



**A globally connected  
European network of higher  
arts education**







# ELIA IN A NUTSHELL

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Born in 1990, ELIA is a globally connected European network that provides a dynamic platform for professional exchange and development in higher arts education. With over 250 members in 47 countries, it represents some 300,000 students in all art disciplines.

Its cross-disciplinary quality makes ELIA unique as a network. ELIA advocates for higher arts education by empowering and creating new opportunities for its members and facilitating the exchange of good practices. ELIA collaborates with international and national networks in the fields of education, arts, and culture.

ELIA members are higher arts education institutions from all artistic disciplines. ELIA's offer is inclusive and diverse – it serves the needs of arts schools throughout all levels, from academic staff and international officers, to students and upper management.

## Objectives

The principal mission of ELIA is to represent higher arts education, to be an influential voice, and to advocate the interests of its members. In emphasising the value of arts education, ELIA is dedicated to enhancing the conditions in which higher arts education can flourish, nationally and internationally. Our world today is dominated by financial uncertainty, global ecological challenges, and rapidly shifting political landscapes. ELIA's mission is thus vital, urgent, and relevant.

ELIA's main objectives are:

- to **strengthen** the position of higher arts education
- to **support** the free development of education in the arts
- to **promote** the arts as a central contributor to social and economic development
- to **encourage** cultural diversity and foster communication between cultures

# STRATEGIC FOCUS 2016 ——— 2020



ELIA's Strategic Focus 2016 – 2020 is based on four pillars, which were approved by the General Assembly in November 2016.

It aims to promote, enable, and facilitate:

- knowledge exchange and academic discourse
- networking, collaboration, and interaction
- advocacy and representation
- academic leadership and professionalism

ELIA's Strategic Focus covers five key topics:

- sustainable careers and entrepreneurship
- inclusion, participation, and social engagement
- research and practice
- pedagogy – curriculum development, learning, and teaching
- arts education in schools and adult learning contexts

Additional important topics include:

- interdisciplinarity and collaboration
- new technologies
- environment and sustainability
- ranking and league tables

# FOUR

## GUIDING PILLARS



### **Knowledge exchange and academic discourse**

ELIA aim to stimulate reflection and critical thinking. All its activities and services designed to serve members by offering them a virtual and physical platform for sharing expertise and knowledge. ELIA cares about innovation in the field and moving the discussion forward regarding topics relevant to higher arts education institutions.

### **Networking, collaboration, and interaction**

Many ELIA members find access to a well-established network of peers one of the most valuable benefits. Opportunities to network, to identify partners for cooperation, and to share experiences are an essential part of being an ELIA member. Through conferences and smaller gatherings, as well as participation in ELIA's governing bodies and working groups, ELIA encourages partnerships, creative thinking, and knowledge exchange in a unique international and multidisciplinary context.





## Advocacy and representation

ELIA represents and advances the interests of the higher arts education sector at European and international levels as an active player within the advocacy community (i.e., policymakers, other networks, and stakeholder organisations). The breadth and geographical coverage of its membership give ELIA the agency to act for higher arts education as a dynamic and reliable partner advocating for education and the arts, and for embedding culture in all areas of society.

ELIA also serves as intermediary for its members in a Europe-wide (and global) exchange of information and advocacy in the field of higher arts education, the world of professional practice, and policy stakeholders. This especially entails empowering members through intelligence (knowledge transfer), active networking, and peer support.

## Academic leadership and professionalism

Through ELIA's activities, academics and leaders of institutions obtain easy access to the most recent developments in the field and can engage with colleagues in peer-to-peer learning. Lifelong learning and professionalism are permanently on our agenda.



## What members say about ELIA

*“Single biggest reason for being a member: Opening up our opportunities for international collaboration and partnership. We work with many European arts institutions, and ELIA has been a wonderful platform for renewing these relationships.”*

**David Bogen,**  
*Maryland Institute of the Arts*

*“Making connections — being interconnected allows us to accept no boundaries in art, to explore new creative possibilities, foster critical and creative thinking and discover new audiences.”*

**Zoran Eric,**  
*University of Arts Belgrade*

*“It is crucial for ÉESI to share its view with its peers, be aware of their latest projects and follow the trends in the field of European higher education in art”*

**Charlotte Martin,**  
*ÉESI*



# GET INVOLVED

There are several ways to make the most of your ELIA membership.

## Attend ELIA Events:

- Respond to calls for presentations and papers
- Show your most recent research and/or new approaches to teaching
- Share your ideas and challenges with your peers

## Join working groups and platforms to advance the academic discourse on the following topics:

- Artistic Research
- Arts Education
- Evaluation Models for Higher Arts Education
- Sustainable Careers in the Arts
- PIE – Platform for Internationalisation ELIA



## Join the ELIA Representative Board:

- Represent your institution in an ELIA governing body
- Share updates on the state of arts education in your region and discipline
- Join peers in thinking about
- ELIA's future strategy
- Be an ELIA ambassador
- Participate in a real, lifelong learning experience
- Contribute to the content development of ELIA initiatives
- Think along with the ELIA team about new services and activities

## Host an ELIA Conference:

- Showcase your institution by welcoming leaders and academics from all over the world
- Be the host of a state-of-the-art event
- Contribute to innovative academic discourse
- Foster cultural exchange by introducing the delegates to your city and region

# BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The four pillars inform all ELIA' activities.  
Our aims are primarily realised through:

