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In a fast-growing world, Europe has to deal with emerging economies: highly qualified, knowledge based workers are needed to keep up with such a global competition.

This situation applies also to Performing Arts Education: wherever competition comes from, Higher Education Institutions cannot operate in their own, but have to constantly be open to modernisation and internationalization. Participating in the Programme strongly leads our Institution in this direction. Our Partners are highly qualified Institutions, that we approach for their commitment to the best level of tuition and artistic opportunities. In choosing them we do our best to have all regions of Europe represented, so that our students and staff can be at their ease in picking where to deepen and share their knowledge.

Outgoing student mobility is one of our first concerns: our students can live a significantly lasting experience studying at a qualified Academy, experiencing new ways of life, different cultures, different language. In a word, walking in the path of becoming a european citizen. The same concern we have in receiveing guest students, who also bring their culture with them.

The possibility to live a Work Placement experience is more and more a pressing request from the students, in order to give them the professional training that indispensable to be introduced in the work activity. Exchange teaching has proved enormously fruitful: gives our talented teachers the possibility to spread their knowledge in a wider audience, often leading to foreign students wishing to complete their studies at our Institution; allows our institution to benefit from external cultural and artistic contribution. All of this brings new nourishment to our area. Also non teaching staff benefits from experiences abroad, in the way of modernisation process.

Our Institution is placed in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. This is actually what most influences the orientation of our foreign policy: for centuries, from our island people have looked to the North for connections with western culture, in which we are deeply rooted, and also to the South, for openings to non-european mediterranean countries. This is happening still nowadays and, although modernity tends to minimize phisical distance, Sardinia has anyway preserved many culture-, language- and nature peculiarities. Insularity has been traditionally considered as a downside to be dealt with; now it has become an opportunity to characterize our land and to attract people, both from the North and the South, willing to discover an authentic and (still) well preserved culture.

*Cagliari, April 2014*