



UAX* Memorandum of Understanding

Between:

Party one

European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA), legally represented by Maria Hansen, Executive Director, hereinafter referred to as 'ELIA', in collaboration with UAX Chair Rebecca Duclos and UAX Platform Manager Uliana Furiv,

and

Party two

Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Karyi University of Theatre, Cinema and Television, represented by Inna Kocharian, Rector, hereinafter referred to as 'KNUTKT',

and

Party three

Film University Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, represented by Susanne Stürmer, President, hereinafter referred to as 'The Film University',

all three parties collectively hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties'.

Objective:

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Parties under the umbrella of ELIA's UAX Platform in the period 2023–2025.

Background:

The UAX Platform and its managing UAX Bureau operate within the governing structures of ELIA. The UAX Platform was officially launched in November 2022 with financial support from the Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation (AACCF). The project covers a three-year time frame between 2022–2025.

The UAX Platform has two sets of goals:

- **Short-term goals:** To strengthen the resilience of art universities and art academies in Ukraine and provide support during times of crisis and recovery. This will be achieved by supporting art students through bursaries, reciprocal mentoring, knowledge sharing, and capacity development of their institutions in the broadest sense of the word.



- Long-term goals: To contribute to the development of Ukrainian art universities and academies as active members of the European higher arts education community. This will be achieved by creating sustainable international cooperation through the Sister School network, linking art institutions in Ukraine with ELIA member institutions across Europe.

The UAx Platform will address three primary groups: (1) students currently enrolled in Ukrainian higher arts education institutions, (2) Ukrainian institutions active in higher arts education, and (3) ELIA member institutions ready to connect with counterparts in Ukraine as UAx Sister Schools.

Considering that:

1. ELIA is a membership network of nearly 300 higher arts institutions dedicated to promoting higher arts education and strengthening solidarity among art institutions;
2. ELIA has received funding from the AACCF to establish the UAx Platform, support art students in Ukraine through bursaries and reciprocal mentoring, and develop the UAx Sister School community;
3. In November 2022, during the ELIA Biennial Conference in Helsinki, five Ukrainian higher arts education institutions and five non-Ukrainian ELIA institutions from Germany, Estonia, Poland, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic expressed their commitment to participating in the UAx activities and contributing to the goals of the UAx Platform for the entire duration of the project, from 2022 to 2025. A sixth school from Sweden was added in 2023;
4. An additional ten Sister Schools located in Ukraine and ten others in ELIA member countries will be selected to join the UAx Platform in 2024 and 2025 through an open call. In the final year of the UAx Platform, the total number of matched UAx Sister Schools will be 30;
5. The Parties, KNUTKT and The Film University, have been matched as Sister Schools in the UAx Platform based on similarities in their disciplinary profiles;
6. ELIA values the interest and commitment both Sister Schools have demonstrated towards developing the UAx Platform community and contributing to its activities;
7. The Parties recognise the mutual benefits of participating in the UAx Platform and wish to formalise their collaboration regarding their participation in the UAx Platform through this MOU.

It is agreed that:



1. ELIA, with funding from the AACCF grant, established the UAx Bureau, which is mandated to coordinate and implement the activities of the UAx Platform;
2. The Parties acknowledge that the UAx Platform will undergo a Pilot Phase from November 2022 to December 2023, focusing on community building and procedural refinement of the platform;
3. ELIA will fully subsidise fifteen Ukrainian Sister Schools, including KNUTKT, to join the UAx Platform between 2022–2025 as ELIA members, providing them access to ELIA's programming, resources, networks, and opportunities. ELIA membership will apply to entire institutions, including every staff member and all registered students;
4. The ELIA membership team will be responsible for the onboarding and integration of the Ukrainian institutions, including KNUTKT, within the ELIA network;
5. The ELIA UAx Bureau will facilitate communication and collaboration between ELIA, KNUTKT, and The Film University and provide regular progress reports to the Parties;
6. The ELIA UAx Bureau will develop and maintain a digital infrastructure of the UAx Platform for the engagement of the UAx community;
7. As part of the ELIA UAx online presence, the ELIA UAx Bureau will provide regular updates via social media and other channels about the UAx Platform;
8. Under the leadership of ELIA, a Steering Group will be formed to advise on UAx Platform activities and communicate with the ELIA community, external funders, key partners, and other interested parties;
9. Each year, the ELIA UAx Bureau will evaluate the UAx Platform activities for the purposes of project reporting, legacy planning, and consideration of the 'platform as model' for other art school communities globally which are affected by war, to ensure the sustainability and impact of the UAx Platform. The Parties agree to work together to evaluate the UAx Platform;
10. The working language of the UAx group is primarily English;

Regarding the Abakanowicz Fellowship and Mentoring Programme

11. Through the AACCF grant, the ELIA UAx Bureau will announce the 2023 cycle of the UAx Abakanowicz Fellowship programme to support art students from five Ukrainian Sister Schools, including KNUTKT;
12. The UAx Abakanowicz Fellowship programme will include three components: UAx Bursaries, UAx mentoring, and participation in the UAx community events;