- **Events:** regular large conferences, small-size regional gatherings, professional development seminars and virtual meetings
- **Projects:** thematic initiatives, developing innovative practices in higher arts education, always involving ELIA members
- **Services:** advocacy, matchmaking for international projects, showcasing institutions, promotion and endorsement of members' events
- **Dissemination:** publications, conference proceedings, a platform for regular updates on funding opportunities and job adverts

## What members say about ELIA

*“As an educational institution, we are not on an island. Being part of a network of similar organisations is important for knowledge development, sharing experiences and setting up collaboration within and outside the structure of ELIA.”*

*Jan Cools, LUCA School of Arts*



## More about ELIA events

*Networking, knowledge exchange, academic discourse, and peer-to-peer learning are at the core of all our events.*

ELIA events are state-of-the-art meeting places where the sharing of knowledge and innovative research on teaching and learning go hand-in-hand with building relationships with fellow academics and leaders. ELIA organises three recurring events, hosted by member institutions in different locations in Europe and beyond.

- the **ELIA Biennial Conference** is the largest and most dynamic ELIA event, with an audience of approximately 500 professionals enjoying a rich, thematic programme of keynote speeches and academic contributions;
- the **ELIA Leadership Symposium** is a more intimate event dedicated to the leaders of higher arts education institutions across the globe, who come together to recharge their batteries and learn from their peers;
- the **ELIA Academy** is dedicated to the exploration of emerging teaching and learning practices in the arts, and is a unique, lifelong learning experience for academic and research staff.

*“It’s about lifelong learning. If you are a rector of an art university, there are not many courses you can attend, but the ELIA Leadership Symposium is definitely something that brings you forward”.*

**Andrea Braidt,**  
*Vice-Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna*



ELIA events are the place to meet new and old colleagues, discuss topics relevant to higher arts education outlined in the Strategic Focus, get inspired by keynote speakers, discover the newest research results, and find new partners and collaborators.

To get closer to its members, all ELIA's events are nomadic, allowing the delegates to learn about the local culture and to get to know the arts education institutions of the region, leaving room for collaborations to develop.

In order to address the needs of its members on specific topics or in specific geographical regions, ELIA organises **Thematic and Regional Seminars**.

Do you have an idea for an upcoming event and would like support in content development, dissemination, or logistics? ELIA members are welcome to request ELIA's endorsement and support in various ways for their international events.

*"It is hard to believe how much networking we were able to do in such a short time!"*

*"The ELIA Academy confirmed that learning processes should be based on innovative thinking, flexibility, hybridity, diversity. I have gained new competencies, and I got useful contacts for academic co-operation."*

*"The interactive sessions were excellent; I liked that these sessions often brought the participants in direct contact. Right from the beginning, it was very easy to make connections!"*

**Feedback from ELIA event evaluations**



## More about projects

ELIA projects are aligned with current developments in higher arts education and attuned to the needs of its members. The topics are chosen based on the key topics in ELIA's Strategic Focus.

## Examples of current and past projects are:

- *Advancing Supervision for Artistic Research*: started in October 2018, the project includes numerous events on the topic of doctoral supervision and is a collaborative initiative of nine ELIA members (Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership).
- *NXT Project – Making a Living from the Arts*: focused on the career development of emerging artists and graduates, in particular. The project ended in May 2018; results are published on [www.nxt-creatives.eu](http://www.nxt-creatives.eu)

## More about advocacy, services, and dissemination

ELIA represents and advances the interests of its members at the European and international level as a proactive part of the advocacy community. ELIA responds to the needs of individual members or a specific country with a statement of solidarity to reinforce the importance of higher arts education.

ELIA acts as a broker of information, providing the most relevant news on funding opportunities, advocacy, and developments in the sector. A strong presence online through the website, newsletter, and social media ensures that information from members and partners gets to the far reaches of the network.

The ELIA team advises and assists members in finding partners or experts for specific initiatives and acts as a matchmaker for peer learning across the network.

The ELIA Online Library is accessible to ELIA members and contains valuable content developed by the working groups during ELIA events and projects.

Check out that latest ELIA publications! *Career in the arts: Visions for the future* and *The 'Florence Principles' On the Doctorate of the Arts*.

# JOIN THE ELIA

## NETWORK

Get on board and join a globally connected European network that is dedicated to strengthen, support, and promote higher arts education!

ELIA is a membership organisation governed by the elected President, the Executive Group, and the Representative Board. The General Assembly is a democratic forum where members can exercise their voting rights and elect a new President and Representative Board. The Executive Director leads the ELIA office team, which provides services to members.

ELIA offers three categories of membership priced on the basis of the number of students enrolled at the institution.

**Full members** are European institutions of higher arts education which provide advanced, degree, or degree equivalent diplomas recognised at the highest professional level.

**Non-European** members are institutions outside of Europe that otherwise fulfil the criteria of ordinary full membership. Non-European members have all rights equal to full members, except the right to vote at the General Assembly.

**Associate membership** is open to institutions which do not fulfil the requirements for a full membership and to natural as well as legal persons.

## How to become a member?

Fill in the Membership Application form on the ELIA website

[www.elia-artschools.org/members/join-us](http://www.elia-artschools.org/members/join-us)

## Want to know more about ELIA?

Call, email, or visit us!

We would be happy to help you further.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Visit and mail us:

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Visit our website and sign up for  
our newsletter to receive the latest news!

[www.elia-artschools.org](http://www.elia-artschools.org)



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## The ELIA team is here to help you

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