

СЕКЦІЯ:
ФІЛОСОФСЬКІ, ПРАВОВІ, ПСИХОЛОГІЧНІ, ГУМАНІТАРНІ ТА УПРАВЛІНСЬКІ
АСПЕКТИ РОЗВИТКУ КУЛЬТУРИ

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**INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OF KHARKIV STATE ACADEMY OF CULTURE:
PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE OF INSTITUTES OF THE ARTS (ELIA)**

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**МІЖНАРОДНА СПІВПРАЦЯ ХАРКІВСЬКОЇ ДЕРЖАВНОЇ АКАДЕМІЇ КУЛЬТУРИ:
УЧАСТЬ У РОБОТІ ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОЇ ЛІГИ ІНСТИТУТІВ МИСТЕЦТВ (ELIA)**

Internationalization of higher education is currently regarded as one of the most significant directions in educational activity. The strategic and operational objectives, as defined by the Strategy for Development of Higher Education in Ukraine for 2022-2032 (approved by Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 286-r dated February 23, 2022), envisage: reforming and modernizing the system of higher education; promoting convergence in the field of higher education within the framework of the Bologna Process; improving the quality and enhancing the importance of higher education; deepening cooperation between higher education institutions; expanding the capabilities of higher education institutions; and intensification of the mobility for students, research, academic, and teaching staff.

The issue of internationalization is defined as Strategic Goal 4. Among its operational objectives are the implementation of best foreign educational practices in Ukraine, preparing graduates of higher education institutions to thrive in a multicultural environment, increasing the number of international educational and scientific cooperation projects, and integrating research and academic staff into the global scientific community. Accordingly, the expected results specifically include ensuring the openness of Ukraine's higher education system and implementation of the best global practices, as well as enabling Ukrainian scientists to conduct research of the highest scientific quality in collaboration with foreign colleagues.

Therefore, the Strategy directs higher education institutions towards deepening and expanding international cooperation. Within this context, the participation of Ukrainian higher education institutions (HEIs) in the activities of international educational organizations, consortia, and platforms becomes highly relevant.

For institutions of higher art education, such as Kharkiv State Academy of Culture, one of the most promising avenues for collaboration is with the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA). ELIA is a leading global network that brings together higher education institutions and organizations in the arts and culture sector. It acts as a European representative, advocating for the development of arts education, research, and innovations both within Europe and beyond. ELIA positions itself as an active community whose mission is to shape the future of the arts through education, advocacy, and international collaboration.

ELIA, as a structure, emerged amid significant European transformations at the end of the XX century, a period marked by the active development of the European Union, growth in international cooperation, and the recognition of Europe's cultural unification.

At the initiative of the rectors of leading arts academies, the European League of Institutes of the Arts was established at a conference in Amsterdam in 1990. Its overarching goal was defined as the joint lobbying for the interests of arts education with European institutions such as the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Higher arts education institutions gained an opportunity to create a shared platform for discussing curricula and teaching methods for creative youth, as well as addressing challenges and sharing knowledge and achievements by supporting the international exchange of students, teachers, and researchers. ELIA defines its mission as enhancing the quality and status of arts education, thereby ensuring its viability and confident development in the future.

The demand for international relations in arts education has always been exceptionally high, and the initially small association gradually expanded, first through European institutions, to which, later, establishments from other world regions joined. Currently, ELIA unites over 300 members from more than 50 countries.

ELIA hosts key events for education leaders, teachers, and researchers on the platform of the ELIA Leadership Symposiums & Annual Conferences, where current strategic issues are discussed. Every two years, hundreds of the organization's participants gather at the ELIA Biennial Conferences to present projects, engage in discussions, and network actively. Regular specialized conferences and seminars address issues related to arts pedagogy, technology, art, and culture.

The most talented students, young artists, and graduates of arts higher education institutions have the opportunity to present their work on the online and offline platform "NEU NOW", which helps stimulate their international careers.

Indeed, ELIA's activities are significant for both art education institutions and educators, students, and researchers, ultimately benefiting society as a whole. It actively shapes the European cultural space, provides access to an international network of arts education institutions, and expands opportunities for participation in joint projects and grant acquisition. Furthermore, it opens doors for international exchanges and participation in artistic competitions, thereby helping artists to receive a high-quality education.

In 2020, due to the sharp restrictions on physical communication, affecting events, exhibitions, conferences, and academic exchanges, the innovative UAx (University of the Arts Exchange) platform was established under the auspices and initiative of ELIA. It was created as a reliable digital space to replace in-person interaction among representatives of arts education institutions, thereby facilitating collaboration. The platform is funded through membership and partnership contributions.

During its existence, UAx has created the "Knowledge Library" platform, where one can find photo and video materials of artists' performances and exhibitions, recordings from ELIA conferences, symposia, and forums, educational programs, interdisciplinary courses, and more.

For Kharkiv State Academy of Culture, joining the UAx platform presented a unique opportunity to intensify its international activities and advance its interdisciplinary capacities within a unified project shared with the European community, aimed at enhancing arts education and science across all fields.

Through its accession to the UAx platform, KhSAC gained the ability to develop international cooperation by participating in the creation of a network of sister schools and engaging with ELIA's international initiatives. Among these is the prestigious UAx

Abakanowicz Fellowship Programme for students in creative disciplines, which aims to support their professional development during their studies. Launched in early 2023, the programme is named after the renowned Polish sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz, whose monumental works in textile and other materials have earned worldwide acclaim.

In 2025, six students from the Faculties of Performing Arts and Audiovisual Arts at Kharkiv State Academy of Culture (KhSAC) became bursary recipients of the program and are currently participating in a mentoring program in collaboration with their sister school, LUCA School of Arts from Belgium.

Of particular importance in the context of international cooperation with UAx is the Sister Schools Programme. This is a strategic initiative aimed at establishing long-term institutional international links between higher arts education institutions. It is a structured programme designed for the systematic exchange in the field of arts education and for expanding shared strategic goals for its development.

Among the specific tasks for implementing the Sister Schools Programme are the development and delivery of joint educational modules, virtual courses, conducting workshops and seminars, initiating joint research projects, and exchanging experiences in areas such as managing higher arts education institutions, fundraising, alumni relations, and more.

KhSAC's sister school, the Belgian University LUCA School of Arts, is in the initial stage of cooperation with the Academy within the ELIA framework. Cooperation agreements have been signed, a collaboration programme has been developed, initial meetings have been held, and negotiations between the heads of the institutions have taken place.

Throughout 2024–2025, representatives of KhSAC participated in international meetings initiated by ELIA. Yuliia Kovalenko, a Candidate of Art History and Associate Professor in the Department of Television Reporting at KhSAC, participated in the ELIA Biennial 2024 in Milan. In June 2025, she participated in the ELIA Academy 2025 Forum held at Kristiania University College (Oslo, Norway).

In October 2025, Nataliia Riabukha, Acting Rector of KhSAC and Doctor of Art History, participated in the ELIA Leadership Symposium in Geneva, Switzerland.

Therefore, cooperation with the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) enables KhSAC to implement initiatives aimed at introducing best foreign educational practices in Ukraine, intensifying international activities in the field of arts education, increasing the number of international educational and scientific cooperation projects, and integrating research and academic staff into the global scientific space. Consequently, this collaboration directly contributes to achieving the strategic and operational goals, outlined in the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in Ukraine for 2022–2032.