13. The UAx Bursaries will be awarded for the first time in summer 2023. The bursaries will provide six students selected from KNUTKT with limited emergency funding, up to €2,000 per student for one year, to enable them to pursue their studies in Ukrainian arts degree programmes during the academic year from September 2023 to May 2024.
14. The students from KNUTKT who are selected will be named Abakanowicz Fellows;
15. The selection of students for the Abakanowicz Fellowship will be facilitated by the UAx Bureau through transparent and mutually agreed upon criteria with the Parties;
16. The six Abakanowicz Fellows selected from KNUTKT will benefit from the UAx mentoring programme provided by two mentors from The Film University;
17. The primary goal of the UAx mentoring programme will be to establish the reciprocal exchange of knowledge and experience between Ukrainian students and their mentors, to widen their fields of influence, and to create international networking opportunities;
18. The Film University will appoint two mentors for the six students (Abakanowicz Fellows) selected from KNUTKT;
19. The mentoring programme will renew each year, at which point new mentors and fellows will be added;
20. The specifics of the mentoring programme, including the selection process, frequency of mentoring sessions, and areas of focus will be determined through separate agreements by the Sister Schools themselves;

Regarding Participation in ELIA UAx Events

21. The ELIA UAx Bureau allocated a budget for ticketed attendance and travel for two representatives from Ukrainian institutions, including KNUTKT, to all ELIA signature events for the duration of the UAx Platform, such as:
 - ELIA Academy on Teaching and Learning, Évora, Portugal, May 2023;
 - ELIA Leadership Symposium, Manchester, UK, October 2023;
 - ELIA Biennial, Milan, November 2024;
 - ELIA Academy on Teaching and Learning, location tbc, May/June 2025
 - ELIA Leadership Symposium, location tbc, October 2025;
22. Planning of physical UAx events will be aligned with larger ELIA events, while the dates of the online monthly meetings will be agreed upon in consultation with the Parties.

The UAx Bureau plans to organise at least one monthly meeting of UAx community members, unless a major ELIA event is scheduled that month;

23. The UAx Bureau, in consultation with the Parties, will facilitate knowledge exchange and peer-learning activities between KNUTKT and The Film University, which will take place primarily online or in combination with larger ELIA events, to strengthen mutual exchange and capacity development of the Sister Schools;

Regarding Resources and Funding

24. ELIA will make an in-kind investment to the UAx Platform through the contribution of person-hours of the ELIA Team, its Executive Director and President, as well as the Representative Board;
25. KNUTKT acknowledges and agrees to contribute their expertise and person-hours of the UAx contact persons as an in-kind contribution to the UAx Platform over a period of three years, to support a series of UAx monthly meetings taking place primarily online and attendance at ELIA events;
26. The Film University acknowledges and agrees to contribute their resources and expertise as an in-kind contribution to the UAx Platform by covering academic and administrative person-hours of the UAx participants over the period 2023–2025, to support a series of UAx monthly meetings taking place primarily online;
27. The Film University commits to allowing two staff members (e.g., UAx contact persons or UAx mentors), if possible, to travel internationally for the purpose of attending the ELIA signature events in the period 2023–2025;
28. Any expenses incurred for travel, accommodation, subsistence, and event tickets while attending physical UAx meetings and ELIA signature events must be covered by The Film University. Making use of national and local funding sources outside of the framework of the UAx Platform is advised;

Regarding the Period of Agreement and Practical Arrangements

29. This MOU will come into effect upon the date of its signing and will remain in force for a period of three years, until December 2025, unless an extension is agreed upon by the Parties;
30. Any disputes arising from or in connection with this MOU shall be resolved amicably through negotiation and consultation between the Parties;
31. Both The Film University and KNUTKT will designate an individual to serve as the main contact (one person per institution) for communication and coordination purposes;

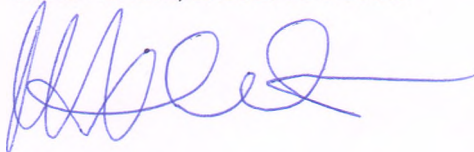
32. Either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other Party if circumstances arise that make it impossible or impractical to continue with the cooperative activities outlined in this MOU;
33. This MOU does not create any legal binding obligations between the Parties. It is intended to serve as a framework for collaboration and partnership between the UAx Platform and ELIA.

Signed

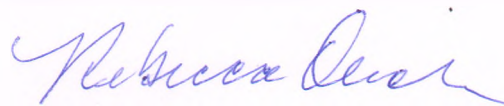
Évora (Portugal), 9 May 2023

ELIA

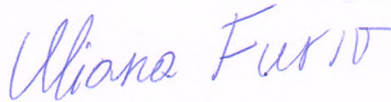
Maria Hansen, Executive Director



Rebecca Duclos, UAx Steering Group Chair

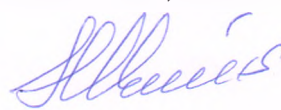


Uliana Furiv, UAx Platform Manager



KNUTKT

Inna Kocharian, Rector

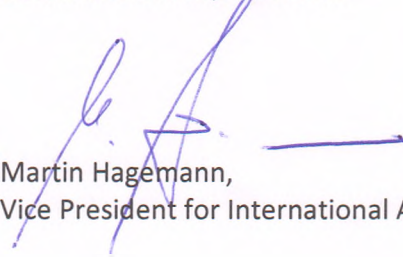


Oleg Kratt, Vice-Rector



Film University Babelsberg

Susanne Stürmer, President



Martin Hagemann,
Vice President for International Affairs