

6 March 2013

Invitation to express interest for participation in the project within the framework of the Call for Proposals of the TEMPUS IV Programme

Referring to the Call for Proposals (EACEA/35/12) within the framework of TEMPUS IV Programme "Reform of higher education through international university cooperation" published by the European Commission¹, the Art Academy of Latvia as the expected applicant institution hereby invites you to express interest to participate as one of the Partners/Co-beneficiaries in the project "BENCHMARKING CLUB OF ARTS ACADEMIES" (BCAA).

ENVISAGED PROJECT "BENCHMARKING CLUB OF ARTS ACADEMIES" OUTLINE	
MAJOR ACTIVITIES:	1) Undertaking a collaborative benchmarking of institutions involved in the project; 2) Development of an on-line tool "Strategic Arts Alumni Monitor".
PROGRAMME THEME:	Governance Reform.
ELIGIBLE PARTNERHIP:	Joint National Project involving 3 EU member states, represented by one arts higher education institution (HEI) in each, and 1 non-EU country represented by three arts HEIs.
PROJECT DURATION:	24 or 36 months
GRANT AMOUNT:	EUR 500.000 to EUR 1.500.000
EU CONTRIBUTION:	90% of the total eligible costs

The establishment of a benchmarking network for arts HEIs and integrating benchmarking into strategic planning, conducting benchmarking exercises as a regular practice and introducing new topics for benchmarking would enable HEIs to strive for excellence, on-going organisational development, performance measurement and to sustain a competitive edge. Moreover, given the importance of tracing the professional careers of arts alumni, it would be valuable to develop a tool enabling HEIs to monitor the development paths of their alumni and provide valuable feedback to the HEIs, policy makers, potential students and other stakeholders.

In 2012 the Art Academy of Latvia introduced the strategic planning approach that provided strong incentives for the Academy to proceed with the identified development projects aimed at driving change and sustaining the decisive role of arts education in national economies both within the EU and elsewhere. The envisaged project under Tempus IV programme would supplement the efforts and achievements of the Academy to date and provide a unique opportunity for the participating HEIs to share their experiences, learnings and best practices through collaboration.

The partners who have agreed to participate in the project:

- THE ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, WARSAW (Poland)
- ILYA REPIN ST. PETERSBURG STATE ACADEMIC INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS, SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE (Russia)
- V.I. SURIKOV MOSCOW STATE ACADEMIC ART INSTITUTE (Russia)
- NOVOSIBIRSK STATE ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTURE & ART (Russia)

Given the fact that applications are due to be submitted by **26 March 2013**, you are hereby kindly invited to review the project outline enclosed and advise the Art Academy of Latvia as to the willingness of your institution to serve as a Partner/Co-beneficiary in the project.

Enclosed: Proposed project "Benchmarking Club of Arts Academies" (BCAA) outline on 1 page.

Sincerely Yours

Prof. Aleksejs Naumovs
Rector
Art Academy of Latvia

¹ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/funding/2012/call_eacea_35_2012_en.php