard in the future. Exchanges will be evaluated additionally on their perspectives for future cooperation and impact on our study programmes.

The renewal of our university strategic plan in 2022 might lead to an update of this EPS if necessary. Additionally, we plan a mid-term review of our Erasmus+ programme management in 2024.