



ARTS and HUMANITIES

Bologna Thematic Network ‘Innovation in Higher Arts Education in Europe’ (arts and music education)– until October 2004 Inter-ARTES thematic network – from October 2004

Arts and science are both about perceiving the world and trying to understand it. Both include thought, intuition, imagination and research but find separate ways to translate, to visualise, to transform and to provide new meaning. There are many practical ways in which arts and humanities meet in higher education, in research, on the street, on the labour market and in society in general.

1. Artists, art schools and universities are increasingly engaged in finding ways to generate new knowledge in and through the arts. Research is, or will be part of the curriculum, particularly at Masters’ level. For many art schools and universities (practice-based) PhD’s pose new challenges.
2. The arts and higher arts education develop definite links with society: in urban regeneration, in working on social inclusion, in prisons, with children, in areas where there is war and conflict. Artists and social scientists, and others often collaborate in community projects. Such connections should be further explored.
3. The history of arts and science and technology is strongly interconnected, often also linguistically. It would be interesting to see how this has developed in different European countries and what the future perspectives are.
4. Education in visual and performing arts forms an integral part of the national higher education systems. In addition, higher arts education is more and more taught as part of general universities or ‘Hochschulen’. It is subject to the same transformation such as the two-cycle system, internal and external quality assessment, the shift towards student’s centred learning, competency or learning outcomes based learning and teaching. Dance, Theatre and Fine Art education (now in the inter-ARTES thematic network) and professional music training (now assembled in the POLIFONIA thematic network) have already defined competencies for their disciplines in a European setting and this will be continued and extended. A huge area for collaboration and research exists.
5. The employability of arts graduates is of serious concern for all higher arts education institutes in Europe. Many arts graduates face difficulties pursuing a career in the arts in the stricter sense. Arts graduates and social scientists may experience similar labour market problems. Also, artists and sociologists, historians, and other scientists increasingly use the same, creative, technical and scientific tools such as new media, social and behavioural models, and multi-disciplinary skills in their work.

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