



Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education project
Enhancing the digital competencies and entrepreneurship skills of academic musicians in Serbia for culturally more engaged society – DEMUSIS

STATEMENT FROM “THE MUSIC/IAN IS PRESENT” PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE VISIBILITY AND ENGAGEMENT OF ACADEMIC MUSICIANS IN SOCIETY

Context:

Enhancing the digital competencies and entrepreneurship skills of academic musicians in Serbia for culturally more engaged society – DEMUSIS is a Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE) project funded by Erasmus+ programme and coordinated by the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. It is a joint project (2019-2023) focused on curriculum development activities aiming at enhancing the digital competencies and entrepreneurship skills of academic musicians in Serbia for culturally more engaged society.

DEMUSIS

Main outcomes:

- ✓ The Faculty of Music of the University of Arts in Belgrade became the only higher education institution in country and region reviewed positively by MusiQuE – EU independent external evaluation body for music higher education quality enhancement;
- ✓ 10 new courses developed introduced at BA level and 2 new master programs implemented;
- ✓ 1 new digital laboratory and 2 updated with 3 distance learning platform installed;
- ✓ 13 lifelong learning courses accredited;
- ✓ 9 student projects relevant for marginalized groups and more rightful civil society publicly performed in May 2021;
- ✓ Over 1300 students and 150 teachers actively annually participating in project activities.

Aims of the Statement and the Public debate

- Increase awareness and understanding of music and its role and benefits in society, academy, public sphere, in national and international contexts;
- Support diversity in musicianship and musical knowledge in society, including freedom of musical expression, freedom of movement, performance opportunities, and musical training;
- Contribute to opening new career prospects for musicians and making changes regarding employability;
- Foster communication and collaboration between academia and civil sector, and encourage dialogue in society and culture, relying on music as a communication tool;
- Advocate on behalf of musicians;
- Enhance the participation of musicians in national and international public policy debates and actions that advocate and advance social inclusion, community development, environmental and cultural sustainability.
- Promote recognition of these activities as integral and valuable components of academic and professional work in music and arts.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND CLAIMS FOR ACTION:

- **To state authorities and institutions:**
 - Recognize academic musicians as active agents in the society;
 - Actively support sustainability and diversity of their careers in all their modalities.

- **To Higher Music Education Institutions:**
 - Be more proactive and agile in responding and adapting to changes in society;
 - Support professional development of academic musicians by including relevant topics in curricula, incorporating current digital and entrepreneurial skills in study programs and everyday functioning of the institutions;
 - Encourage students to explore new career possibilities;
 - Strengthen music education in its lessons in citizenship and cultural participation and thereby contribute to bridging the gap between academia and society;
 - Foster and support students in exploring the ways to actively participate in dialogue with the society, and become engaged social advocates.

- **To professional stakeholders and members of the business sector:**
 - Open yourselves to the possibility of engaging and employing academic musicians. Soft skills gained through music training (communication, organization, improvisation, flexibility, persistence, creative thinking) are easily transferable to any field;
 - Artistic and creative way of thinking can be an asset to every team and professional endeavor.

- **To academic musicians:**
 - (Big) Financial investments are not prerequisites for making a change and contributing to establishing a dialogue in society;
 - Think out of the box;
 - Feel free and inspire your institutions for a change;
 - Changes are possible even by small interventions. Potentials for your activism in society are far greater than you think;
 - Dare yourselves to approach the role of an academic musician out of the usual framework without prejudices.

- **To the society:**
 - Be open to the possibilities music and musicians can offer;
 - Recognize musicians as active agents in a society, able to give voice to anybody.
 - Musicians have many ideas how to make this world a better place – hear them out!